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NEWS RELEASE

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FR. TOM FRENCH TO LEAVE ARCHBISHOP RIORDAN HIGH SCHOOL

Marianist Father Tom French, president of Archbishop Riordan High School in San Francisco, will leave his position in June 2010. Father French has served at Riordan for 12 years, with the last five years as president. He was a teacher, chaplain, assistant principal and principal at the school prior to serving as president.

“I will very much miss the support and friendship of my Marianist community and the Riordan family,” said Father French. “But after 12 years, it’s time for me to move closer to my family on the East Coast.” Father French said he would like to continue working in Marianist education.

Father French grew up in Baltimore and taught in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He also served a year at St. Joseph’s parish in Eldersburg, Md. Father French has a master’s degree in education from Loyola University Maryland and a master’s degree in divinity from the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif.

“The students at Riordan represent the real Marianist spirit of family and community. I can’t walk down the street without being greeted by a student, family member or alum. I will really miss that,” Father French said. “What makes Riordan such a great school is the social, academic and ethnic diversity of the student body. It’s a unique and wonderful place, a brotherhood that I am part of.”

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The Society of Mary (Marianists) is an international Catholic religious order of priests and brothers, with more than 600 serving in the Province of the United States, which includes Eastern Africa, India, Mexico and the Philippines. In the United States, the Marianists sponsor three universities (University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, St. Mary's University in San Antonio and Chaminade University of Honolulu) as well as 18 high schools, eight parishes and several retreat centers. Blessed William Joseph Chaminade founded the Society of Mary in France in 1817. The order has had a presence in the United States since 1849, when the Marianists came to Cincinnati.

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