



Mission Driven Catholic

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1

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Welcome from the President

May God's peace be with you. Welcome to the first issue of our Newsletter. We wanted to share with you some of the highlights of this first year of *Mission Driven Catholic* and the good work the Lord is accomplishing through us. It was the Feast of the Annunciation that I felt the call to do something different to serve the Lord and His Church. I didn't know exactly what that would entail or look like, but in conversation and prayerful discernment with Megan, we decided that it was time to branch out and try this new endeavor. It wasn't lost on me that it was the day that we celebrated Mary's Fiat, and so we gave our own fiat that day with total confidence in the Lord.

As I began the work, the words from Psalm 90 struck me. "Bless the work of our hands." If this was truly the Lord's prompting, it was His work, and He would bless it. At the same time, we are so grateful to you and the countless benefactors who have been praying for and supporting us. It is through your prayers, support, and donations that Mission Driven Catholic is making an impact in the lives of many educators and administrators, and in turn, in the lives of many Catholic families and school children. All for His glory!



In Christ through Mary,

Daniel Baillargeon, Ph.D.

Latest News

Catholic Daily Drive & Other Podcasts

It was essential that the foundation of this ministry would be set upon prayer. Through the generosity of our donors, we were able to secure podcast equipment to connect our prayers and develop programs to support of the ministry. The *Catholic Daily Drive* launched in Advent last year and has become the go-to podcast for many Catholic school leaders, teachers, families, and individuals. With a focus on the Gospel and Saint of the Day, it provides a short focused meditation on what is true, good, and beautiful in Catholic living. By praying specifically, intentionally, and individually for schools and dioceses, it provides spiritual nourishment for those in the field.

In addition, *Out of the Heart*, has started recording. In this podcast Catholic school leaders and devoted Catholics unpack the Church's documents, letters, and reflections on Catholic education in meaningful and applicable ways. It will go live by the end of the year. Finally, Mission Driven Catholic will also be recording all the sets of mysteries of the rosary. This will be distributed as a podcast and also on Youtube with Sacred Art to accompany the mysteries.



You may listen to the podcast on:



Executive Mentoring, Retreats, and Strategic Planning

While prayer is the heart of the ministry, most of the work occurs in this area. Dan mentored all of the new principals of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, and several principals in other dioceses around the country. Executive mentoring helps principals of Catholic schools connect their decisions to the evangelizing mission of the Church.

In addition to mentoring, Dan worked with several schools around the nation in strategic planning, school board development, student assemblies, teacher training, and other initiatives to fortify their schools and ensure mission-connectedness in all aspects of school life.

One example of the fruits of this was a leadership retreat held on Ender's Island in CT, where a school leadership team spent three days praying together, unpacking the beauty of the Rosary, creating structural ways to work more efficiently, discussing collaborative professionalism and operational vitality, and spending time really focusing on how each decision they made should be directed at helping their students fall in love with Jesus Christ. Providentially, the retreat fell on the Feast of St. Dominic who was given the Rosary. There were moments that were truly graced as the leadership team, all in their own way, saw God's providence playing out in front of them.

Leadership Searches and Placement

One surprising development of the past six months was the need for leadership searches and placement in Catholic schools and dioceses. Dan worked to screen and place principals for the Archdioceses of Boston and Denver, as well as schools in the Dioceses of Springfield and Charlotte. Dan's search process is very detailed, and includes site visits, data collection, stakeholder meetings, professional development for search committees, screening, interview protocol development, and support in the placement of principals. The dioceses that utilized this service were very pleased with the process and outcome. It is possible that this part of the ministry will grow due to the fact that our approach is very personal and takes into account each school's unique charism, something the other search agencies have not been able to manage as successfully.

Moving Forward

As we move forward, please continue to keep us in your prayers, that we remain docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we continue to give our fiat to the work placed before us. We also ask you to consider supporting our mission financially. The Catholic Daily Drive and the resources we have created are not monetized, as we feel it is important to help the Catholic schools and to tithe a percentage of our time just to help them flourish. At the same time, and as a start-up, there are financial needs that we have. There are costs associated with equipment, the development of resources, podcasts, and materials.

Creation of Professional Materials & Future Books

As the first six months have progressed, strategic planning documents and templates have been developed; integrated curriculum guidelines have been created; and handbooks have been constructed. Over time, these will be more easily delivered to other schools seeking to advance their unique missions.

Dan started writing two books on a retreat over the summer. The first is connected to the research he conducted during his dissertation and is influenced by his continuing work in leadership support and development titled: *Mission Driven Leadership for Catholic Educators*. The second book came as an inspiration as he was developing materials for his retreats and that is: *Veiled in the Mysteries – Eucharistic Reflections on the Rosary*. This devotional book aims to help those praying the rosary to see how reflections of the union that comes through the Eucharist are hidden or explicit in the mysteries of the rosary. Please keep these projects in prayer as he tries to manage the many contracts he has and finds time to pray, discern, and write these important works.

In order to connect the broader Catholic community with the work we do, there is a cost associated with conferences and speaking engagements. Also, funding for writing would be very helpful. If you are interested in supporting Mission Driven Catholic financially, please contact Megan at office@missiondrivencatholic.com. Thank you for helping Catholic schools, educators, and families thrive! We are so grateful for your support and encouragement over this first year. Know of our continued prayers for you and your intentions. May God bless you and Mary keep you!