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St. Mary's School Vision Committee Update

September 21, 2009

To School Parents and St. Mary's Parishioners:

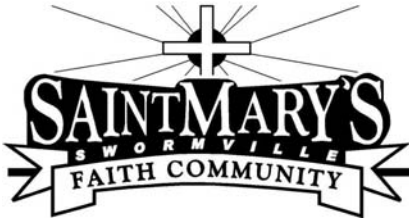
The Vision Committee has been hard at work organizing and prioritizing the valuable input provided by many parents, parishioners and former students during our open forum vision meetings held in May and June. Our overall mission as a committee is the continual enhancement and evolution of academic, spiritual, and extracurricular life at St. Mary's.

We thank all that participated for your invaluable contributions. Certainly, we will need your ongoing, active involvement to see our goals come to fruition. To that end, we will soon establish special action committees. Taking overall direction from the Vision Committee, the groups will have responsibility to develop implementation plans on many of the mid-term and long-term goals. We will look for active involvement by many of you on these committees.

We have added to our team three individuals with practical experience across various academic disciplines to assist in making our goals a reality. Mary Stefano and Nancy Wallace, both parishioners, will assist in various areas of our academic excellence initiatives. As an example, Nancy will assist in the implementation of enhancements to the current Spanish Curriculum.

We have also invited Karin Krasevac-Lenz, Director of Catholic School Advancement for the Buffalo Diocese, to serve in an advisory capacity to our team. Her role is to provide guidance toward best practices utilized by other diocesan schools as well as governance to diocesan policy for the various initiatives to be implemented.

The list of contributions provided from everyone is long and deep. Some ideas are accomplished easily. In fact, many initiatives identified at the open forums were already in process, have been initiated or have been completed during the summer months. *Please take some time to review the enclosed summary for our accomplishments thus far.*



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Many of the ideas are more significant in nature. Accordingly, these ideas will require significant planning before they are implemented. They must also align with the overall Parish Pastoral plan. This parish plan is a similar strategic planning project currently in process by the parish council. Equally as important, any initiative implemented must also comply with diocesan and state guidelines for elementary schools. To ensure proper integration with the overall parish plan, we have asked Rosa Svisco, Parish Council President, to advise our team accordingly.

We are utilizing our first few meetings to establish our overall strategy document and our near-term and long-term goals. To ensure our successful execution on the more significant initiatives, we will identify the 3 to 5 highest priority items which will serve as our primary focus during this school year.

Given our current meeting calendar, our goal is to share our strategy document with everyone at **“Meet the Teachers Night”, Monday, September 28th**

We are very excited about our team and we look forward to your volunteerism and our regular and timely communications on the progress achieved during the weeks and months ahead.

God Bless All of You

St. Mary's Vision Committee

Sister Sheila Ann Burke
Carolyn Luick
Julie Wojick
Nancy Wallace
John Nettina

Father Bob Zilliox
Kathy Ryer
Amy Pearl
Mary Stefano
Karin Krasevac-Lenz