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NEW ENGLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES, INC. COMMISSION ON INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS - 2016

July 22, 2016

Dr. Joseph M. Sullivan
Principal
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15 Gould Street
Wakefield, MA 01880

Dear Joe:

The Commission on Independent Schools of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges met on June 23–24, 2016, and reviewed Saint Joseph School's Five-Year Interim Evaluation Report. The Report was accepted with our thanks.

The Commission commends Saint Joseph School for its thorough, thoughtful and detailed Report. It is both visionary and specific. It clearly portrays significant improvements in the School's programs. The initial summary statement – "This year we celebrate 90 years of Catholic Education here at Saint Joseph School....." - outlines what follows and provides a guide to this extensive Report.

The Commission notes the School's approach to completing the Five-Year Report likely mirrors the persistent attention to every aspect of the School's philosophy and operation that led to so many positive changes. If one could say "by their Report shall you know them," this thoughtful Report indicates a School that sets its sights on high ideals and then works tirelessly to bring them to reality. The "Mosaic" governance and decision-making model is a theme running through the whole Report. This is a School that is, indeed, responsive to the needs of students, a School that takes the perceptions of faculty, parents, administration, and governance effectively into account. This is a School that, most importantly, clearly and vividly lives the traditions of the Catholic Church.

The Report itself details many improvements in the last five years and illustrates a commitment to using the Self-Study and the Visiting Team Report to effect genuine change. The professional collaboration with Salem State University, as an example, illustrates the School's dedication to best practice and to professional development. Overhauling the financial system, equipping the science lab with microscopes, reorganizing the preschool and providing the wonderfully named "Wholesome Tummies Café" lunch program all speak to Saint Joseph's commitment to provide the best possible education and experience to its students.

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