

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

Full Circle for Orchard Lake Schools Chancellor-Rector

ORCHARD LAKE, Mich. (6-5-17) – On May 6, 2017, Monsignor Thomas Machalski witnessed three SS. Cyril & Methodius seminarians, who have made Christ the center of their lives, graduate from the seminary. Two Deacons were also ordained in May. He takes great pride in the fact that they are his brother priests. A day later, he celebrated Graduation Mass for the St. Mary's Preparatory Class of 2017. "You have been the recipients of a treasure which is beyond price – you have received not only a good, solid, Catholic, Christian education – you have received an Orchard Lake St. Mary's education," said Msgr.

For him, a young man who left his home in New York to attend St. Mary's Preparatory in 1973, his path has come full circle. As a young boy, Msgr. Machalski felt a calling, especially after a priest took him to Orchard Lake and he knew God was leading him here. He graduated in 1976 and attended St. Mary's College. Upon his graduation in 1980, he pursued his priestly formation at Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, NY where he received his Master of Divinity in 1985 and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, NY on May 18, 1985. He received his Master of Science in Education from Fordham University, Bronx, NY, in 1996 and his J.C.L. from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., in 1999.

For Monsignor Thomas Machalski, his path has come full circle. In 2011, he was named 3rd chancellor of the Orchard Lake Schools and 11th rector of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary. "It was very overwhelming to be chosen for the institution of which I was once a student, and at my farewell Mass, I noted how thankful I am for those things that we were able to do together here," he added. "I give praise to God."

Throughout the his six-year tenure, his legacy has followed that of his alma mater – *To live out the mission of Orchard Lake Schools, service to God, Church or country, and their fellow human being.*

Tenure highlights:

2011 – Named Chancellor-Rector, Orchard Lake Schools (May 18)

2012 – Installation as Chancellor-Rector (February 19)

2013 – 50th Anniversary of Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake (March 3)

2016 – Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron named the Chapel of Our Lady of Orchard Lake the official archdiocesan shrine to St. John Paul II.

2016 – Celebration of 1,050th Anniversary of Christianity in Poland (Orchard Lake Schools campus)

2017 – Polish American Priests’ Association Convention (co-chair; Orchard Lake Schools campus); recipient of the Father Leopold Moczygemba Award for outstanding service to Polonia

At his Installation on February 19, 2012, Msgr. said, “. . . I pledge that I will continue to make the vision and dream of Father Dabrowski a reality.” And of the words of St. John Paul II, “If the Orchard Lake Schools did not exist, it would be necessary to create them,” Msgr. Machalski pledged to “. . . do all in my power to make sure it flourishes for years to come and for the next generation.”

When asked what he would like to bestow upon the students, faculty, staff and Orchard Lake Schools faith community, Msgr. shared the following message. “In the 32 years leading up to my ordination and my 32 years of priesthood, I believe everything is in God’s hands. All works out for the best when you trust in the Lord each and every day.”

He left this year’s Prep graduates with the following words of wisdom. “Today, for the Class of 2017, it is your Graduation Day – a day to celebrate and give thanks to Almighty God for the many blessings that He has bestowed on each of you in your time as students at St. Mary’s Preparatory. But this, my young brothers, is not the end but just the beginning.”

Upon his departure from his second home, Msgr. Machalski will embark on a short sabbatical before beginning a new chapter in parish ministry for the Diocese of Brooklyn. We give thanks for his service, his brotherhood and his fellowship, knowing this is not the end of his circle, for a circle has no end.

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