



July 13, 2015

Dear Parents,

In recognition of the widespread news coverage and public discussion about Waldron Mercy Academy, I write to inform you that the Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community Leadership Team upholds the recent decision to not renew the annual contract of the school's director of religious education.

We affirm this decision made by your principal, Nell Stetser, as a final decision which will not be reversed or modified. Had she not made this decision, our Leadership Team would have had to do so.

At its very core, Waldron Mercy Academy is a Catholic elementary school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy who are responsible for ensuring that the school consistently follows the teachings of the Catholic Church, especially in the areas of faith formation and religious education.

As a Catholic school, Waldron Mercy is responsible for adhering to the teachings of the Catholic Church in its curriculum and programs and as a public witness in the wider community. Our concern in this situation is Waldron Mercy's authentic participation in the mission of Catholic education.

Waldron Mercy Academy provides students with an excellent education imparted in the context of Catholic teaching and practice. We remain committed to the mission and the vision that has guided this school for more than 90 years.

There are divisions within the Waldron Mercy community as a result of this decision. We realize some may disagree with this necessary decision, and we respect your right to do so. Still, our position has been and remains to support the sound decision-making process of the school's principal. We reaffirm her decision as final, although very painful.

When a school is called to make a decision such as this, it challenges us as a faith community at the deepest levels. The leadership of Waldron Mercy has acted in accord with the school's fundamental Catholic identity.

On behalf of the Sisters of Mercy, I invite you to join us as we pray in humility and love to seek healing and reconciliation.

Sincerely,

Sister Patricia Vetrano, RSM

President
Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community

CC Nell Stetser
WMA Board of Trustees