



February 23, 2024

**Parents, Students, and Friends of Nativity:**

After an extensive search process, we are delighted to announce the appointment of Ms. Marisela Miranda as Nativity's founding Head of School.

Ms. Miranda has a remarkable life story that wonderfully prepares her to lead Nativity. She is the 11th of 14 children, all raised on the income of her father, a native of Mexico, who worked in a factory in Southern California for over 40 years. By grace and determination, her parents sent Ms. Miranda and her siblings to Catholic primary and secondary school, after which Marisela attended Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula. At TAC, she fell in love with classical education, seminar learning formats, the joyful and full expression of faith, and also, dance!

After college, Ms. Miranda worked for more than a decade helping to build St. Monica Academy, a thriving classical Catholic school in Montrose, CA where she taught, led school-wide marketing, and directed the school accreditation process. Ms. Miranda then served as a founding faculty member at Stella Maris Academy here in San Francisco where her roles included Vice Principal and beloved teacher. Her impactful teaching is notably highlighted by the success her students have had in the Daughters of the American Revolution essay competition at both schools. In five separate years, her students have won first place in the California state round (including a national second place winner among 20,000 submissions).

Ms. Miranda is a life-long learner. Her educational journey after college includes a Masters in Education from Loyola Marymount University, a post-graduate certificate in Journalism from UCLA, and she will shortly complete a Doctorate in Education as well. A fluent Spanish speaker, Ms. Miranda studied Advanced Spanish at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid as well as Ballet Folklórico at the Universidad de Colima in Mexico. She even teaches in her free time, and has served as both a tap and ballet instructor at dance studios in Southern California.

We are thrilled that Marisela has decided to join Nativity as its founding Head of School, embracing the joyfully Catholic mission of our board and faculty: To imitate Christ in the way we see, teach, and love our students.



May God Bless You!

Nativity Board of Directors

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George Arriola

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