

## **MEET THE STAFF....**

### **Mari Zarcone Patterson, Principal St. Mary's School**



**Ms. Mari Zarcone Patterson first joined St. Mary's School when she taught Fifth Grade from 1979-1981. As a native of Rochester, NY, she returned there in 1981 where she taught for the next 13 years in Catholic schools. After marrying her husband Bruce, she returned here in 1994 and taught the middle school at St. Mary's for five years prior to becoming principal. She has served as the principal from 1999 to the present.**

**In October 2007, Ms. Patterson was the recipient of the Bishop George A. Hammes Award which is given to an individual who has shown dedication and service to Catholic Schools.**

**Ms. Patterson doesn't view her role as principal as a job, rather she sees it a ministry. She states that the nuns and priests were important in her educational experiences and helped her to grow in her faith. She feels the need to be where children can express their faith and pray every day. With each school year, she strives to bring positive energy to the faculty of St. Mary's, as well as to the students and their families. Ms. Patterson states that the students help to nurture her faith in God, the school, and herself.**

**Every Catholic School principal waits for a moment in time when the faculty and staff pledge their faith, wholehearted support and allegiance to the school's mission and each other. This moment came for Ms. Patterson this past school year. She expresses her awe of her staff's dedication.**

**With the new school year beginning in a few weeks, Ms. Patterson wants to continue the momentum that they ended the past school year with. She believes that it is the children's, parents, faculty and staff's enthusiasm for maintaining their faith-based education, as well as enabling changes to improve it that has uplifted the spirit of the school.**

**Away from school, Ms. Patterson enjoys jogging and gardening. She especially enjoys growing day lilies. She and her husband enjoy shopping for antiques.**