

VITERBO UNIVERSITY

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SUMMER

# Commencement



*Friday, July 17, 2020*  
*2 p.m.*



# Prayer of St. Francis

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Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console.

To be understood as to understand.

To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

## Congratulations Viterbo University's Class of 2020

Today you join a family of over 21,000 Viterbo University alumni around the globe. You are lifelong members of Viterbo's Alumni Association. In your graduation kits, you received an alumni pin and I want you to consider what it represents. Your little pin symbolizes several years of sacrifice, focus, selflessness, and commitment to earn your degree. It represents lifelong friendships, faith that has grown stronger, and a future without boundaries.

Remember this does not end your connection to Viterbo University. While this occasion is monumental, it is but one step in a lifelong journey of faithful service and ethical leadership. As an alumnus/a of Viterbo University, you are forever a member of the Viterbo community; regardless of where God's hand leads you.

On behalf of Viterbo University's Alumni Board of Directors, I would like to warmly welcome you into Your Viterbo Alumni Association. Know that your alumni association is here to serve you today and on every step along life's journey. I hope you are as proud as I am to be a graduate of Viterbo University. Once again, congratulations!



Kathy Duerwachter '10, Director of Alumni Engagement

## Commencement Committee

Kathleen Duerwachter '10  
Jack Hamilton  
Debra Kappmeyer '98

Nancy Oelke  
Maggie McLain

Kori Salaski  
Sheila Severson  
Steve Wenger '07, '13

## Acknowledgements

Viterbo University Alumni Association  
Bookstore  
Communications  
Faculty and Staff  
Instructional and Information Technology  
Office of the Registrar

# Viterbo University Board of Trustees

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## Mission

The Viterbo University community prepares students for faithful service and ethical leadership.

## Identity

Founded by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Viterbo is a Catholic, Franciscan University in the liberal arts tradition.

## Viterbo Alma Mater

Words and music by Joyce Grill

Vi - ter - bo, dear old Al - ma Ma - ter, — we sing our praise to you, Vi -  
Vi - ter - bo, dear old Al - ma Ma - ter, — your light shows us the way, The

ter - bo, dear old Al - ma Ma - ter, thru the years we will be true. With  
torch, the rose, the cross still help \_\_\_\_\_ to guide us ev - 'ry day. With

grate - ful thanks we will re - call the warmth, the joy that graced your halls, Vi -  
grate - ful thanks we will re - call the warmth, the joy that graced your halls, Vi -

ter - bo, dear old Al - ma Ma - ter, we — sing our praise to you.  
ter - bo, dear old Al - ma Ma - ter, your — light shows us the way.

# Academic Regalia

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Using symbols and words, the university seal reveals the rich history of Viterbo based on mission and purpose. The original seal, which has twice been slightly modified, was created in the early 1960s by Imogene Thiele, FSPA, a member of the art department.

Designed according to the science of heraldry, the shield located in the center of the seal contains a wealth of information. Clockwise from upper right: the cross symbolizes Christian identity; the wavy lines portray the Black, La Crosse, and Mississippi Rivers, which join forces in La Crosse to provide Viterbo with its unique geographic location; the torch of learning symbolizes the chief function of the university; the rose honors St. Rose of Viterbo, the

## The University Seal

patron saint of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, the founders of Viterbo.

Beyond the shield, the word “knowledge” is retained from a very early Viterbo motto taken from the Bible: “Teach me goodness, discipline and knowledge” (Ps. 118:66). Later “faith” and “service” were added to complete the virtues to be embodied in a liberal arts education.

The final elements contain basic information specific to Viterbo’s location, in La Crosse, Wis., where the mission of Viterbo University began in 1890. Two small tau crosses are to be found in the outermost ring, proclaiming the Franciscan heritage of Viterbo. The tau was the standard cross in the days of St. Francis, and it is formed by the Greek letter “T.”

With its rich symbolism, the university seal is a constant reminder of Viterbo’s past as well as a guide to the future for all who are here today.

## History

The academic dress worn today for ceremonial occasions originated in the universities of the Middle Ages when classrooms were unheated and the academic gown and hood kept scholars warm. It became a distinctive symbol of academic pursuit, setting the academic apart from the non-academic, hence the phrase “gown versus town.”

