



8001 West Belmont Avenue
River Grove, IL 60171-1096
Phone 708.453.6233
Fax 708.453.6296
www.guerinprep.org

Media Contacts

Sr. Dawn Tomaszewski, SP
Director of Advancement
708-453-6233 x4708

Wendi Koziol, PCI
312-558-1770

GUERIN PREP HIGH SCHOOL NAMES FIRST MALE PRESIDENT

Teacher-turned-lawyer returns to first love: Catholic education

RIVER GROVE, ILL. – Feb. 4, 2008 – A senior partner in a Chicago law firm who always dreamed of heading a Catholic school is retiring from his 28-year career as a lawyer to become the fourth president of Guerin College Preparatory High School and the first man to hold that position.

The Board of Directors of Guerin Prep and the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., the school's religious sponsor, jointly selected Terry John Malik, 56, as president. He was introduced today to students, faculty and staff.

Malik, a partner at the law firm Winston & Strawn in Chicago for 21 years, will retire and assume his leadership role at Guerin Prep March 1. Sr. Nancy Nolan, S.P., retired as Guerin Prep's president Jan. 31 after nearly nine years in that position. She was the school's longest-serving president.

Malik is a graduate of the former Holy Cross High School, which closed in 2004 but is a foundation school of Guerin Prep. Before becoming a lawyer, Malik taught junior high students at St. Raymond School in Mt. Prospect and at St. Maria Goretti School in Schiller Park. He has served on Guerin Prep's board of directors since 2006.

"I've always been a believer in the value of Catholic education," Malik said. "I left teaching and moved into law to better support my family, while staying involved as a volunteer. Now I feel blessed that I'm able to again change careers and fully realize my dream." In addition to being the first male president, Malik also is Guerin Prep's first lay president.

"Terry is deeply tuned in to the values of Guerin Prep. He appreciates the school's history and is committed to its mission of love, mercy and justice," said Sr. Denise Wilkinson, S.P., General Superior of the Sisters of Providence. "The Sisters of Providence have the utmost confidence that the Guerin Prep board of directors gave due diligence to the selection process and we all agree that Terry is the right person to serve as president."

Guerin Prep President—add one

In announcing the appointment, Sharon McFadden, chair of the board of directors, called Malik a wonderful role model for Guerin Prep students.

“We are excited to welcome Terry as president and are confident he will build on past successes while energizing the school and its students for the future,” McFadden said. “In addition to the qualifications he possesses that will make him a great president, he’s a devoted husband and father who relates well to parents and students.”

McFadden praised Nolan’s outstanding service and dedication to Guerin Prep. Under Nolan’s leadership, Guerin changed its mission from educating young women to becoming a co-educational institution. She also advanced the school’s long-range master plan. “Guerin is extremely fortunate to have had Sr. Nancy’s leadership over the past nine years,” McFadden said.

Malik grew up in Elmwood Park and is a 1969 graduate of Holy Cross High School. Mother Theodore Guerin High School, formerly an all-girls school, changed its mission to co-education in 2004 at the request of the Archdiocese of Chicago to accommodate the young men from Holy Cross when the Brothers of Holy Cross announced they were closing the school that year. Mother Guerin and Holy Cross shared the same campus and many Holy Cross students enrolled at Guerin Prep following the latter’s closing.

Malik said he intends to use the same business skills he developed as an attorney to effect positive change for Guerin Prep.

“I am honored to have been selected to lead this wonderful institution and I look forward to moving the school to the next level of success,” said Malik. “Although most of my career I’ve been a lawyer, I’ve never forgotten my passion for education but running a school is a dream I forgot I had. I want to make sure Catholic education at 80th and Belmont Ave. is a reality for students for years to come.”

Malik received his law degree from Loyola University Chicago in 1980 and bachelor of arts degree in English and education from the University of Notre Dame in 1973.

As president, Malik’s responsibilities will include development and alumni affairs, business affairs and serving as a liaison between the school and the board of directors. Bonnie Brown, Guerin Prep’s principal, will retain responsibility for day-to-day operation of the school, including all areas of academic and student affairs.

Malik and his wife of 34 years, Cathy, live in Wheaton. They have one son, Michael.

About Guerin Prep

Guerin College Preparatory High School is a Catholic secondary school dedicated to the education and faith development of young men and women. Under the sponsorship of the Sisters of Providence, the school reflects a mission of love, mercy and justice, where students come to an awareness of God at work in their lives. It was founded as an all-girls school in 1962 and changed its mission to co-education in 2004. Guerin Prep proudly claims both Mother Theodore Guerin and Holy Cross high schools as its foundation schools. Visit www.guerinprep.org

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