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CORNER



Leadership Awards

In recent years the members of Religious Communities of Women have begun to experience a severe shortage of vocations to their organizations. In response, the leadership of the Catholic Church has established a method of protecting their heritage as well as their assets as they move into an uncertain future. Accordingly, The Ursulines of Brown County have begun to engage in this process.

A CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Early Spring this year brought not only a warming trend and a plethora of spring flowers, but, for the Ursulines of Brown County, the election of the Congregational Minister for the next term. As preparation for the election process, the Community members explored and discerned the priorities for the next two to four years as a congregation. The Sisters came to a consensus on the following priorities:

Identifying a Commissary was unanimously the primary focus of the Community conversation. Being realistic about the age and capacity of the remaining members of the Ursulines of Brown County we recognize there are no members who can adequately fulfill the responsibilities of a Congregational Minister. A Commissary is a Religious Sister from a different Community, appointed by the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in Rome. The Commissary is to serve the needs of the Community as the Congregational Minister. The requesting Community has the opportunity to recommend a Commissary to the Dicastery, in the petition submitted. We are in the beginning stage of that process.

(continued on the next page)

Sponsorship of Ursuline Academy our Educational Institution: This process will structure the relationship between the Catholic Church and Ursuline Academy. There are options the community will consider and this decision will involve the UA Board and the Corporation Board of the Ursulines of Brown County. Other organizations and lay collaborators may serve as resources. We know other schools and communities who have already forged a path in this area and will avail ourselves of their experiences.

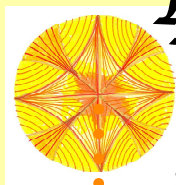
With the transition of Chatfield College to a not-for profit organization, the Legacy Agreement established in 2011 came to completion. Because Chatfield is no longer an educational institution, the Chatfield Edge maintains the same mission but no longer requires Catholic sponsorship. The revised Code of Regulations for the Chatfield Edge includes an article which supports the continuation of the values of the founders, the Ursulines of Brown County.

Archives: Decisions will need to be made regarding the permanent housing of the documents and artifacts of the Congregation which are a significant part of our Legacy. The Archival materials, currently being identified and catalogued, are housed temporarily on the campuses of The Chatfield Edge and Ursuline Academy. Exploration of the options for a permanent location will be a significant part of the Community's conversation and study over the next couple of years.

Distribution of remaining Financial Assets: The determination of what non-profit organizations will be the beneficiaries of financial assets remaining after the care of all members is complete. Information and expertise from the Chief Operating Officer and the Community Corporation Board will be included in these discussions with the members of the Community.

*On June 21, 2023, the **Celebration of Leadership Transitions** was held at Ursuline Academy and began with the installation of the Congregational Minister. This year we incorporated gratitude for the Boards of Trustees who steward our institutions and recognition for the administrators who have ended their service. The Blessing Ceremony and recognition was followed by a festive meal.*

The Ursuline sisters are affirming Sr. Patricia Homan who is continuing as congregational minister. For the past four years, she has guided our journey towards fulfillment as a congregation. She has supported each of us in times of discernment, sickness, and death. Her work on the Boards of Chatfield College and Ursuline Academy has fostered the integration of the Ursuline legacy at both institutions. She has represented the Ursulines at the local and national levels of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. In February, the sisters elected her to continue as congregational minister with the goal of leading us to a new form of governance within 2-3 years.



*If according to times and circumstances
the need arises to do something
differently
do it prudently and with good advice*

St. Angela Merici: Final Legacy



Sister Phyllis led the affirmation of the Congregational Minister

Blessing prayer: We affirm your willingness to serve as the Congregational Minister of the Ursulines of Brown County for the next 2-3 years. May our gentle and loving God walk with you as you journey through this time of leadership; inspiring you and freeing you to respond generously to the service for which you were chosen. Amen.

The Legacy Lives On

In St. Angela's wisdom, the governance structure she established was an early model of collaboration. The vowed members governed themselves with elected leaders from within the membership. In addition, St. Angela included the election of non-members, older women, mostly widows called Matrons. Their role was to assist the elected leader in situations that required support. A third means of collaboration was with men who would manage civil or legal issues for the members as needed.

Sister Patricia recognized the Boards of Trustees:

In 2010 the Ursulines of Brown County created a Legacy statement for Chatfield College and Ursuline Academy articulating the values we treasure and the purpose for which we were founded. In 2011 we transitioned the Boards of both schools to Board owned institutions through the Legacy agreement. In that agreement, each school acknowledged the special significance of Ursuline heritage. Both institutions recognized and agreed that they would operate in compliance with the Legacy Statement. Both schools have honored the Ursuline Legacy in their unique ways, creating Mission/Legacy Committees for the Boards and providing formation including Legacy presentations.