The gown was standardized in the United States in 1894 when the American Intercollegiate Commission determined that all robes would be black. The master’s robe is distinguishable by long, closed sleeves; the doctor’s gown by a facing of black velvet from the hem to the neck and back, with three velvet bands around each sleeve above the elbow.

The traditional hood, also black, displays significant colors. The lining represents the colors of the university granting the wearer’s highest degree. The color of the hood facing signifies the individual’s academic discipline or school of study.

Although there has been much innovation in gown and cap design in recent years, the standard colors representing the various academic disciplines have remained the same: white (arts and letters), purple (law), scarlet (theology), dark blue (philosophy), yellow (science), brown (fine arts), pink (music), copper (economics), lemon (library science), light brown (business), light blue (education), citron yellow (social work), golden yellow (mental health counseling), and apricot (nursing).

# Academic Regalia

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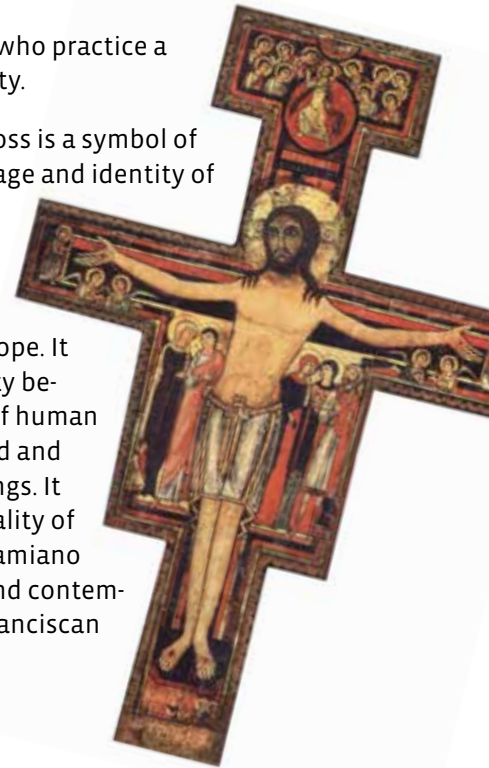
## The San Damiano Cross

In lieu of the university mace, which is often the traditional symbol used by institutions of higher learning, the San Damiano Cross has come to represent Viterbo.

The San Damiano Cross is the sacred symbol before which Francis of Assisi prayed and heard God's commission to "rebuild the church." This icon was painted sometime shortly after the first millennium, at a time when the authentic humanity of Jesus was becoming more appreciated in the faith life of the people. In the early centuries of the Christian communities, the divinity and royal priesthood of Jesus was emphasized. The San Damiano Cross pictures the luminous figure of the resurrected Christ radiating out from a dark and deathlike background. He presides over an all inclusive cloud of witnesses: companions and friends, souls who have gone before him, and heavenly spirits. All of these figures have the hand of God pictured over them in a blessing. The crucifix is a distinctive art

piece used by those who practice a Franciscan spirituality.

The San Damiano Cross is a symbol of the Franciscan heritage and identity of Viterbo. It attempts to stress the promise by God of a future that will respond to human hope. It affirms the continuity between the exercise of human freedom in this world and the final state of things. It draws all into the reality of God's life. The San Damiano Cross offers a true and contemporary symbol for Franciscan higher education.



## Viterbo History

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In 1871, the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration established a flourishing community in La Crosse and began to concentrate on preparing their members to teach in parochial and mission schools throughout the area. This act ultimately led to the founding of what is known today as Viterbo University. Viterbo University is named after the city of Viterbo, Italy, the home of St. Rose of Viterbo. St. Rose of Viterbo is the patron saint of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

The sisters' efforts evolved into the St. Rose Normal School, accredited by the state in 1890. Since then, the university has enjoyed a long and rich tradition of excellence. Eventually, the normal school evolved into St. Rose Junior College (1932), Viterbo College (1939), and, finally, Viterbo University (2000).

In 1943, lay women were admitted to Viterbo, and accreditation by the University of Wisconsin occurred in 1952. Two years later, the university earned accreditation by the North Central Association of Schools, the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the National Association of Schools of Music Programs. The health sciences were added in the 1960s, and accreditation by the National League for Nursing, American Medical Records Association, and the American Dietetics Association soon followed. In 1967, lay persons were invited to join the board of directors, and a baccalaureate nursing program was initiated. In 1970, Viterbo became coeducational, and, in 1972, the first male student received a degree.

