

February 3, 2010

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students and Parents:

Nearly four years ago, I agreed to accept the position as the interim Administrator of Queen of Peace High School in order to affirm the mission and Dominican values of Queen of Peace and to guarantee the on-going pursuit of academic excellence for the young women we serve. Even though this was a major digression from my long range personal career goals, I elected to invest my energies in creating a peaceful and peace filled environment and since this was to be only a one year commitment, I said to myself: "I can do that!"

After all, I had 19 years invested in this dynamic and vibrant learning community as teacher, assistant principal and finally principal and had since studied, taught and administrated in numerous educational institutions in the Midwest. I could step up for one year and assist in the work of transitioning Peace to new leadership. Surely, I could do that out of a deep gratitude for the Sinsinawa Dominicans who have had such a powerful impact on my life through the educational opportunities they afforded me.

For many reasons, the one year stretched into four. First, I have had the great pleasure and privilege of working alongside exceptionally talented and committed administrators and support staff and dedicated, deeply caring educators who serve as wonderful models and mentors for our students—something very unique and difficult to let go. Second, I have witnessed the joy and delight the young Women of Peace exude as they mature and grow and deepen their investment in learning and working for peace and justice in so many, many ways.... and this, after all, is what the mission and ministry is truly about...and also difficult to let go. At last, the challenge of working to move secondary educational practices into the 21<sup>st</sup> century especially for women has had a tight hold on my professional life and growth and frankly was impossible to accomplish in only a few years... and difficult to let go.

However, after much prayer and reflection, I now think it is time to let go and reposition myself on a career path I left 4 years ago. I wish to inform you that I have decided to resign my position effective June 30, 2010. I hope to travel, search out new and interesting career opportunities and eventually return to teaching, my first love, at the University level.

Please know I am committed to doing everything in my power to further the mission, vision and values of Queen of Peace High School as the President /Principal in my remaining days and to assisting the Board of Queen of Peace in a seamless transitioning of leadership.

I believe I leave the Queen of Peace community in a strong and dynamic place and have every confidence that the future leaders of Peace will enter into a unique experience that will also be very, very difficult for them to ever let go because this is such a wonderful community.

May Peace be with you always!

Kathleen M. Hanlon, Ph.D.  
President/Principal