



Visitation School

July 20, 2018

Dear Visitation Families, Alumnae and Friends,

I would like to inform you of a new and significant development in the Monastery. Sister Mary Denise Villaume, VHM '56 has completed her fourth consecutive term, exceeding the limit for another term. Normally the Sisters would hold an election for a new Superior. However, the Holy See has recently promulgated new legislation that precludes an election when there are fewer than six members of a monastery.

Sister Susan Marie Kasprzak of the Brooklyn, New York Visitation and President of the Second Federation of the Visitation Order in the United States requested that Archbishop Bernard Hebda be authorized to appoint an Administrative Superior for the Monastery.

After consultation with Sister Susan Marie, the Mendota Heights Sisters and Sister Mary Frances Reis, VHM '55 of the Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis, Archbishop Hebda has appointed Sister Mary Frances Reis to serve as Administrative Superior, *pro tempore*.

Sister Mary Frances will draw on the gifts and experiences of Sisters Mary Denise Villaume '56, Mary Paula McCarthy '47 and Brigid Marie Keefe '60 as well as her own knowledge and love of our school as we work together to advance our mission. She will continue to reside with the Sisters in Minneapolis and serve as Administrative Superior in Mendota Heights.

In addition to being an alumna, Sister Mary Frances taught in grades Montessori through 12 at Visitation in Mendota Heights, founded the campus ministry program and chaired the religion department. In 1989 she was commissioned by the Sisters as a founding member of the Visitation Monastery of Minneapolis.

Archbishop Hebda expressed his gratitude to Sister Mary Denise for her "leadership and exceptional generosity." We are profoundly grateful to Sister Mary Denise for her absolute fidelity and service to the Visitation community, and we welcome Sister Mary Frances as the new Administrative Superior of the Mendota Heights Monastery. Together, we will continue to offer our full support to the Sisters as they continue their succession planning.

Blessings on your summer,

Rene Gavic
Head of School



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