

Dear St. Mary's Family,

This morning we celebrated our National Recognition by the Cardinal Newman Society with the students and faculty of St. Mary's Catholic School. It was a joyous occasion!

Our school is among the absolute best Catholic schools in the country. What has happened in the last two years is a testament to the goodness of this community. As of right now, we are one of only 38 schools in the United States to be recognized by the Cardinal Newman Society—the absolute gold standard in Catholic education. Congratulations to all of you on this accomplishment. We are leading the way here in Hagerstown. It takes a village to make schools this good. Truly.

As media outlets pick up on this story, we will share them with you. Here is the article written by the Catholic Review: [Hagerstown School Recognized by Cardinal Newman Society - Catholic Review](#)

Here is the official listing of the 38 Catholic Schools recognized by the Cardinal Newman Society: [Newman Guide Recommended Schools - Cardinal Newman Society](#) When you see St. Mary's listed, you will notice something: we have a brand new logo!

As the mission and vision of the school has transformed, a new school logo that represents our faith, tradition, and excellence was needed. It is stunning, don't you think?



St. Mary's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL EST. 1874

The logo depicts the Immaculate Heart of Mary with the traditional imagery of a flame, a white lily, roses and a sword piercing her heart. In Sacred Scripture the heart is an image of the entire person. So this logo is an image of Mary and everything she stands for. But the heart also represents her undying love and affection for Christ and all of us—her spiritual sons and daughters. The flame protruding from the top of her heart is a symbol of that burning love Mary has for humanity. Of course, we know that despite Mary's love and example, many people reject Christ today. Sin is always a rejection of God. Such action pierces Mary's heart like a sword. Yet, she gently intercedes for us all and invites us to follow her Son—and to do the Will of God. *Fiat Voluntas Tua* means "Thy will be done." It is taken directly from the Our Father. By doing the Will of God, we heal all division and spiritual wounds. God leads us to happiness, holiness and heaven. Mary reminds us of these truths by the witness of her life.

We are proud to be named after Mary—the Mother of God! She is truly our example. She leads us to her Son, Jesus. St. Mary's Catholic School and Parish also exist to lead people to Jesus.

God bless you. Congratulations to you all for this national honor. Let's keep the good work going. Our school is worth it. Our kids are worth the effort.

In Christ,

Fr. James Boric and Dr. Amy Summers