

BERGEN

Meet Our Principals

**JAMES V. CARLO**Transfiguration Academy
Bergenfield**SUZANNE SOCHA**St. John Academy School
Hillsdale**ROBERT FAZIO***Don Bosco Preparatory HS
Ramsey**GLENN CLARK**Academy of St. Therese of Lisieux
Cresskill**JOSEPH AZZOLINO**Immaculate Conception HS
Lodi**JAMES MCCARTHY**St. Peter Academy
River Edge**JEAN MULLOOLY**Academy of the Holy Angels
Demarest**ELLEN NAUGHTON**Queen of Peace Grammar School
North Arlington**ANA MARIA CASTANEDA**The Academy at St. Mary
Rutherford**TRACI KOVAL**St. Leo School
Elmwood Park**PAULA VALENTI**St. Joseph School
Oradell**TARA BRUNT**St. Mary's HS
Rutherford**LORETTA STACHIOTTI**St. Anne School
Fair Lawn**MARK VALVANO**Notre Dame Academy
Palisades Park**KELLY KOVAL**Academy of Our Lady of
Mount Carmel, *Tenafly***FILOMENA D'AMICO**Academy of Our Lady of Grace
Fairview**STEPHANIE MACALUSO**Paramus Catholic Regional HS
Paramus**JASON SCHLERETH**Immaculate Heart Academy
Washington Township**FRANCES LACINAK**Christ the Teacher School
Fort Lee**KIMBERLY HARRIGAN**Visitation Academy
Paramus**THOMAS J. ALTONJY**Academy of the Most Blessed
Sacrament, *Franklin Lakes***LARAINE MEEHAN**Our Lady of Mercy Academy
Park Ridge**JAMES NEWMAN**Academy of Our Lady
Glen Rock**GAIL RITCHIE**Academy of St. Paul
Ramsey

PICTURES NOT AVAILABLE:

STELLA SCARANOSt. Joseph Academy, *Bogota***SUSAN JUREVICH**Assumption Early Childhood Ctr., *Emerson***ELIZABETH PINTO**Corpus Christi School, *Hasbrouck Heights***LINDA DUROCHER**Sacred Heart School, *Lyndhurst***MICHAEL BRUNO**St. Joseph Regional HS, *Montvale***TIMOTHY MCELHINNEY**Bergen Catholic HS, *Oradell***KAREN LEWIS**St. Elizabeth School, *Wyckoff*

* Head of School

Former superintendent heads Catholic school

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"We have a small school where we meet the individual needs of the students. There is a very close-knit faculty—we meet in a huddle every morning. I have a team of teachers with me greeting the parents as they drop their kids off in the morning," he said.

Altonjy goes the extra mile to ensure students and their families feel welcomed—100 miles, in fact. The school is in Bergen County,

but Altonjy lives near the Delaware Water Gap and drives about 100 miles round-trip every day. "If I wasn't happy with my job, I wouldn't continue to do it," he explained.

At Blessed Sacrament, the principal stresses putting "faith into action." During the Christmas season, students not only collected toys for those in need, they also spent time with the children at Oasis, a haven for women and children in Paterson.

"It's more than just dropping a toy in a bin," Altonjy said. "It's important the students have a hands-on approach to helping others."

Students also have hands-on experience learning about faith. The Aquinas Middle School Program at the academy divides students into four small Christian learning communities or "houses"—Joseph House, Neumann House, Seton House and Xavier House. The groups develop their

Catholic faith while actively engaging one another in exploring social justice issues.

In 2016, Academy of the Most Blessed Sacrament was named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. It also recently earned accreditation from the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools.

"We have a beautiful little school," Altonjy said. "We have to continue to make ourselves proud."

