

**Edward C. Ybarra Jr.  
to become 35th Principal  
at Texas' oldest high school for young men**

Edward C. Ybarra Jr. '83, Assistant Principal for Student Development at Central Catholic High School, has been named Principal, according to Br. Peter A. Pontolillo, S.M., President.

Ybarra becomes the 35th principal in Central Catholic's 157-year history.

"It is indeed a pleasure for me to announce the appointment of Mr. Edward C. Ybarra as the next Principal of Central Catholic High School, effective July 1st of this year, succeeding Deacon Patrick Cunningham, who has served with distinction during the last nine years," says Br. Pontolillo. "Mr. Ybarra was the unanimous choice of our committee which conducted a national search that included many fine applicants from throughout the United States. The search committee also sought input from the various constituencies that make up the Central Catholic family regarding the expected qualities of the individual and the challenges that our next Principal would be called upon to manage. It is gratifying to see that someone who has served with distinction here for over 20 years as a teacher, coach, and mentor, as well as being an alumnus, would be the person called upon to lead this educational institution. His selection by the President has been ratified by our board of directors."

Deacon Pat Cunningham '64, current Principal, announced his retirement to be effective June 30, 2009, so as to pursue new directions in ministry.

A Central Catholic graduate from the Class of 1983, Ybarra has been associated with the school for 30 years. He entered the school as a freshman in 1979 and graduated in 1983. He went on to earn a bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management from Texas Lutheran University in Seguin in 1987 and a masters of Education degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1992. He is currently completing the Catholic School Leadership Program at St. Mary's University.

Ybarra returned to Central Catholic as a multi-sport Coach (basketball, football, track and golf) in 1987. He was named Head Basketball Coach in 1995 and became the second most successful basketball coach in Central Catholic's history, taking teams to 12 consecutive regional appearances and winning one state basketball championship (1998).

Ybarra began teaching World History, U.S. History and World Geography at Central Catholic in 1988. He was named Assistant Principal for Student Development in 1997. Since then, he:

- Initiated an Honor Code that motivates positive student behavior.
- Created the No Failure Initiative to support students who are struggling academically.
- Developed the Safe House Program to help parents provide a safe haven for students after school hours.
- Coordinated the Making Right Choices Program which brought in lawyers, judges, TABC representatives, police officers and MADD representatives to address the issue of alcohol and underage drinking with students.
- Created the program that gives parents the opportunity to monitor their child's behavior via the internet.
- Expanded the students' participation in Central Catholic clubs, athletics and extracurricular activities.

In addition, in 2004, Ybarra was named Summer School Program Director at Central Catholic whereby he was responsible for managing a large summer school and numerous athletic camps (football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse).

Ybarra was nominated Assistant Principal of the Year in 2008 by the National Catholic Educational Association and was honored as an Outstanding Leader in Catholic Education by the San Antonio Archdiocese in 2008. In 2001, he was presented the Marianist Heritage Award -- Central Catholic's highest honor.

Ybarra, and his wife, Lisa, have three children. They are members of St. Luke Parish.

"It has been my privilege to work with and mentor Edward Ybarra for the past nine years. He is a man of vision, integrity and energy," says Deacon Cunningham. "He has made a commitment to making Central Catholic even stronger as an academic and spiritual center for San Antonio. I am confident he will be a great school leader for this new century."

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