

Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCEMENT



DR. JIM POWER TO SERVE AS NEXT PRESIDENT OF BREBEUF JESUIT

Dear Brebeuf Jesuit Community,

I hope this letter finds you well and filled with excitement as we embark on the next chapter in the progression of our beloved school. It is with great pleasure that I share the appointment of our next President, Dr. Jim Power. The President was unanimously appointed by the Board of Trustees on March 19, 2024, reaffirming the President Search Committee's recommendation. The President is elected by the Board and missioned by the Provincial of the Midwest Jesuits, V. Rev. Karl Kiser, SJ, as the leader of our school who will carry forward the rich tradition of the apostolic work of the Society of Jesus.



*This appointment has been approved by V. Rev. Karl Kiser, SJ,
Provincial of the Midwest Jesuits.*

“I am thrilled to mission Jim as the next president of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School. Jim brings his long experience as a Jesuit school leader and his deep Catholic faith to lead Brebeuf Jesuit’s long legacy of forming students who are inspired to live lives of faith, service, and justice.” – V. Rev. Karl Kiser, SJ

After an extensive search led by the Board of Trustees along with the assistance of our consultant, Educational Directions, we have selected a leader who embodies the spirit and mission of Brebeuf Jesuit. Dr. Jim Power will serve as Brebeuf Jesuit’s 13th President and will officially begin his role on June 17, 2024. The President Search Committee set a high bar to find a leader who has the skills and experience to build upon our Jesuit Catholic Identity, Community, Vision for the Future (strategic plan), Expanding Resources (institutional advancement, academics, enrollment management), Equity and Inclusion, and Organization. Dr. Power is a visionary and a team builder who will work closely with the Jesuit community and Leadership Team to support the work of our faculty and staff. Most importantly, he is focused on supporting an environment for students to become *men and women for others*.

Most recently, Dr. Power serves as the Superintendent of Catholic Schools in Providence, Rhode Island, where he is the leader of 36 Catholic primary and secondary schools. Prior to his role as Superintendent, he held head of school positions at St. Anselm’s Abbey School (Washington, DC), Culver Academies (Culver, IN), Upper Canada College (Toronto, Ontario), and Georgetown Preparatory School (Bethesda, MD). Jim’s professional experience is supported by his education rooted in Jesuit foundations. Jim began his teaching career as a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, serving as a middle school teacher in South Boston. He later earned a MAT in English and Education (Boston College) and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership (Boston University) where his thesis focused on character development.

Dr. Power was a member of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, completed the Ignatian Leadership Seminar, and currently serves as a Trustee at Xavier High School (New York City, NY). He believes in the power of Catholic education and was transformed by the experiences he encountered. His Jesuit formation experience and values of Ignatian spirituality have shaped his approach to leadership, ignited a passion for learning, and ultimately influenced his accomplishments in the field of high school education.





“I owe a debt to the Society of Jesus because the Jesuits and the lay people with whom they worked have formed me. I attended Jesuit schools (high school, college, graduate school) and spent one year in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and another year in the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. I have taught, led, advised, and served as a trustee at Jesuit schools. I believe in their formative mission. The Spiritual Exercises and the Jesuit focus on the *magis* and *cura personalis* have had a huge impact on my life and on my worldview.” - Dr. Jim Power

Dr. Power has led school teams that have enjoyed a number of successes. Upper Canada College’s “Think Ahead” campaign raised over \$100 million, the most successful secondary school campaign in Canadian history. Most of these funds were directed towards financial aid supporting and prioritizing the needs of the students. The team also developed a “Common Ties” mentoring program, which connected college seniors and recent graduates with alumni in their professional field of interest. Dr. Power has a particular area of interest in virtue development beyond faith, hope, and love, and he emphasizes creating a culture to help students develop moral convictions by doing courageous things.

As we welcome Dr. Power, we do so with the confidence that he embodies true collaboration, recognizing and valuing the importance of shared leadership, responsibility, and accountability. With our students and faculty at the heart and soul of the Brebeuf Jesuit experience, our new President is committed to engaging with, listening to all stakeholders, and embracing our unique community with the aim of always advancing our mission.

Dr. Power succeeds Fr. Bill Verbryke, SJ, whose leadership and dedication were critical to guiding the School through the pandemic and achieving milestone goals, including record-breaking enrollment numbers, completion of a successful \$15 million capital campaign, and construction of a new student center to name a few of the highlights. We look forward to celebrating Fr. Bill in the months ahead and wish him well on his next Jesuit assignment as the Rector of the Cincinnati Jesuit Community.

