



**DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS**  
*OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS*

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**WEST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL TO RETIRE**

*Grand Rapids, Mich., March 5, 2009* - Rev. R. Louis Stasker, pastor/president of the Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools has announced the retirement of West Catholic High School Principal Stanley H. Spetoskey effective at the conclusion of the 2009 academic school year. Spetoskey submitted notice of his retirement to Father Stasker and the Catholic Secondary School Board in early February.

“Stan has served West Catholic with distinction during his eight years as principal,” said Father Stasker. “His commitment to academic excellence and the formation of the students in their Catholic faith has been invaluable and a hallmark of his tenure.

The sixth principal in West Catholic’s history, Spetoskey was hired in 2001. A graduate of Catholic Central High School, Grand Valley State University and Western Michigan University, where he earned his master’s degree, Spetoskey worked for many years as a teacher, administrator and coach in the Grand Rapids Public Schools prior to being hired by West Catholic.

“As a product of the Catholic schools in Grand Rapids, it was wonderful to return to my roots when I arrived at West Catholic in the summer of 2001,” said Spetoskey. “My years at West Catholic have been a blessing to me, my wife Katie and my entire family.”

Under Spetoskey’s eight year tenure, enrollment at West Catholic has increased approximately nine percent. Standardized test scores have risen and the school’s emphasis on its Catholic identity and that of its students has continued through student retreats, community service projects, peer ministry apprenticeship and other activities. In addition, construction of the school’s new LEED-certified gymnasium was completed.

“We have seen many positive changes in the last eight years in the spiritual growth, academic success and school environment at West Catholic,” Spetoskey said. “I firmly believe that the West Catholic community will see continual growth in all the areas defined by the school’s mission.”

A search for a new principal has been instituted. Additional information is available on the diocesan website, [dioceseofgrandrapids.org](http://dioceseofgrandrapids.org).

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