



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP • Diocese of Duluth

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Greetings to all, in the name of our Lord Jesus! As we begin the new year of 2022, we would like to bring you up to date on a number of conversations that have been taking place among Bishop Daniel, Andrew Hilliker, President of Stella Maris Academy and Marie Mullen, Executive Director of Mater Dei Apostolate.

At the invitation and facilitation of Bishop Daniel last fall, on-going conversations have been taking place exploring the opportunities for collaboration and cooperation between Mater Dei Apostolate and Stella Maris Academy. Recently, it was decided that for future explorations to take place, at the present time, Stella Maris needs to concentrate on establishing their new high school and Mater Dei needs to focus on the establishment of a governance board and internal administrative planning. This will allow for strength and stability in future discussions. Both entities will operate as-is through the 2022-23 school year.

It is the desire of Bishop Daniel that a serious discussion will continue, exploring if there is a feasible and sustainable model of collaboration and cooperation between Stella Maris Academy and Mater Dei Apostolate. If there is such a model, it could possibly serve as a model elsewhere in our diocese. In the meantime, Bishop Daniel would like to affirm both programs and the families they serve in the greater Duluth area.

This communication is both an update on the conversations that have been had and to bring clarity to the conversations moving forward.

Our Lady of the Rosary and Mother of God, pray for us,

Most Reverend Daniel J. Felton
Bishop of Duluth

Ms. Marie Mullen
Executive Director
Mater Dei Apostolate

Mr. Andrew Hilliker
President
Stella Maris Academy