



*News from the*  
**Catholic Diocese of Palm Beach**

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito Announces New President for Pope John Paul High School

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito announced today the appointment of Dr. Michael J. Coury to the position of President at Pope John Paul II High School in Boca Raton effective March 1, 2009.

Bishop Barbarito hailed the appointment of Dr. Coury today, *“I invite you to join me in welcoming Dr. Coury to our Diocese. After a nationwide search Dr. Coury stood out as an education professional committed to the Mission of Catholic secondary education. I extend my welcome and prayers to Dr. Coury and his family as he transitions to south Florida to take on this most important leadership role in service to the entire community of Pope John Paul II High School. I am grateful to Dr. Coury for his dedication to the mission of the Catholic Church in service to our youth.”*

Pope John Paul II High School opened in 1980. It is a co-educational Catholic secondary school for grades 9-12 with a student body of 504 from suburban Boca Raton, and surrounding communities in Palm Beach and Broward Counties. Governed by the Diocese of Palm Beach, the school is administered by devoted Dominican Sisters and overseen by a Consultative Board, made up of Diocesan priests.

In the role of President, Dr. Coury will advance the mission of Pope John Paul II High School, which is to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the teaching ministry and to develop spiritual, physical, and moral gifts through academic excellence.

With over 28 years of extensive professional experience in Catholic education alone, Dr. Coury currently resides in Austin, Texas where he most recently served as President of St. Michael’s Catholic Academy (2004 to 2009), a 500 student private, coeducational Catholic high school. In this role Dr. Coury established full enrollment with waitlist, launched a multi-stakeholder strategic planning process, and conducted an \$8.6 million capitol campaign to support school growth. Previous to his most current position, Dr. Coury served as principal at St. Joseph’s Preparatory School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1997 – 2004) where he oversaw the operation of a Jesuit college preparatory school for 990 young men and 90 professional staff members. From 1995-1997, Dr. Coury held the role of Superintendent of Schools in the Bettendorf Community School District in Bettendorf, Iowa where he was responsible for the operation of a high-achieving, high-expectation suburban school district of 4,600 students.

In reaction to today’s announcement today Dr. Coury stated, *“One of the greatest gifts that parents can pass on to their children is the gift of a Catholic school education. In doing so, parents entrust professional educators to become their partners in the educational and spiritual formation of their children...As President at Pope John Paul II High School, I will be the number one cheerleader and advocate for this school, making sure we are true to our mission. It is my hope that my efforts, combined with the vision and dedication of the Adrian Dominican Sister and the Carmelite priests who have come before me, as well as the dedicated laity and all others who founded and sustained Pope John Paul II High, will ensure that the gift of a Christ-centered education will be ever-present in the Boca Raton area of south Florida.”*

Dr. Coury received EdD, EdS, MSE degrees in Educational Administration from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa and BSBA in Accounting/Business Administration from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Coury is married and has four adult children.

For more information on Pope John Paul II High School please visit [www.pjpii.org](http://www.pjpii.org)

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