

Archdiocese honors Sister Kelly

By Russell Blair

Record-Journal staff

WALLINGFORD — More than a quarter-century of leading Holy Trinity School has earned Principal Sister Kathleen Kelly a top honor from the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Kelly, who came to the North Whittlesey Avenue school in 1986, was recently named the archdiocese's Distinguished Catholic School Administrator for the upcoming school year.

Dale R. Hoyt, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Archdiocese, said Kelly is responsible for Holy Trinity School's "cheerful family spirit."

"While serving as Holy Trinity's leader, Sister Katie has maintained a steady sense of perspective and humor beloved by all," he said.

Hoyt also lauded Kelly for her support for students, work with the school board, strong Catholic identity and "commitment to educating the whole child in a positive environment conducive to learning."

Kelly said she is honored, but the award is a reflection of the hard work of her staff and the volunteer school board.

"This would never happen without the fantastic staff we have here," she said. "They make my job an absolute pleasure. And the school board has been an integral part of the success. They're an immeasurable help."

Christine Mansfield, president of the Holy Trinity School Board, said the honor is "a big achievement for the Holy Trinity community."

"We're really proud of her," she said. "This is a great badge of recognition."

As principal, Mansfield said, Kelly is responsible for everything from overseeing the budget to organizing fundraisers, but she puts the

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Sister Kathleen Kelly, principal of Holy Trinity School in Wallingford.

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students first.

“If there’s a crying student, she stops everything to comfort them,” Mansfield said. “She takes calls on the weekends. She never stops. She really is the matriarch of the school.”

Mansfield said that Kelly also has served in a number of leadership roles within the archdiocese and the Sisters of Mercy, and the experience she earned in those positions has been a benefit to the Holy Trinity School community.

Before working at Holy Trinity, Kelly was a teacher at Holy Rosary School in Bridgeport, Children’s Community School in Waterbury and St. Brigid School in West Hartford. She attended Catholic schools as a youth, and has a bachelor’s degree from Sacred Heart University and a master’s degree from Fairfield University.

While Kelly appreciates the recognition, she said she’s not in the profession for acclaim.

“I do what I do because I believe in the ministry,” she said. Kelly will be honored at a special Mass to recognize Holy Trinity School’s centennial on Nov. 18 at 10:30 a.m. at Most Holy Trinity Church.

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