



# Nativity Jesuit Middle School

*“Educating Latino Youth for Christian Leadership and Service”*

## **Flaherty named President of Nativity Jesuit Middle School**

February 2, 2011 -- MILWAUKEE – Rev. James P. Flaherty, S.J., has been selected as the next president of Nativity Jesuit Middle School, Bob Wisniewski, chairman of the school’s board of trustees announced today. Flaherty will succeed Greg Meuler, who is retiring at the end of the school year after serving as president for six years.

“The board is thrilled to have a person of Fr. Jim’s character and academic standing leading NJMS as the school approaches its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the fall of 2012,” Wisniewski said. “One thing Milwaukee agrees on when it comes to education is that it needs to start at an early age. We prepare our boys to be Christian leaders in the community and Fr. Flaherty is the right person to lead this school at a critical point as Milwaukee builds consensus on the best ways to educate our children.”

Wisniewski thanked Meuler, whom he said navigated the school “through a challenging economic period that forced many non-profits to reconsider their purpose.” He added, “During his tenure, Greg solidified the school’s mission, added a fifth grade and led the effort to continually improve student achievement.”

Wisniewski also recognized the school’s “invaluable relationship with the Jesuits, who are responsible for educating so many of us in Milwaukee; together we share responsibility for the Ignatian vision of this school.”

Established in 1993, Nativity serves 82 boys in grades five through eight with an intensive academic program, including an extended school day, required after-school activities and mandatory study hall as well as a five-week summer camp in Northern Wisconsin. The school also provides financial and mentor support for 74 of its graduates currently in Catholic high schools.

Flaherty has had an insider’s view of the school, which had its beginnings at St. Patrick’s Parish on Milwaukee’s south side at a time when Flaherty, who is bilingual, was associate pastor.

“The success Nativity Jesuit Middle School has had in providing both an excellent academic background and strong character formation to its students is truly a model for urban education,” Flaherty said. “It’s also in keeping with the Jesuit traditions of excellence in education and service to the poor. I am humbled to be called to this position.” He has worked with the Latino communities in both Milwaukee and Berkeley, Calif., as well as in Nogales, Mexico, where the Jesuits have a mission.

Flaherty serves on the boards of Marquette University, Santa Clara University and the Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh, Wis. A graduate of Marquette, he earned his master’s degree in theology at the Jesuit school of Theology in Berkeley and master’s and doctoral

degrees in American philosophy at the New School for Social Research in 2003. Most recently rector of the Marquette Jesuit community and an adjunct assistant professor of philosophy at Marquette, Flaherty has also served as associate director of campus ministry at Marquette and was a faculty member and assistant principal for academics at Creighton Preparatory High School in Omaha, Neb.

*Nativity Jesuit Middle School provides a quality, low-tuition education to boys from low-income families in Milwaukee's primarily Hispanic south side neighborhood. 92% percent of Nativity graduates earn their high school diploma within four years and 81% percent pursue postsecondary education. The school supports its graduates attending Catholic high schools with tuition subsidies and an adult mentoring program. Students are supported with 93 percent of their middle school and 57 percent of their high school tuition through the generosity of individual benefactors and charitable foundations. The school receives no state funding.*

For more information, contact Paula Harris, Director of Development for Nativity Jesuit Middle School: 414-645-1060 or [harrisp@njms.org](mailto:harrisp@njms.org).

###