

MESSAGE FROM MONASTERY SUPERIOR

Dear Visitation Family,



From our founding in 1799 until today, our beloved school has been a vital ministry of our Visitation Sisters. It has been our joy, and that of our predecessors, to send forth generations of graduates who have grown into women of faith, vision, and purpose during their years at Georgetown Visitation.

Dedicated to the spirituality developed by St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal to “Live Jesus,” we have cherished our many roles in the life of the school. In recent decades, we have seen our educational ministry enhanced by dedicated lay women and men who have embraced in an intentional way our spirit of faith and the “inspired common sense” of Salesian Spirituality.

Since many of our beloved Sisters have gone home to God in the past decade, we continue to rely upon and celebrate the committed, visionary leadership of our lay partners in securing the future of our educational ministry. In a spirit of peace and abundant trust, we are creatively responding to the needs of the present moment to ensure that our mission not only endures, but flourishes into our third century. The establishment of the St. Jane de Chantal Salesian Center has been a vital step in this responsibility of maintaining the spiritual mission of our school community.

A second effort on our part has been to invite a trusted group of lay women and men, who have been deeply involved in the spiritual life of our Monastery and school over decades, to come together to deepen their Salesian formation alongside the Sisters. In time, they will be the founding members of an Association of the Christian Faithful (or ACF, a canonical entity) and, should the need arise, be ready to assume the spiritual sponsorship of the school. In taking this step, we have been fortified by the experience of our Visitation Sisters in St. Louis and Mendota Heights who have also established Associations of the Christian Faithful to ensure that the Catholic nature and Salesian charism of the Visitation will remain strong in their schools.

Our ACF will be a steward of our Monastery’s spiritual inheritance by preserving our founding Sisters’ vision: to impart to young women moral values and a Gospel-inspired life. As we—along with all of the Catholic Church—move forward into what Vatican II proclaimed “the age of the laity,” we are confident in God’s loving Providence and in the faith and dedication of our lay partners. We see the establishment of an ACF at Georgetown Visitation as a grace-filled opportunity for us to partner with faithful friends to preserve the unique Catholic, Salesian identity of our school. As women of faith who believe that the Holy Spirit is leading the way, we embrace God’s Good Pleasure. As we walk this journey together, we will keep you—our devoted alumnae, families, and friends—apprised. It is our prayerful hope that this invitation to deeper partnership will only strengthen the bonds of our community and the legacy of our Sisters who have promoted the spiritual values of a Visitation education for the past 223 years.

Sincerely,

Sister Mary Berchmans

Sister Mary Berchmans Hannan, VHM
Monastery Superior