



Mr. Frank Nicely
Principal

ST. MARY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Rev. Ernest W. Cibelli
Pastor

September 24, 2021

Dear Parents,

St. Mary Catholic School is embarking on a wonderful journey of renewal to deepen our sense of mission as a Catholic school. This deeper sense of mission will be at the heart of forward planning for us as we work together for continuous improvement at St. Mary Catholic School.

This is essentially the call of Baltimore Archbishop William Lori in his new Pastoral Letter *“A Light Brightly Visible”* where he says, *“Every member of the archdiocese has a role to play in revitalizing the Church’s life and mission.”*

Today the faculty, Father Cibelli, and I sat down to take a fresh look at our role as a Catholic school in revitalizing our true purpose, our common mission with the Church, of helping parents form flourishing, joyful disciples of Jesus Christ. This has always been the best reason for parents to send their kids to a Catholic school, and the fruits of this education have given St. Mary’s a solid reputation going back multiple generations. Now we ask ourselves where we go from here. In other words, how can we build upon the greatness we already have at St. Mary’s, and bring our historic school to the next level in our mission to form joyful disciples?

It bears emphasis that this vision to renew our sense of mission is foundational to all we do and plan for in terms of the total picture of Catholic education, and it fits perfectly with the Archdiocesan Strategic Plan for renewal, with its key pillars of **Mission, Academic Excellence, Community Life, and Finances.**

A big part of that Strategic Plan is for all of our Archdiocesan Catholic schools to participate in a program called **“The Emmaus Journey”**, which is a series of courses in faith formation for faculty and staff. The very first course in this program is about **Mission**. It focuses on five “Marks” of Catholic identity that should drive all we do and plan for as a Catholic School in our call to form well rounded children. We began that Emmaus Journey in our professional development session today.

As primary educators of their children, parents are a vital part of this journey of renewal which will continue into the coming months and even years. We want to keep you informed, but more importantly, to engage in conversation with you, especially through our upcoming information sessions (listed below), coffee chats with the principal, and other eventual opportunities.



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Our initial information sessions in Pangborn Hall (Gym) will be an overview of the Archdiocesan Strategic Plan, how our St. Mary's "Continuous Improvement Plan" fits into it, what we will be focusing on in the coming weeks and months, and time for Q&A. Here's our schedule:

Thursday 9/30 at 6:30pm

Wednesday 10/6 at 8:15am

Wednesday 10/6 at 1:30pm

(Optional Zoom for the 10/6 session with chat box questions link [HERE](#))

In addition, we will soon be posting an Information/Q&A portal on our school website. This and all our new information sessions and conversations will help a great deal in strengthening our open communication, and help build a deeper understanding and common commitment to our beautiful shared mission of forming joyful disciples of Jesus Christ at St. Mary Catholic School.

Let's pray for each other. God bless and we'll see you soon!

In Christ,

Frank Nicely

