



For immediate release
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Unity High School identifies patron and patroness:

Saint John Paul the Great and Saint Teresa of Calcutta examples of missionary disciples

Unity High School has identified Saint John Paul the Great and Saint Teresa of Calcutta as its patron saints. Unity High School is in formation, with its inaugural academic year planned to start this Fall. The school will be located at Mary, Mother of the Church parish in Burnsville, Minn.

Saint John Paul the Great was Pope John Paul II from 1978 to 2005. Born in 1920, he died April 2, 2005, and was canonized by the Catholic Church on April 27, 2014; his Feast Day is Oct. 22. John Paul II was the second-longest serving Pope in modern history. He wrote prolifically, and was an extraordinary teacher and philosopher. He is well known for developing Theology of the Body, which is part of the curriculum at Unity High School. He also launched World Youth Day in 1985.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta was born Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu and is known as Mother Teresa. She was born in Albania in 1910 and died Sept. 5, 1997. She was canonized in September 2016, and her feast day is celebrated on Sept. 5. She founded the Missionaries of Charity, which has more than 4,500 nuns active in 133 countries. She is known for helping the poorest of the poor, particularly in Calcutta, India. She won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

"I believe the church needs more missionary disciples and the Patron Saints chosen for Unity High School certainly exemplify that calling with excellence," commented Father James Perkl, pastor of Mary, Mother of the Church parish, and board member of Unity High School. "What Pope John Paul II taught regarding the dignity of each human person, St. Mother Teresa beautifully embodied. Both saints are united in their joyful witness to the Gospel. That's what we want to be as a parish and school."

Unity High School will open this Fall with ninth grade. Tenth grade will be added in 2020, with grades added each year thereafter until the school fills out its 9th-12th grade educational format. Registrations are being accepted now. Please visit www.UnityHighSchoolMN.com for more information.

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