*Continued on page 8*

# Candidates for Graduation

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This program includes the names of students who, at the time of printing, have filed a commencement form. The official granting of the degree is made after all graduation requirements have been successfully completed and verified.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION

**James Addison**  
Lancaster, WI

**Jodi Louise Ammerman**  
Onalaska, WI

**Heather Melisa Anderson**  
Rolling Meadows, IL

**Stacy Lynn Anderson**  
Story City, IA

**Rachel L. Arendt**  
Chippewa Falls, WI

**Micah Ray Averbeck**  
Onalaska WI

**Amy Lynn Baumhardt**  
Fond du Lac, WI

**Tiffany A. Beltz**  
La Crosse, WI

**Raisa M. Benusa**  
Arcadia, WI

**Amelia Marie Bestul**  
Fitchburg, WI

**Laura Ann Blank**  
New Berlin, WI

**Danielle Nancy Boarini**  
Madison, WI

**Brenda A. Brandt**  
Stephenson, MI

**Ann Laura Brennenstuhl**  
Freedom, WI

**Sarah Bryson**  
La Crosse, WI

**Robert A. Coe**  
Madison, WI

**Alyse Elizabeth Compall**  
Delavan, WI

**Heather Marie Comstock**  
Lorimor, IA

**Joanna Marie Cree**  
Cross Plains, WI

**Jeremy Bryan Decker**  
Farmington, MN

**Emmie Terese Delveaux**  
Maribel, WI

**Betty Jo Derozier**  
Crandon, WI

**Lauren Rose Doescher**  
Wausau, WI

**Sarah Elizabeth Droessler**  
Cuba City, WI

**Brian Dunlap**  
Fairfield, IA

**Kristen Maggie Dupuis**  
Madison, WI

**Twyla Jane Durst**  
Hillpoint, WI

**Matthew Donald Ecklund**  
Madison, WI

**Denise J. Eddy**  
Fountain City, WI

**Shelby Lynn Egemo**  
Manchester, IA

**Jessica Lynn Eichstedt**  
Stoughton, WI

**Denise Marie Fall**  
Clear Lake, WI

**Taylor C. Fameree**  
Green Bay, WI

**Kristen Lynn Fiegen**  
Holmen, WI

**Marissa Fraser**  
Holmen, WI

**Annette M. Gilbertson**  
Galesville, WI

**Philip John Gilkerson**  
Monticello, IA

**Andrea Lyn Goodman**  
Wauwatosa, WI

**Kate L. Goss**  
Prairie du Chien, WI

**Kristin Michelle Gustafson**  
Greenville, WI

**Taylor Courtney Haines**  
Arcadia, WI

**Caitlynn Alyssa Hinytzke**  
Onalaska, WI



**FaithNecole S. Huffman**  
Milwaukee, WI

**Brenda Renee Huisman**  
Pella, IA

**Jennifer Aspenson Ike**  
Holmen, WI

**Amanda Ann Jagodzinski**  
Mount Horeb, WI

**Anthony Jerome Johnson**  
Madison, WI

**Colleen Koeble Johnson**  
Middleton, WI

**Nicholas James Kingeter**  
Sparta, WI

**Brittany R. Knueppel**  
Cecil, WI

**Megan Joyce Koroch**  
Kronenwetter, WI

**Kate Elizabeth Kubicek**  
Waumandee, WI

**Alexander J. Leroy**  
Pulaski, WI

**Mary Abigail Lerum**  
Madison, WI

**Andrew Lind**  
Amherst, WI

**Nicole Marie Loftus**  
Madison, WI

**Megan Elizabeth Marcks**  
Tigerton, WI

**Allison Rachel Martin**  
Eau Claire, WI

**Nicole McKone**  
Birnamwood, WI

**Joshua Thomas McLimans**  
Lancaster, WI

**Shelley A. Meyerhofer**  
Sherwood, WI

**Austin Thomas Mickschl**  
La Crescent, MN

**Ashlee Anne Mikshowskey**  
Viroqua, WI

**Paige Claire Miller**  
Urbandale, IA

**Michelle A. Mueller**  
Boscobel, WI

**Nicole Marie Musial**  
Conover, WI

**Bobbie L. Nelson**  
Holmen, WI

**Brittany Marie Nicksic**  
Livingston, WI

**Kristyn Marie Nies**  
Sauk City, WI

**Dawn Marie Oliver**  
Holmen, WI

**Mitchell Olson**  
Stoddard, WI

**Randene Sophia Orr**  
Ryan, IA

**Brynna Patricia Otterson**  
Madison, WI

