



Friday, November 3, 2023, we were honored to have Archbishop Bernard Hebda, seven Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa (Sr. Colleen Settles, Sr. Julie Schwab, Sr. Kate Theis, Sr. Mary Margaret Murphy, Sr. Marian DeGrood, Sr. Theresa Thomas, and Sr. Kathleen Hayes) and other honored guests join us at Bethlehem Academy as we formally transferred BA's canonical sponsorship from the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa to Dominican Veritas Ministries (DVM). Due to their hard work and foresight, the legacy, goals, mission, and commitment of our founding Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters will live on through this new structure, as the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa are one of five founding member congregations of this historic organization.

Please see below for more information on this historic moment in our long history.

BA's Founding by the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa

- BA was founded by the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters in 1865. Click [HERE](#) for BA's school history.
- Through times of plenty and times of scarcity, the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa have been our steadfast sponsors for 158 years.
- At first entirely staffed by the Sisters, BA today remains blessed to have Sister Theresa Thomas working at BA in the archives/alumni office and Sister Kathleen Hayes working at Divine Mercy Catholic Church.

A New Educational Structure/Canonical Sponsor

- With less than 300 women in their congregation, and a median age of 82, the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa began working in 2016 with other Dominican Sister Congregations to develop a path to allow their mission to continue even as their numbers decline. Thanks to their forethought and careful planning, Dominican Veritas Ministries was created.
- Dominican Veritas Ministries (DVM) is an educational ministry founded by five US Congregations of Dominican Sisters – Adrian, Houston, Peace, Sinsinawa, and Springfield. The goal of this ministry is to collaborate to ensure the continuation of the Catholic and Dominican identity of their educational ministries well into the future.
- A submission of this new DVM model was sent to the Vatican in 2021 and approved in 2022. Note that the application had to get the blessing of the Archdiocese in which the congregations' schools were located prior to submission to the Vatican.

Future Governance

- Leadership of DVM includes a Member Board with representation from each of the five participating congregations, an eight-person appointed Board of Trustees, and an Executive Director.

- Moving forward, DVM will support each school in efforts to thrive as separate civil corporations with their own local school boards and honor heritage of the Dominican congregation who founded them.
- On September 1, 2023, the canonical sponsorship of nine of the Sisters' schools transferred from the individual Congregations to DVM. The pioneering schools are:
 - Bethlehem Academy, Faribault, MN
 - Dominican High School, Whitefish Bay, WI
 - Edgewood Campus School, Madison, WI
 - Edgewood High School, Madison, WI
 - Regina Dominican High School, Wilmette, IL
 - Rosarian Academy, West Palm Beach, FL
 - St. Agnes Academy, Houston, TX
 - Trinity High School, River Forest, IL

The November 3rd ceremony made formal the transfer of Bethlehem Academy's sponsorship from the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa to Dominican Veritas Ministries.

Click [HERE](#) for a video of the DVM Transfer Ceremony held at BA November 3, 2023.