The stewardship of our Legacy starts with the Boards and administrators. The nurturing of this mission provides an example for staff and faculty to become mission focused. Through this example, students grow in awareness and become mission engaged. We honor the Board members and administrators of Ursuline and Chatfield who have guided and supported the legacy and values of the Ursulines and have enthusiastically instilled those values in our students.

It is through the members of the Boards of Ursuline Academy, Chatfield Edge, and the Ursuline Corporation, that our institutions have flourished. They are working boards - women and men who are actively engaged in serving the institutions with their time, talent, and treasure. The Ursulines are deeply grateful for the stewardship of our institutions and heritage and for each of the Board members.



Recognition of the Administrators who have been in service to the mission of our organizations and are transitioning to new adventures.

Ramona Payne is a woman of faith trusting God to work wonders in God's own time. Ramona listens, asks insightful questions, and discerns a response. During COVID it was discernment and maturity of judgment that kept Ursuline open and students "Learning not just for school but for life". During Ramona's tenure, a strategic plan was developed and the subsequent creation of a 20-year Facilities Master Plan was envisioned to guide Ursuline Academy into the future. We are deeply grateful to Ramona, who has shared her Ursuline heart with us. We pray that the steady flame of the Spirit's goodness remains with her.

Jill Hallahan has been dedicated to Ursuline education for 17 years, as teacher, assistant principal, interim principal/CEO and principal. Jill not only learned about St. Angela and Julia Chatfield, but also embraced their legacy as a guiding light for her leadership. Among her many contributions to UA, Jill was instrumental in the adoption of the Merici Model of Education which encompasses the foundation for the unique schedule of the school. During the many challenges brought about by the pandemic, Jill and the administration kept UA on course, caring for the mind, body and spirit of each student, faculty, and staff member. We are grateful to Jill for her dedication to the Legacy and her student focused service. May the next chapter of her journey be filled with God's loving presence and joy.

Bob Elmore has been a part of the Leadership of Chatfield College since 2014. From purchasing and renovating a building in Over-the-Rhine, to managing the daily events of both campuses, Bob contributed to the success of the mission with faith, wisdom, and hard work. In 2019 Bob became the 6th president and continued sharing his leadership skills. Recognizing the decline in enrollment and changes in higher education, Bob gathered the Executive Committee in 2021 to determine a realistic view for the future. Following a year of extensive research, discussion, planning and discernment by the Board, Chatfield College closed on December 31, 2022. On January 1, 2023, The Chatfield Edge opened as a non-profit service agency that continues the Chatfield mission to serve first-generation, economically challenged students. As President of Chatfield College, Bob's leadership was the driving force for the transition to The Chatfield Edge. We are grateful for Bob's vision and commitment to Ursuline values and heritage. We wish him abundant blessings.

Blessing bestowed on the Members of the Boards and Administrators: *May you awaken to the mystery of being and enter the quiet immensity of your own presence. May you have joy and peace in the temple of your heart. May you receive great encouragement when new frontiers beckon. May you respond to the call of your gift and find the courage to follow its path. May warmth of heart keep your presence aflame, and may anxiety never linger about you. May your outer demeanor mirror an inner dignity of soul. May you take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention. May you experience each day as a sacred gift woven around the heart of wonder.* [Eternal Echoes](#) by John O'Donoghue



LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Interim President for Ursuline Academy

The Ursuline Academy Board of Trustees has announced that Dr. Patricia Boehm, class of 94, has accepted the role as UA's Interim President for the 2023-24 academic year. Dr. Boehm joined UA last year as the major gifts officer. The Board is "confident in Dr. Boehm's leadership ability, based on years of experience leading schools in mission-driven education, while navigating a changing world." In the words of Dr. Boehm: "This spring served as a time of reflection and self-discovery for Ursuline, a hallmark of the Merici Model of Education. The journey allowed our school community the opportunity to identify what we are doing well and define areas for improvement. As a graduate I believe wholeheartedly in the mission of Ursuline Academy and am honored to play a role in positively impacting the experience of the next generation of Ursuline women. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to lead Ursuline as Interim President and look forward to partnering with the Board of Trustees, Ms. Rojas, and the entire Ursuline community to ensure this period of transition is a time of growth for UA."

Principal named for Ursuline Academy

The Principal Search Committee and the Board of Trustees announced that Ms. Kristen Rojas, Ursuline Academy alumna (class of 1985) will join us as our next Principal. Ms. Rojas comes to UA with an impressive career in education, spanning over 30 years. She joins us from Princeton City School District, where she most recently held the position of Principal of the Princeton Innovation Center. She brings to UA a unique skill set, including significant experience related to curriculum design, teacher evaluation, and development. Ms. Rojas notes that she is "thrilled to be part of continuing our strong legacy, fueling the long-lasting impact that our empowered graduates make within their communities, families, and professions."

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*The **Celebration of Leadership Transitions**, pictured above, was held at Ursuline Academy on June 21, 2023*