

**After a lifetime of service,  
Rev. Joseph Tarrillion, S.M. '51 retires; named President Emeritus  
at Central Catholic High School**

After a lifetime of service, Rev. Joseph Tarrillion, S.M., president of Central Catholic High School has retired effective yesterday, November 11, 2008.

"Fr. Tarrillion has spent the last 15 years transforming the school into what it is today. We have been thrilled to work under his guidance and administration," said John J. Stephens, chairman of the Central Catholic Board of Directors. "The Board was reluctant to accept his retirement, but at the Board's request, Fr. Tarrillion has accepted the position of President Emeritus.

"In this new position, Fr. Tarrillion will focus his energy on the recently initiated Expansion Campaign which will make way for new facilities to improve the student experience at Central Catholic," continued Stephens.

Fr. Tarrillion graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1951 and a year later made his first vows as a Marianist, thus embarking on a lifetime of service in Catholic education.

He earned a bachelor's degree in English from St. Mary's University; an S.T.B. degree in Sacred Theology from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland; a master's degree in Theology from Notre Dame University and a doctorate in Theological Ministry from Austin Theological Seminary.

His early career included teaching (English, French and Religion) at various high schools. He served at St. Mary's University for more than 20 years, leading numerous efforts as coordinator of Religious Education, chairman of the Graduate Theology Department and executive director of the Marianist Religious Forum.

He returned to Central Catholic as president in 1993. He found his alma mater facing significant challenges — dwindling enrollment, financial pressure and outdated facilities.

During the past 15 years when Fr. Tarrillion returned to the school as president, Central Catholic has experienced tremendous growth...

**A two-part capital campaign raised \$3.6 million making it possible to:**

- establish 13 new scholarships
- renovate classrooms with an emphasis on new technology
- install central air conditioning in the gym, cafeteria and conference rooms
- renovate science and chemistry labs
- renovate band hall with the addition of new band instruments
- repaire, resurfaced re-stripe and seale the athletic track
- refurbish the library
- install a new bell and clock system
- enlarge the stadium visitor stands to provide seating for 1,000 fans
- construct the Alia K. Herrera Pavilion adjacent to the Alumni & Friends Patio which provides a concession stand, kitchenette, restrooms and a covered space to be used for class reunions and other gatherings

**Since the campaign, he has implemented other campus development projects such as:**

- a renovated student computer laboratory
- a new library resource center computer lab
- purchasing property adjacent to the school which will allow for a number of new facilities and expansion of enrollment
- improvements to sports facilities — to include an improved handicapped access, enhanced lighting and an expanded concession stand with new service windows facing a patio at the stadium

**He developed the Office of Advancement with seven full-time individuals focusing on strategic fundraising efforts, alumni association management, parents' and booster clubs support, communications and special event management.**

- raised \$10.3 million in the past 15 years
- encouraged alumni to renew their support of the school with involvement in Homecoming, two golf tournaments, the Blue & White Scholarship Ball and Alumni Roundups
- organized the active support of the parents in very successful annual Truck Raffles and Parents' Gala

**He shepherded a positive image of the school in the community through:**

- the development of ongoing television commercials, the new logo and school seal and structured and consistent publications

Fr. Tarrillion was just recently named one of the honorees for the 2009 Outstanding Leaders in Catholic Education Award from the Department of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. He will be honored on Saturday, January 31.

"Thanks to Fr. Tarrillion's leadership, Central Catholic has moved into the new millennium with renewed confidence and vitality," said Stephens. "The Board of Directors, faculty, staff, parents and most of all the students of Central Catholic offer up our hearts filled with gratitude and love to Fr. Tarrillion for all that he has done for this school."