St. Mary’s High School Statement on the Opening of a Chesterton Academy in Colorado Springs

As many in the St. Mary’s High School community are now aware, a group of parents in Colorado Springs is planning to open a Chesterton Academy high school this fall.

St. Mary’s High School is familiar with the Chesterton model. It is a specific “classical” approach similar to some of our local, government-run classical charter schools. “Classical education” has no universally accepted definition; the Chesterton classical approach has a narrowly defined curriculum and incorporates some of the educational techniques that a number of St. Mary’s teachers currently utilize (e.g. using original texts instead of textbooks, employing Socratic seminar methods in the classroom).

Bishop Sheridan and Holly Goodwin, the Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Education, encouraged the parents leading the Chesterton initiative to collaborate with St. Mary’s High School. Deacon Rob Rysavy, the St. Mary’s High School president, expressed the willingness of St. Mary’s to enter into a collaborative arrangement to support the families considering the Chesterton model. However, the board of directors for the Chesterton Academy initiative voted against the collaboration with St. Mary’s High School.

The Chesterton Academy students, families and staff have the prayers of the St. Mary’s community as they embark on this educational effort.

Questions regarding this communication may be addressed to St. Mary’s High School President, Deacon Rob Rysavy (rrysavy@smhscs.org)

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