

LIVE † JESUS

## Educating the Mind and Heart IN THE VISITATION TRADITION



### Visitation Philosophy of Education

**Visitation schools in the United States are rooted in the Roman Catholic faith and strengthened by their shared vision of Salesian Spirituality inspired by the founders of the Visitation, Saints Jane de Chantal and Francis de Sales.**

The writings of these saints reflect the best values of Christian Humanism. They offer an optimism born of an understanding of the loving hand of God as traced in the beauty of creation and a clear vision of the human person created in the image of God. These values integrate a love of truth with the pursuit of knowledge and the dedication of God-given gifts to making the world a better place.

As educators in the Visitation tradition, we understand that we are forming lives as well as imparting knowledge. Through the educational process, we seek to train the intellects of our students and to equip them with skills of discernment which will assist them in making life-giving choices and decisions and in building positive human relationships. We also strive to instill a lifelong love of learning.

The National Visitation Salesian Network (VSN) works collaboratively with Visitation school communities so that all may experience what it means to "Live Jesus." VSN ensures the integration of the Catholic Salesian charism in all aspects of school life, being especially attentive to the formation of minds and hearts through the gospel-based teachings of St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal.

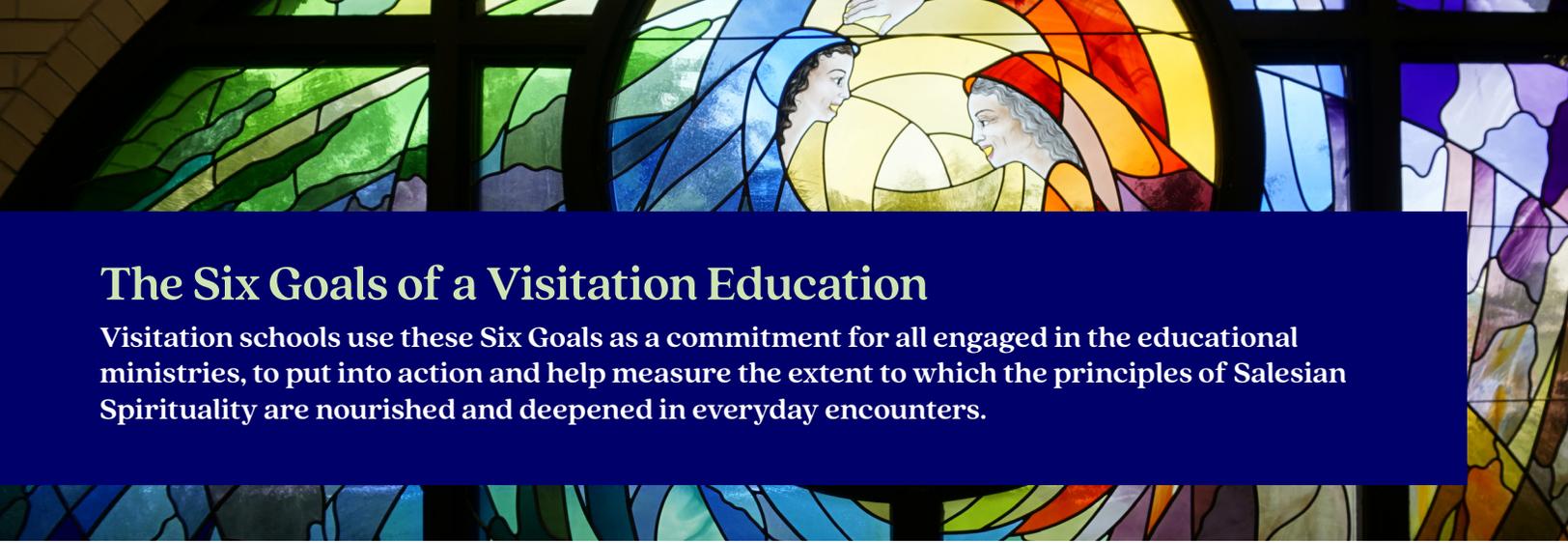
Visitation schools are committed to offering our students strong academic programs that integrate the search for truth with intellectual pursuits directed toward a faith-filled vision of life. In the classroom we encourage them to build on their strengths and bolster areas in need of improvement.

A practical living of the Salesian virtues of kindness, gentleness, humility and thoughtful concern for others permeates our school environments where members respect the uniqueness of one another and foster inclusive and caring communities.

Salesian optimism leads us to encourage our students to reach their potential as we affirm and celebrate their achievements, both in the classroom and in co-curricular activities. Leadership opportunities enable them to become self-directed people whose broad vision of life leads them to offer their gifts of mind and heart in loving service to those in need.

Relying on the inspiration of the Spirit and a wisdom born of a long history, Visitation schools move into the future, educating our students to be quietly prayerful and intellectually competent persons who have developed a strong sense of moral integrity and responsibility.





# The Six Goals of a Visitation Education

Visitation schools use these Six Goals as a commitment for all engaged in the educational ministries, to put into action and help measure the extent to which the principles of Salesian Spirituality are nourished and deepened in everyday encounters.

## Goal One:

Visitation schools foster a personal friendship with God which leads to a faith-filled vision of life.

*Follow your own way of speaking to God, lovingly, confidently, and simply as your heart dictates.*

– ST. JANE DE CHANTAL

## Goal Two:

Visitation schools integrate a strong academic course of studies with a Salesian spiritual dimension.

*Growing in wisdom interests me only to the extent that through it, I also grow in holiness.*

– ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

## Goal Three:

Visitation schools build faith communities which call their members to understand the value of diversity and to respect the dignity of each person.

*The church is a garden patterned with unlimited flowers; it is necessary that they should be of various sizes, various colors, various odors and to sum it up, different perfections...all of them provide a beauty most pleasing and perfect.* – ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

## Goal Four:

Visitation schools promote the development of liberty of spirit which empowers students to make life-giving choices.

*Lead those in your care with a kind and understanding heart; give them a holy liberty of spirit and remove from your mind and theirs any unhealthy spirit of constraint.* – ST. JANE DE CHANTAL

## Goal Five:

Visitation schools embrace and model gospel values of peace and justice in order to be catalysts for positive change.

*To carry God on the tongue with beautiful words, to carry God in the heart with beautiful affections, is not everything. We must carry him in our arms with good works.* – ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

## Goal Six:

Visitation schools encourage an awareness of and care for the gifts of God's creating hand.

*Let us pray then, frankly and fervently for all the world, that it may please our Lord to spread his grace and mercies over all his creatures, that all may walk towards the end for which he created them.*

– ST. JANE DE CHANTAL

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Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, Washington, D.C.  
Visitation Academy, Saint Louis, MO  
Visitation Academy, Brooklyn, NY  
Visitation School, Mendota Heights, MN