

Dr. John Cooper and The Rev. Scott J. Brown  
Headmaster, TMI – The Episcopal School of Texas  
Presentation to 114th Annual Council of the Diocese of West Texas (Feb. 24, 2017)

**Dr. Cooper:**

As always, I'm honored to be invited to speak to you about TMI. This year is a special one for me and for the flagship school of our diocese. We have much to be proud of and even more to look forward to, as we carry out plans for the next stage in the school's development, as it grows and adapts to the needs of our changing times.

I thank all of you for the support you have shown us since I became TMI's 30th headmaster, more than five years ago. You have made me and my wife Joan feel so welcome, and we both treasure the friendships we have made. At TMI, we are very proud of our close-knit school community, and we are gratefully aware that we are part of a larger family in the Diocese of West Texas. Our bishops, clergy, diocesan staff, heads of other Episcopal schools and lay leaders all have done so much to help us fulfill TMI's mission.

On a personal note, this will be the last time I present this report at Council. After prayerful consideration, I have decided to retire at the end of this school year. When Joan and I moved in 2012 from Elgin, Illinois, to San Antonio, we wanted to be closer to our adult children who lived in Fort Worth. They still live there, but since then, we have become grandparents, and we have found that we'd like to be even closer.

So we are moving on, and on behalf of all the people of TMI, I am honored to introduce the school's next headmaster, Father Scott Brown. Scott has already moved to San Antonio to begin his full-time ministry as incoming headmaster. Many of you already know Father Scott, who previously was chaplain at TMI from 2004 through 2007.

From 2007 until recently, he has served as Rector of St. Alban's Church and School in Harlingen, where he has led the congregation through an exciting period of growth, including a successful capital campaign, while remaining active in the life of this diocese. Scott is the right person at the right time to lead TMI through the challenges ahead, and I speak for the whole school when I say, "Father Scott, welcome home!"

**Father Scott:**

Thank you, John. I am thrilled and humbled to be standing before you as the next headmaster of a school that I deeply love and can't wait to be a part of for years to come. At the same time, I am grateful beyond words to the people of St. Alban's and of Harlingen. We had our official goodbye last Sunday and they know how I feel about them, but let me say publicly that I'm not standing here today had I not stood in communion with you these past 10 years. You know I love you, and you will always be my family.

Immediately after graduating from college, I went to seminary in Sewanee, Tennessee. From Sewanee, I was assigned to St. David's Church and School in San Antonio before going to TMI as chaplain and then to St. Alban's Church and School. I have literally been on a school campus all of my life, which by my calculations, means I have 41 years of school experience. During those 41 years, I have coached and I have been coached, I have taught and I have learned, I have listened and I have led, and I have seen the complex and rewarding life that being a part of a school offers. I've also learned that listening closely to all voices and encouraging everyone to develop their God given talents is what leadership is all about, and I look forward to bringing that experience to TMI.

**Dr. Cooper:**

Thank you, Scott. During the past several years, TMI also has seen impressive growth. As Scott will remember, ours is not exactly the campus he left in 2007. Thanks to the support of our bishops, lay leaders, alumni, parents and other friends of the school, we were blessed to be able to add All Saints Chapel and two new residence halls in 2008 to strengthen our Spirituality pillar and our Residential Life program. That was the result of TMI's "Forward to 400" capital campaign.

That number, 400, referred to the number of students in grades six through 12 our school aspired to serve. Since then, our student body has grown to nearly 480 students...up by more than 100 from our enrollment a decade ago and up by nearly 50 from where it was five years ago.

More recently, we concluded an equally successful athletic campaign that helped us to update and enhance our sports offerings. Through that campaign, we were able to build a new track, put lights on our baseball field, build a state-of-the-art softball stadium and support facilities, improve our swimming pool and add equipment for our growing track and field program. Thanks to these and other improvements, we're now able to play night games and host other schools at tournaments and meets, inviting the wider community to "come and see" what TMI has to offer.

In the last few years, we put our award-winning robotics program in a building of its own and we've grown our summer school program to nearly 500 registrations in camps and classes for children from preschool through high school. We've refurbished the rifle range of our TMI Corps of Cadets and added Servant Leader Adventure summer mission trips for both Middle and Upper School students. Our Corps received Honor Unit with Distinction – the highest designation in Army JROTC – for the 23<sup>rd</sup> year in a row.