**Jennifer Ryan Palmer**  
Johnston, IA

**Britta Paulson**  
Goodman, WI

**Elizabeth Marie Pellegrini**  
Shawano, WI

**Kevin Patrick Penza**  
Green Bay, WI

**Cynthia Jo Peterson**  
La Crescent, MN

**Taylor Kathleen Ratzburg**  
Oconto, WI

**Jessica A. Rich**  
Mt. Pleasant, IA

**Laura A. Ruger**  
Holmen, WI

**Jacquelyn Runde**  
Cuba City, WI

**Andrea Kay Ryan**  
Camanche, IA

**Lyndsay Laura Scheibel**  
Fort Atkinson, WI

**Sophia M. Schleis**  
Holmen, WI

**Julie Ann Schmidt**  
Waupun, WI

**Phillip Chad Schollmeier**  
Onalaska, WI

**Jacqueline Theresa Schommer**  
Greenville, WI

**Tia Theresa Schroeder**  
Onalaska, WI

**Rebecca A. Schwanz**  
Eau Claire, WI

**Bryan Schwarz**  
Baraboo, WI

**Kelly Seefeldt**  
Amherst Junction, WI

**Carter Matthew Semb**  
Whitehall, WI

**Barry W. Severson**  
Green Bay, WI

**Cassandra Jean Shallue**  
Green Bay, WI

**Nicole L. Shane**  
Menomonie, WI

Shannon Jo Sheffer  
Fitchburg, WI

Izac Donald Sheforgen  
St. Francis, MN

Megan L. Sherman  
Medford, WI

Robin Marie Siebert  
Green Bay, WI

Gretchen Mae Smart-Hall  
Watersmeet, MI

Christopher Snethen  
Des Moines, IA

Marcia Jean Socha  
Wittenberg, WI

Kristin Solberg  
Eau Claire, WI

Eva Marie Sorrowfree  
Grandview, IA

Nicholas Stormoen  
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Mary J. Sullivan  
Cashton, WI

Katie Lee Tapke  
Denver, IA

Kelsey Renee Tichey  
Eau Claire, WI

Danielle E. Wagner  
Richland Center, WI

Logan Marie Wall  
Mount Pleasant, IA

Ashley Marie Wateski  
La Crosse, WI

Rebecca Grace Weaver  
Menomonie, WI

Stephanie Nicole Weckerly  
Deforest, WI

Jessica Blair Weiler  
Holmen, WI

Laney Jean Wheeler  
Holmen, WI

Jessica Marie Winker  
Mauston, WI

Molly Ann Wirsing  
Park Falls, WI

Kindra Marie Zuberbuehler  
Mazomanie, WI

## Viterbo History *continued*

In the '90s, Viterbo expanded its curriculum again, gradually adding five graduate programs, beginning with the introduction of a Master of Arts in Education. In 2013, Viterbo achieved another milestone when the university was granted approval to offer a doctorate in nursing practice (DNP). While Viterbo's academic programs were undergoing change, the landscape of the campus was also changing. The 1970s and '80s were decades of growth for Viterbo, as the enrollment climbed and new buildings were dedicated (the Fine Arts Center in 1971, Brophy Center in 1983, and the Student Activities Center in 1987).

During the '90s and well into the new millennium, this expansion continued in an effort to keep pace with growing enrollment and to provide students with

the best possible facilities. Changes to the landscape included construction of the D.B. and Marge Reinhart Center for Ethics, Science, and Technology, the Amie L. Mathy Center for Education and Recreation, the School of Nursing Building, Clare Apartments, and the major renovations of San Damiano Chapel, and Brophy Center, which houses the Dahl School of Business. In 2000, Viterbo changed its status from that of a college to a university.

Appreciative of its past, confident in the present, and optimistic about the future, Viterbo remains committed to its unique Catholic and Franciscan mission of preparing students for faithful service and ethical leadership.





**VITERBO** UNIVERSITY