

Communication with Sister Mary Aquinas Halbmaier, O.P.

“Our relationship with God is first of all and at the same time also a relationship with our fellow men and women: it rests on a communion of human beings, and indeed the communication of relationship with God mediates the deepest possibility of human communication that goes beyond utility to reach the foundation of the person...”

-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI)

Dear SCCS Community,

I strive to be an open communicator. That being said, I am also a consecrated religious with reasonable parameters so that I may live my religious life fully and be God’s handmaid first and foremost to Him and to you. Thus the following information is meant to be of assistance.

- Presuming that SCCS sends a weekly communication, I will use it to share news, thoughts, information... or an email blast (?) for really important/urgent matters.
- Though I tend to be an “open door” principal, I prefer to be out and about with the students and their teachers. Therefore, when I am in my office, I am usually very busy about something, so please keep this in mind. Thank you.
- Email is my preferred method of communication for simple, business-like questions/answers and for setting up meetings or telephone appointments.
- For matters of a personal nature or of an in-depth content, I prefer face-to-face conversations.
- When I have questions or concerns, I go to the source, not to others. I ask you to do likewise. If a teacher is the source, go to her. If the pastor, go to him. If me, come to me. I do not like to create “middle men” and I like even less the spread of confusion that often occurs when we do not go to the source.
- The pastor and I have agreed that we will not enter into conversations about each other without both being present. Neither will I enter into a conversation about a faculty or staff member without him or her being present.
- Please sign notes and letters. If it is important, it should be signed. Otherwise I will not read it.
- Should you come to me with a problem, please be ready to provide and to be a part of the solution. This is extremely helpful and builds community. Thank you.
- Likewise, if you come to me with an idea, be ready to help execute it. ☺

- Unless there is a need that has been pre-arranged, I refrain from checking email or phone messages at the convent and on the weekends.
- Unless absolutely necessary, I refrain from texting.

“Electric [communication] will never be a substitute for the face of [someone, who] with [their] soul in it, encourages another [person] to be brave and true.”

-Charles Dickens, “The Wreck of the Golden Mary”

I do not want Charles Dickens to have the last word, so from the Letter to the Hebrews:

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching”

-Hebrews 10:24-25

With my prayers for all of you in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Sister Mary Aquinas Halbmaier, O.P.

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