



**STATEMENT REGARDING CLAUDIA BARKER  
INTERVIEW WITH THE ADVOCATE**

**May 7, 2021**

“It has always been the mission at Mount Carmel to provide our young women with a learning environment that is safe, caring, and welcoming. None of the administrators who lead this institution today were here in 1975, but that does not make Claudia Barker’s story any less disheartening or disturbing to us. Each day, we consistently consider the many ways to safeguard our young women, and we encourage them to alert us to any concern they may have. If any action of misconduct by a teacher, administrator, or staff member were brought to our attention, it would be addressed immediately, and proper authorities would be notified. Misconduct of any kind is not tolerated by this administration. We are a spiritual institution, and our collective prayers are that Claudia’s strength to reveal and relive her painful memory will empower others to stand against predatory behavior and injustice.”

Beth Ann Simno  
*Principal*  
*Mount Carmel Academy*