



Cathedral Preparatory School

225 West 9th Street
Erie, PA 16501
p: 814-453-7737
f: 814-453-6180
www.prep-villa.com

Villa Maria Academy

2403 West 8th Street
Erie, PA 16505
p: 814-838-2061
f: 814-836-0881
www.prep-villa.com



Mother Teresa Academy

160 W. 11th Street
Erie, PA 16501
p: 814-455-0580
www.mtasaints.com

June 30, 2021

Friends,

Villa Maria Academy, Cathedral Preparatory School and Mother Teresa Academy share a combined 233 years of history providing education, spiritual growth, and character development for young people. Likewise, the Catholic elementary schools of Erie County have served as the foundation of Catholic education in Erie County dating back to the 1800s. One of the many things that we must do to ensure that we protect the developing core values of our students is to pay close attention to those individuals and organizations connected with the school, and ensure that the individuals and organizations who work, consult, and engage with the school not only uphold those core values, but also are fully aligned with the best interests of our schools.

It has come to our attention that numerous members of our school community (staff, parents, donors, students and others) have received a communication from former Erie Catholic Preparatory School ("ECPS") President Chris Hagerty, indicating that he is forming a non-profit organization called the Loyal and True Foundation which would be controlled by Mr. Hagerty and which would purportedly benefit Cathedral Prep, Villa Maria Academy, Mother Teresa Academy, and the Catholic elementary schools in Erie County. We wish to address this action by Mr. Hagerty in the clearest possible language.

Mr. Hagerty is not an employee of either ECPS or the Erie Catholic School System ("ECSS"), which operates the Catholic elementary schools in Erie County. Mr. Hagerty has no approved affiliation whatsoever with the schools that he has suggested he is representing through this proposed foundation. ECSS, ECPS and the Diocese of Erie expressly reject any suggestion that Mr. Hagerty is authorized to create a fundraising entity on their behalf. Bishop Persico, on behalf of the Diocese of Erie, stated: "Mr. Hagerty has not been granted permission, nor is it likely that he will be granted permission in the future to fundraise or create or direct foundations which purport to benefit Catholic education in the diocese." To be absolutely clear, neither ECSS nor ECPS have any plans to engage with Mr. Hagerty or any foundation with which Mr. Hagerty is affiliated, nor will ECPS or ECSS accept any donations which are funneled through any such entity. In this regard, legal counsel for ECPS had previously communicated to Mr. Hagerty that he was not authorized to use our school's names, colors, or logos, or to in any manner represent that he was acting on behalf of ECPS. Likewise, representatives of both ECSS and ECPS had previously advised Mr. Hagerty that neither ECSS or ECPS would be supportive of any organization which he controlled, and which would have the practical effect of causing confusion among donors. It is regrettable that Mr. Hagerty has chosen to ignore these clear communications, and has thereby forced ECSS, ECPS and the Diocese of Erie to consider its legal options in light of these actions.

Our schools, collectively and collaboratively, are devoted to providing the young people and families that we serve with leaders that are examples of good character and moral integrity. We remain focused on setting the bar high for the young people in our school family, and for operating in a way that is beyond reproach. As always, the Board of Directors of both ECSS and ECPS thank you for your support and understanding.

Sara Kallner, Chairwoman
ECPS Board of Directors

John Blakeslee, Chairman
ECSS Board of Directors

Developing men and women of vision in spirit, mind, and body.