When Dr. Power takes office this summer, he will work closely with Fr. Bill and our Jesuit team to ensure our Jesuit connection remains aligned and in a continued position of strength for the future. Jim and his wife Mary have been married 40 years and are active in their Catholic faith. Jim and Mary Power have five adult children: Bridget is the Catholic chaplain at Williams College (MA); Patrick and Seamus are in Ph.D. programs; Liam is in an MD/Ph.D. program, and Aidan is in law school.



On behalf of the Board, I want to thank the President Search Committee for their discernment, prayerful consideration, and unwavering commitment to this process. The Search Committee spent considerable time dedicated to reviewing, vetting, and identifying the best suited candidate. This process was successful because of their leadership and commitment to Brebeuf Jesuit’s future. In addition, my utmost appreciation goes to our faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni who assisted in meeting with the candidates, welcoming them to campus, and providing valuable feedback through this process.

In closing, I invite everyone to join me in extending a warm welcome to Dr. Power as he begins his journey with us. Let us continue to uphold the values and traditions that make Brebeuf Jesuit a guiding light in our community, nurturing the God-given talents of our students and inspiring them to be *men and women for others*.

With gratitude,

Jen McGowan
Chair, Board of Trustees



President Search Committee

Vince Caponi, Chair

Chair, Xavier University Board of Trustees
SVP, Ascension Health (Retired)
Brebeuf Jesuit Past Board Chair

Kelly Altman

Head of School, Oaks Academy Brookside
Brebeuf Jesuit Trustee

Fr. Terry Baum, SJ

Alumni Chaplain, St. Xavier High School
Brebeuf Jesuit Trustee

Matt Couture

*Midwest Jesuits Provincial Assistant for
Secondary and Pre-Secondary Education*

Sumi Maun

Independent Consultant
Brebeuf Jesuit Trustee

Matt Mayer

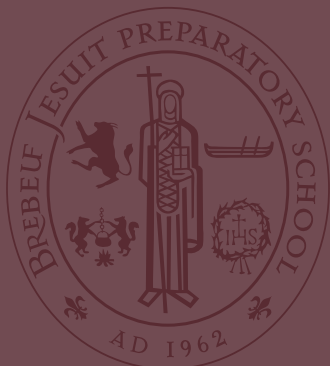
Brebeuf Jesuit Faculty
Social Studies Department Chair

Jen McGowan

Global Operations Leader at General Electric
Chair, Brebeuf Jesuit Board of Trustees

Jim Sweeney '79

*United States District Judge for the Southern
District of Indiana*
Brebeuf Jesuit Trustee



Voices of Support

“Jim competed with an excellent field of candidates and stood out as an individual who possesses the needed skills and experience to lead our beloved school into the future. Jim exhibits and embraces our Jesuit values and will stand on the shoulders of all those who have led us in the past.

Jim is truly a **man for others**”.

- Vince Caponi

“Jim is a man of **deep and abiding faith**. He exudes authenticity in his interactions with others, and as an accomplished leader, he is well-equipped to lead Brebeuf in the years to come. He’s also passionate about supporting students’ intellectual, spiritual, and emotional growth.”

- Kelly Altman

“His vision is backed by decades as a servant for others in academic and leadership positions in the **Jesuit and Catholic education traditions**. He is both equipped and committed to hit the ground running.”

-Jim Sweeney

“The common theme was how much of a people person Jim is and how much he cares about the **students and their stories**. I feel like he is going to be able to tell the story of Brebeuf with a passion that will be infectious to the entirety of the Brebeuf Jesuit community!”

- Matt Mayer

“I was worried that it would be difficult to find a candidate who could ably serve as the next President of Brebeuf since Father Bill is not an easy act to follow. Fortunately, once I met Jim Power, it became clear that he is the best person to propel Brebeuf forward. In Jim, we found a **motivated leader** with a strong spiritual and moral compass.”

- Sumi Maun

“Dr. Power brings a wealth of administrative experience to his new role as President of Brebeuf Jesuit. He is a devout Catholic with a **deep understanding of Jesuit spirituality**.

I wish him well.”

- Fr. Terry Baum, SJ