In recent years, our students have been the recipients of National Merit Scholarships, National Hispanic Scholar recognition, National Junior Classical League medals, Scholastic Arts awards and Prudential Spirit of Community recognition. TMI is thriving – and to make sure we keep it that way, we have a plan for which we will once again need your support. Last year, I introduced the "Advancing the Mission" capital campaign here; now, I'll let Scott tell you more about it.

**Father Scott:**

Thank you, John. The four pillars of TMI are Academics, Athletics, Military and Spirituality. You just heard about some great improvements to our Athletics and I am quite sure you've either been in or seen our amazing chapel. It's now time to focus our efforts on the other two pillars, Academics and our amazing Military.

While overall enrollment has grown, TMI's Corps of Cadets also has grown to 155 cadets – the highest enrollment since the military program became optional in 1976. We expect this rate of growth to continue and are planning overall for a campus that could accommodate as many as 600 students.

We will start with construction of new facilities to enhance our offerings in the Academic and Military pillars. A new Science and Technology Center will signify TMI's commitment to remaining a technologically advanced leader in college-preparatory education.

This building will greatly increase TMI's classroom space with eight classroom labs and four seminar rooms designed for project-based learning that will integrate research and scholarship across the "STEM disciplines" of science, technology, engineering and math.

Students also will learn communications skills that will help them relate STEM learning to social sciences and the humanities. The configuration of these new classrooms will make them especially well-adapted for another project that is in the planning stages, offering our seniors an opportunity to complete a "capstone project" before graduation.

For our Corps of Cadets, we are planning the school's first purpose-built Cadet Center, which will recognize the area's premier JROTC program with dedicated space for leadership studies classrooms and meeting rooms, as well as a Learning Commons for guest speakers and other events, including school theatrical productions.

Our Fine Arts Department puts on at least 10 performances a year with 25 to 35 students involved in each performance. If you've been in the black-box theater on our campus you've witnessed amazing performances in a less-than-amazing location. Our new facility will be able to seat 150-200 people and will be as brilliant and beautiful as the casts and crews who perform in it.

Creating new spaces will allow us to renovate some of our existing spaces. We will also expand the capacity of our refectory, adding small meeting spaces for student groups that meet at lunchtime.

Equally important, we intend to grow our endowment to provide funds for careful maintenance and to update the new buildings. Earlier this year, TMI was named one of the 25 Most Beautiful Schools in Texas; we aim to keep it that way and make it even more beautiful as we go forward.

The expectation is that it will take about two or three years to raise the funds and pledges necessary to begin construction and another two to complete the new buildings. These facilities will be well-planned and will serve their purpose for decades to come.

Here's what I know about capital campaigns: When the vision is clear, and the need is great and the intention is future oriented, and the institution is Christ-centered, God shows up, and amazing things happen, and needs are met and buildings are built and expectations are shattered.

I am grateful for the friendship of Dr. John Cooper and his gift to the TMI community these past five years. I am humbled by the trust of our bishops and the TMI Board of Governors, and I am excited, almost giddy, at the opportunity to serve as the 31st headmaster of our great diocesan school.

I look forward to standing before you for years to come and sharing with you how successful our campaign has gone, how amazing our facilities are and most importantly how fruitful our students have been in service of God and one another.

Behold, God is making all things new, and I invite you to join me in coming home to TMI where our rich history meets a new chapter in educating servant leaders. We are proud to be your diocesan school, and we covet your prayers, and you will remain in ours.

Thank you.

**The Rev. Scott Brown** has been the rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church and Day School in Harlingen, Texas since June 1, 2007. Scott earned a Master's in Divinity from the University of the South School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee. After graduating from seminary, Scott worked in three church schools as a football and basketball coach, director of Christian education, assistant rector, and school chaplain. At age 32, Scott became the youngest rector in St. Alban's almost 100-year history. His first children's book, *Just Where Does God Live?* was published in 2009, and his second book, *The Gift of You*, was published in 2012. He says his greatest accomplishment is finding and marrying his wife, Kimberly. Scott and Kimberly are the parents of two boys, Parker, 11, and Christopher, 8. Both attend St. Alban's Day School.