

Archdiocese of Detroit

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Sr. Lea Woll Named Director of St. John Center for Youth & Family

Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, has announced the appointment of Sr. Lea Woll, SLW, as director of St. John Center for Youth & Family in Plymouth. The appointment was effective January 17.

“Sr. Woll comes to us with excellent credentials, leadership skills, organizational ability, and management strategies,” said Cardinal Maida. “I believe she will give St. John’s the direction, vision and structure that will make it a ‘world class’ retreat and conference center. She will build on the good work that has been happening there over the past decade.”

Most recently, Sr. Woll served as major superior of her religious community, the Sisters of the Living Word (SLW) in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Her background, however, is diverse.

She has worked in a corporate consulting practice, served as director of placement service for the non-ordained in the Archdiocese of Chicago, and served as director of the Office of Pastoral Renewal in the Diocese of Steubenville. In addition, she has been a pastoral minister in Chicago and taught in Catholic school systems in Minnesota and Illinois.

Sr. Woll holds a Ph.D. and a M.S. in organizational psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles; a M.A. in Spanish from Loyola University in Chicago; and a B.A. in English from Mundelein College in Chicago.

Under the direction of Bishop Walter Hurley, and working closely with Msgr. John Zenz and the Curia, she will be responsible for developing and conducting Catholic programs such as confirmation retreats, programs for couples preparing for marriage and those wishing to strengthen their marriage, as well as lectures and workshops for a whole variety of needs in adult faith formation and pastoral ministry.

“I’m delighted to be at St. John’s Center,” said Sr. Woll. “I look forward to developing programs that will benefit all of the people of the archdiocese.”

Located at 44011 Five Mile Road, just east of Sheldon, in Plymouth. St. John Center was formerly St. John’s Provincial Seminary. Opening in 1948, it served the Archdiocese of Detroit and the other dioceses in Michigan until its closure in 1988.

St. John’s remained dormant until 1994, when Cardinal Maida revived the property as a resource for youth and families. Renovation was completed in 2000. It shares the property with St. John’s Golf & Conference Center and hosts a variety of activities for both large and small groups, including weddings receptions and business seminars.

As noted in its Mission Statement: “St. John Center for Youth & Family seeks to inspire, teach and form persons within the Archdiocese of Detroit, regardless of their state of life or age, with God’s life-giving and liberating plan for the human person, marriage and family.”

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