



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wednesday, September 5, 2018**

**The Diocese of Crookston Office of Catholic Schools names 2018 Teacher of the Year**

The Diocese of Crookston's Office of Catholic Schools has named Angela Gross of St. Joseph's School, Moorhead, the 2018 Teacher of the Year. Gross is in her eleventh year of teaching middle school science at St. Joseph's School.

Nominees were sought from those familiar with the Diocese of Crookston's eight Catholic schools. The award criteria aligns with the framework of the National Catholic Educational Association's *Lead Learn Proclaim Award*. Gross was selected for her ability to actively model service to others within her school and parish community; for offering students a rigorous education that integrates the faith across subject areas; is collaborative with other teachers; makes time for professional development and personal faith formation; and reflects her school's mission, along with Gospel values.

Tina Stanger, Director of Catholic Schools, said Gross, "Continues to be dedicated to excellence. She really works hard and has learned a lot to make STEM and robotics a high-quality program at St. Joe's."

Gross earned a bachelor's degree in biology from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, and a secondary education license through Minnesota State University, Moorhead. She has logged 18 years of teaching experience.

According to Andrew Hilliker, St. Joseph's School Principal, Gross makes state standards for learning come alive. "She has re-defined what learning looks like in her lab. Students are always immersed in hands-on activities, from building robots to kitchen sink science. This all happens with the Catholic faith embedded into daily experiences," he said.

Gross works closely with her colleagues in many capacities; she has initiative and leadership skills that result in staff members seeking her out for guidance and support. Hilliker said, "She is a true asset to our school."

Gross and Hilliker will attend the 2019 National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Convention & Expo in Chicago as diocesan representatives in April. The NCEA Convention is a 3-day event filled with sessions dedicated to empowering Catholic school leaders and educators.

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*Pictured from L to R: Andrew Hilliker, St. Joseph's School Principal; Angela Gross, St. Joseph's School Science Teacher and Diocese of Crookston Office of Catholic Schools 2018 Teacher of the Year; and Fr. Larry Delaney, Pastor of St. Joseph's Parish and Superintendent of St. Joseph's School, Moorhead. (Photo credit: Katrina Genereux/Our Northland Diocese)*