

ST. MARY'S EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- A. Called to order by George Schwint in the St. Mary's Parish Meeting Room at 5:31 p.m. on Tues., Oct. 21, 2025
 1. Prayer ~ Fr. Craig Timmerman led prayer
 2. Roll call ~ Present: George Schwint, Jenny Miller, Emily Krzmarzick, Victor Martinez, Peter Roufs, Shelley Roufs, Fr. Craig Timmerman
Absent: Dan Braulick, Matt Wagner, Jamie Pietig, Matt Grausam
 3. September minutes were approved
 4. October agenda was approved with the addition of: 6. Wrestling
- B. ENRICHMENT ~ none
- C. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS
 1. MSHSL Form A (free & reduced lunch) and B (for leadership/safety) Motion approved to apply for grants.
 2. MNSAA findings... the Accreditation team did their visit and met with Peter and Rachel W. for their findings. The team chair said the staff enjoyed being at St. Mary's and witnessed them being mission driven. Some things were brought forward to work on...standards to mark as complete, school wide. Accommodation procedure-to define who is eligible. Closet doors to close (that have chemicals in). Supervision areas to update; Decision would be made in December. The selfplan would begin at the start of 2026, with approval.
 3. Marathon/CUF fundraisers updates...as of yesterday, MS/HS is at almost \$44,000, with a few that have not turned anything in. (To get the dress code reward, they would need to bring in \$25.00.) Elementary is at around \$44,000.00. Alumni letters from the MS/HS were at \$17,000.00 alone, with no report known of the Elementary alumni letters at this time; The CUF raffle that we have participated in over the years had a new request to submit family emails to them to participate. It is against our policy to share those, so we have not heard back yet about being able to have that fundraiser. We are hoping some other schools will take the same position.
 4. Preschool expansion update...Peter has met with CSCOE about the possibility of having an all-day preschool next year. They are looking over our documentation and then will be planning a visit to our school to help guide us in the next steps if we decide to move forward. Peter has applied for many grants to help offset the costs. We were accepted for a \$5000.00 grant; PreK 3 and 4 would have the choice of a half day option as well, and we would be on track to start in 2026-27, if all the plans go through. (Each PK level would have their own classroom in the Kindergarten wing. The Kindergarten would move into a room in the main elementary, on the 1st floor.)
 5. Prom adjustment...there are 28 girls, 20 boys in the Junior/Senior class this year, so SMS Sophomore boys would be allowed to attend if asked this year for Prom 2026.
 6. Wrestling...an E & C member brought up a Springfield Co-op possibility from a parent. (Co-op cycles last for 2 years, with the possibility to switch Co-ops in 3 years...after our current High School wrestlers have graduated.) Peter voiced concern for the future of other Co-ops with New Ulm. We would also need to have Springfield allow us to Co-op with them.
- D. STAFF/COMMITTEE REPORTS
 1. School~Mr. Roufs reported that the virtue for October is love: the act of willing the good of another; The Minnesota Accreditation team was at St. Mary's School Oct. 8-11th, and did their interviews/observations. We will find out in December if we are approved for another 7 years; Middle School students participated in a Career Enrichment Day on Oct. 15th, with the theme of Agriculture. It is wonderful to have the area farmers and businesses share their gifts of knowledge and skills in this area, and many thanks go out to them.; The teachers will be attending a diocesan workshop in New Ulm on Oct. 24th, and there will be an in-house workshop on Oct. 31st. Fr. Timmerman will be speaking about prayer, and will continue throughout the school year on this topic for other workshop days that are set-up; The Knightime model and classroom management plan that was implemented is doing well. Students have responded admirably (Demerits included...a value has been set. If they have to serve a demerit, then they are not allowed to go about and do other activities during Knight time/study hall. Also, if on honor roll, 1st quarter, Juniors and Seniors would be allowed to leave at 2:30 PM with parent permission.) and teachers are feeling more successful and committed to the ideas the plan offers; The High School roof work will be beginning soon.
 2. Religious Education~ Shelley reported that Virtus lessons were completed on Oct. 1st (Diocesan requirement); Pro-Life week is next week; Cookie dough fundraiser starts this week.

3. Pastor/Superintendent~Fr. Timmerman reported that confession or prayer is offered on Wednesdays, 8th hour for the High School students during their Knight time/study hall; Confirmation interviews are complete. The focus was to ask them to think about their choices on their own about going to confession or praying on their own. Confirmation is moving to a 2 year program (promoted by the diocese). As Sophomores, students would start with filling out mass sermon summary forms; Thursday lessons with grades 8, 10, 11,12 are going well...they are being encouraged to make journal entries.

4. Financial~none

E. FUTURE AGENDA

1. MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 11, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

St. Mary's Church Parish Meeting Room

2. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

F. PRAYER~ Fr. Craig Timmerman led prayer.

G. ADJOURNMENT~ 6:24 PM

Respectfully submitted, Marti Schroepfer