

ST. MARY'S EVANGELIZATION & CATECHESIS COMMITTEE MINUTES

- A. Called to order by George Schwint in the St. Mary's Parish Meeting Room at 5:32 p.m. on Tues., Sept. 9, 2025
 1. Prayer ~ Fr. Craig Timmerman led prayer
 2. Roll call ~ Present: George Schwint, Jenny Miller, Dan Braulick, Emily Krzmarzick, Victor Martinez, Jamie Pietig, Matt Grausam, Peter Roufs, Shelley Roufs, Fr. Craig Timmerman
Absent: Matt Wagner Guests: Ben & Mary Mortiz
 3. August minutes were approved (*June...there were no meeting minutes, as meeting quorum was not met.*)
 4. September agenda was approved
- B. ENRICHMENT ~ none
- C. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS
 1. Accreditation Update...On Oct. 8-10th the Accreditation team of 7-8 people will come for their visit; All Faculty & Staff are interviewed along with a selection of parents. Everything is in place for the day.
 2. Annunciation Tragedy...Peter shared that MS/HS students were informed and were led in prayer. Funds were also collected to send to the Annunciation school and matched by a donor for up to \$500.00. Elementary students were also informed in general terms, and parents were told to discuss if needed with them. SE Police were contacted and the result was to keep doing what we are doing...being vigilant, and keeping students/staff as safe as we can be without being in a panic. (Peter went over the 5 ALICE drills that the school does during the year, noting the measures that are in place to react to any kind of threat posed to the school.)
 3. IoWA approval...Peter Roufs asked for approval as our IoWA (Individual With Authority) for reporting to the Minnesota Department of Education. Motion carried.
 4. Travel Abroad...travel to Italy, Germany & Switzerland proposed by St. Mary's School Spanish teacher, Mrs. Guggisberg for Summer 2027. (for Present 8th-11th graders.) \$4669.00 approx. cost. Fundraisers would be done for the trip. Motion carried.
- D. STAFF/COMMITTEE REPORTS
 1. School~Mr. Roufs shared that the school year has started well. Students are engaged, and have an overall optimistic attitude. He shared that he is thankful for all the faculty, staff and parents that help create that attitude. Confessions for the students will be held Sept. 10th and 11th, and NWEA testing will take place this month for grades 1-8; Sophomores will participate in an Impact Driving lesson put on by the MN State Patrol Sept. 11th; Homecoming week will take place the last week of September, combining with the Marathon on Oct. 3rd; Students in grades 10,11 & 12 will have the opportunity to run large construction equipment at Mathiowetz Construction later in the month...promoting skilled labor jobs; Middle & High School students will attend a Mass of the Holy Spirit at St. Mary's Church in New Ulm along with the other schools in the diocese (13 total), on Friday, Sept. 19th. Bishop Zielinski will celebrate the Mass; This year the focus is on prayer and building students' prayer life with several different approaches by the teachers & priests. The Schoenstatt Shrine is a designated site for Plenary Indulgences, which will add to the students and staff experiences with prayer. Students/Staff will be encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity; The school-wide classroom management plan is off to a great start, based on the principles of being respectful, being engaged and being on task. The High School Knighttime/Study Hall period has gone well for its inception. The demerit system and not having fines has been well received. Mr. Roufs looks forward to how all the plans will work together to increase school culture and create that environment where students respond well; Lastly, with the higher class numbers in the Elementary, high school student helpers along with Mrs. Deanna Schwint are assisting as needed throughout the day.
 2. Religious Education~ Shelley reported that Classes start Sept 10th. If all families return from last year, there will be 45 families (70 students) that attend RE; The 1st Parent/Student Confirmation meeting is Sept 21st at 11:00 AM.
 3. Pastor/Superintendent~Fr. Timmerman reported that the Bishop will be coming to an All School Mass, January 15, 2026; Please keep all staff/families in your prayers for the school year as they cope with personal loss.
 4. Financial~Matt went through the Consolidated Budget Review, paying attention in particular to the overall report and not line by line. The business office has moved to a new accounting software that has different ways to budget income/expense accounts.

E. FUTURE AGENDA

1. MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 21, 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~ 6:23 PM

Respectfully submitted, Marti Schroepfer