



DVM NEWS

Updates, Announcements, and Activities Across Our Community

Blessing

May God your Eternal Friend bless all your days. May God speak in the very heart of you and be in each of your words and actions. May this Soul Mate anticipate your every need, stand with you in every struggle, and nudge you in every challenge. May God your Eternal Friend bless you.

Sr. Maxine Shonk, OP,
Grand Rapids

Employment Opportunities

Trinity High School
(River Forest, Ill.)

[President Position Description](#)

Bethlehem Academy
(Faribault, Minn)

[Head of School Position Description](#)

Rosarian Academy
(West Palm Beach, Fl.)

[Head of School Position Description](#)

Marian Catholic High School
(Chicago Heights, Ill.)

[Head of School Link](#)

Prayer. Study. Community. Service.

DVM Launches Webinar Series



Students of Trinity High School, River Forest, Ill. face each other to engage ideas in their English class. This format supports discourse. One student shared, "I like hearing other people's ideas and questions— it helps me develop my understanding even more!"

This fall, Dominican Veritas Ministries is exploring *disputatio*. Our first webinar of the 2024-25 season featured Edward Dunar, PhD, Director of Meister Eckhart Center for Catholic and Dominican Life at Albertus Magnus College. Dr. Dunar highlighted the inter-religious history of *disputatio* and its value to the Dominican order over the centuries. Quoting Sr. Megan McElroy, OP, Prioress of the Dominican Sisters Grand Rapids, Dunar stated: "*disputatio*...is a style of dialogue that allows each party to listen—deeply—to the other's position for what is right and true, and together the two parties come closer to the truth."

A second webinar, hosted by Nate Friday, DVM's Director of Formation, occurred in early October to support schools' efforts to build the framework of *disputatio* into classroom, boardroom, and community-wide conversations. Attendees included administrators, board members, faculty, and even a classroom of students. DVM invites the schools to study *disputatio* as a valuable approach to seek truth and navigate difficult conversations. Future webinar topics include a discussion with Dominican Sisters titled, *Engaging the Legacy of the Sisters*, and *Integrating the Mission Throughout the Full School Community*.



Dominican High School, Whitefish Bay, Wisc. uses the above anchor chart in each classroom to encourage the principles of *disputatio* in all classroom discussions.



DVM Welcomes Sarah Henry



Please join us in welcoming Sarah Henry to the DVM team. Sarah is a talented administrative professional, with experience assisting in project implementation, data management, and human resource functions in the non-profit sector. The newest member of the Sponsorship Staff, Sarah joined DVM at the end of September 2024 and resides in the Columbus, Ohio vicinity. We are very happy Sarah has joined us.

Reminders

DVM ZOOM Chats

School leaders will have their next gathering with DVM Executive Director, Kristin Melley, on Tuesday, November 12, at 9am ET/8am CT. Leaders are invited to suggest agenda items through this [LINK](#).

Chairs of School Boards will gather for their next meeting with DVM Executive Director, Kristin Melley, on Wed, November 13 at 11amET/10amCT. Chairs can submit agenda items through this [LINK](#).

Prayer. Study. Community. Service.

Schools Explore Value of *Disputatio*

We are grateful to Principal Carleen Raymond of St. Agnes Academy, Houston for sharing her school’s application of the principles of *disputatio*.



This summer we were particularly focused on setting a positive and unifying tone for the year knowing that the November elections would likely bring increased divisiveness into our community (and our country). Our school year theme of “Build Belonging” was the umbrella under which we planned our multilayered approach of educating, engaging, and preparing our community for what lay ahead this year.

Throughout the month of August, every teacher in every classroom engaged students in conversations around our school-wide expectations for staying curious. The message was clear: There is a place for everyone’s voice at St. Agnes and each voice helps produce equitable and inclusive actions, best practices, and customs that create a just society. Our expectations invite us to examine the meaning of the words we use as well as how our choices and words support our mission and guide each of us as we build our community of love, respect and belonging. This exercise yielded the following four commitments, now widely embraced by the community:

SEEK VERITAS

We are all made in the image of God and we all have human dignity. As a community, we are called to honor the dignity in everyone we encounter.

WALK WITH PEOPLE, NOT ISSUES

We are not alone as we navigate the challenges of life. We are on this journey together and along that path, we are bound to find areas of disagreement. But disagreement does not mean disrespect.

BE YOU, BE LOVE, BE JUSTICE

Every member of our school is responsible for building a community of belonging, and that every member of our community must feel safe to show up as their authentic self.

BE COMPASSION

Our words and actions matter, and they often have an impact far beyond what we imagined or intended. We should practice giving one another the benefit of the doubt, while also being open to feedback that our intentions may not align with our impact.



(Continued on page 3)



FALL FUN in MEMPHIS

Saint Agnes Academy-Saint Dominic School in Memphis, Tennessee, took advantage of the beautiful fall weather. The Junior Kindergarten class visited Menagerie, a local farm, to celebrate the joy of the season.



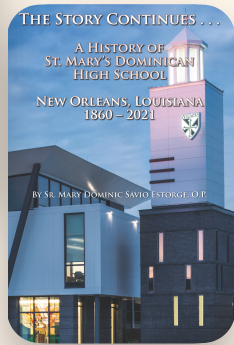
All of our communities will no doubt be impacted by the election and political turmoil that our country continues to experience. However, it is imperative that we give our students the tools to have difficult but respectful discourse with whom they disagree. Our students continue to be our hope for a more loving and peaceful future.

DVM Extends Affinity Group Gatherings

Across DVM schools, professionals are beginning to gather regularly in affinity groups—colleagues with similar roles at other DVM sponsored schools—to grow in community and fellowship around a shared vocation and mission. One of the goals is for participants to apply learnings and new understandings to their local school context, individual responsibilities, and personal lives of faith. This month in addition to Heads of Schools and Board Chairs—who have been meeting since the PJP’s activation in September 2023—DVM now hosts zoom gatherings for Athletic Directors, Administrative Assistants, Principals and Academic Leaders, Mission Leaders, Admissions and Enrollment Directors, and Chief Financial Officers. Gatherings are informed by questions and ideas emerging from the participants and provide an important opportunity to build collegial relationships across the DVM community.

The Story Continues.....A History of St.Mary's Dominican High School 1860-2021

New book released by Sr. Mary Dominic Savio Estorage, OP



We often talk about it—taking time to write the story or history of something important—yet rarely is it easy to accomplish. DVM celebrates Sr. Mary Dominic Savio Estorage, OP for completing the first written history of St. Mary’s Dominican High School, founded in 1860 in New Orleans, Louisiana by the Dominican Sisters of Mary of Cabra, Ireland.

“She was the perfect person to write it,” said Dr. Cynthia Thomas, President of St. Mary’s Dominican High School. “Sister’s love of the Dominican Order, extraordinarily long tenure (61 years) and her past leadership roles with the Dominican Sisters Congregation all offer a unique perspective to be preserved and shared.” Sr. Savio hopes that the history she has penned, “awakens mostly good memories and gratitude for what we learned those many years ago—or just this past semester—and how it had impacted our lives.” Sr. Savio’s distinguished career includes: Assistant Principal (1973-1976); President (1994-1997); and English Department Faculty and Chairperson.