



The Academy of the **HOLY CROSS**

Established 1868 • Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross

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Educating Women of Courage, Compassion and Scholarship

June 2008

Dear Friends of the Academy,

I am pleased to announce the unanimous Board of Trustees selection of Dr. Claire Helm for President of The Academy of the Holy Cross, effective August 1, 2008. The decision was also enthusiastically approved by the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. This selection culminates the search process begun in December 2007 with Sister Katherine Kase's resignation announcement. While the search timeline was flexible enough to extend until June 2009, we are delighted that Dr. Helm is available to begin her tenure with the upcoming school year. The Board is confident that she is superbly qualified to advance the Academy's mission. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Helm to our community.

Throughout her career Dr. Helm has distinguished herself as a decisive executive in the educational field with a collaborative leadership style enhanced by excellent communication skills. She brings a wealth of experience at the local, diocesan and national levels. For the past 10 years she has been a staff member of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), initially appointed Director of Leadership Development but since 1999 she has also served as Vice President of Operations. NCEA is the largest private, professional education association in the world, representing 200,000 Catholic educators.

Prior to her NCEA position, Dr. Helm was Campus President of Academy of the Holy Names in Tampa, Florida, a Catholic K-8 coed elementary and 9-12 girls' high school. While overseeing the education program administered by three principals, she retired the debt, developed a campus strategic and master plan, constructed a kindergarten facility, revamped the institutional advancement program, and implemented a systematic deferred maintenance program.

For 20 years, Dr. Helm was a member of the Archdiocese of Washington staff, holding a variety of positions including Director of Personnel, Acting Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education. She was responsible for professional development, strategic planning, training and conflict/crisis management.

Dr. Helm is a frequent conference presenter, author and consultant. Dr. Helm received her Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America in guidance and counseling. She is a graduate of the Academy of the Holy Names in Silver Spring, and a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes in Bethesda, where she lives with her husband Dr. Stanley Chase.

The Board and the Search Committee greatly appreciate the input from the entire AHC community during the search process. Your perspectives were vital to the process and your voice was important to maintaining AHC's innovative spirit while staying true to our mission of educating women of courage, compassion and scholarship.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the innumerable contributions of Sister Katherine Kase, C.S.C. Her guidance and stewardship of the Academy's mission for nearly two decades has not only brought the school to the forefront in Catholic secondary education, but also has ensured that the Academy's legacy will continue long into the future. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Sister Katherine.

As The Academy of the Holy Cross moves into the next phase of leadership I ask that you all continue to keep each other in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Frances Brinker Scango, Class of 1961
Chair of the Board of Trustees
The Academy of the Holy Cross, Inc.