



Dominican  
Sisters *of Peace*  
Sisters and Associates  
in Mission

August 8, 2024

Dear Dominican Academy Community,

As the elected leaders of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, successors of the congregation of Dominican Sisters who founded Dominican Academy (DA) in 1897, and the canonical sponsors of Dominican Academy for the past fifteen years, we are excited to share news of a new sponsorship model on this feast of our founder and patron, St. Dominic. This new model will ensure the Catholic and Dominican identity of the school for future generations of students.

For several years, the Dominican Sisters of Peace engaged in prayerful dialogue with other congregations of Dominican Sisters across the country about the future of Dominican education. This included a careful examination of the changing demographics facing congregations of women religious. It became clear to all of us that it would be prudent to act now to ensure that the sponsorship needs of the school are met well into the future.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Dominican Sisters of Peace, collaborating with the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Houston, Sinsinawa, and Springfield, discerned that God was calling us to explore new ways of fostering the Catholic identity and Dominican charism at our sponsored schools. This discernment led to the creation of Dominican Veritas Ministries (DVM.) With approval from the Vatican and affirmation from local bishops, DVM launched last year as a new entity in the Catholic Church, serving as the canonical sponsor of Dominican schools in the United States. Just as DVM was created as an ecclesial entity, Dominican Veritas Ministries, Inc. was formed as a companion civil corporation.

In a letter received on July 22, the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, patroness of the Dominican Order, we were informed that the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life approved the transfer of canonical sponsorship of Dominican Academy to Dominican Veritas Ministries. We are working with the DA Board of Trustees to make the necessary changes to the school's articles of incorporation and bylaws to ensure that the school's civil documents reflect this new ecclesial reality. Our congregation has worked with the school administration and board over many months to prepare for this transfer, and we are confident that this transition will be a smooth one.

As we undertake this next chapter in the story of Dominican Academy, we want to reassure you that day-to-day operations will continue as they currently do, led by your outstanding administrative team and dedicated faculty and staff. Your Board of Trustees will retain its same fiduciary and governance responsibilities. DVM, as did the Dominican Sisters of Peace, will exercise certain reserved powers established by civil and Canon Law. The positive impact of this transfer of sponsorship will be felt immediately, as DA joins a vibrant network of Dominican schools, gaining access to comprehensive support and new resources provided by DVM.

We are also pleased to inform you that our own Sr. Therese Leckert, OP, is serving as a Member of Dominican Veritas Ministries. Sr. Therese served as the liaison between the school and our Leadership Team for thirteen years. Our Director of Founded Ministries, Mr. Mark Butler, is a

Trustee of DVM, Inc. Mark is a Dominican Associate and served on the DA board as our delegate for several years. Sr. Therese and Mark are familiar with Dominican Academy and are happy to support you in these roles. Sr. Joanne Caniglia, OP, will continue to serve on the board for the remainder of her current term. We welcome any future board nominations for Dominican Sisters of Peace and will honor those requests for as long as we are able.

As DVM assumes sponsorship of Dominican Academy, we will continue to keep you in our hearts and foster the bonds of affection with you. We give thanks for the many Sisters who served at DA and honor the memory of those women who travelled from Ohio to preach the Gospel in New York City. We are very proud of you and hopeful in the knowledge that you will continue to build up the people of God for many years to come.

We invite you to join us in prayer for Dominican Veritas Ministries and all its sponsored schools:

Loving God,  
You shaped us in your image and likeness,  
giving us the gifts of wisdom and knowledge,  
and the ability to understand the world around us.  
Be with the students in our Dominican communities  
as they use those gifts to learn and grow.  
May all that they do in their classrooms, chapels,  
laboratories, studios, and gymnasiums  
be an opportunity to praise you, to bless you,  
and to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
St. Thomas Aquinas, patron of students, pray for us.  
St. Albert the Great, patron of scientists, pray for us.  
Blessed Fra Angelico, patron of artists, pray for us.  
St. Margaret of Castello, patron of children with special needs, pray for us.  
Amen.

By Megan Colford, adapted by Mark Butler

May God, Creator, bless you; may God, Redeemer, heal you; may God, the Holy Spirit, fill you with light.

Peace be with you, always,



Sr. Patricia A. Twohill, OP  
Prioress



Sr. Anne Lythgoe, OP  
General Councilor



Sr. Cathy Arnold, OP  
General Councilor



Sr. Carol Davis, OP  
General Councilor



Sr. Susan M. Leslie, OP  
General Councilor