

VITERBO UNIVERSITY

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SUMMER

# *Commencement*



*Friday, June 30, 2023*

*1 p.m.*

*Viterbo University Fine Arts Center Main Theatre*



# 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.

# Program

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## **PROCESSIONAL**

### **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Tonya Wagner, EdD

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Institutional Effectiveness

### **INVOCATION**

Fr. Conrad Targonski, OFM

University Chaplain

### **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Thomas A. Thibodeau

Distinguished Professor of Servant Leadership

### **SAINT FRANCIS CHOIR**

Polly Pappadopoulos '99, director

Assistant Director, Liturgical Worship, Ministries, and Chapel Programs

## **PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

### **AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS**

Tonya Wagner, EdD

### **CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

Tonya Wagner, EdD

### **CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

Daisy Figueroa, PhD

Associate Dean, School of Education

### **ALUMNI WELCOME AND ADDRESS**

Kathy Duerwachter '10

Director, Alumni Engagement and Affinity Giving

### **PRAYER OF SAINT FRANCIS**

Kathy Duerwachter '10

# Program

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## **ALMA MATER**

St. Francis Choir

## **BENEDICTION**

Fr. Conrad Targonski, OFM

## **RECESSIONAL**

As a courtesy to the graduates, all guests are requested to remain in their seats during the ceremony and during the recessional until all graduates and faculty have left the auditorium.

## **San Damiano Cross Bearer**

Melinda Langeberg, EdD  
Associate Professor

## **Commencement Marshals**

Todd Braun, Adjunct Professor, School of Education  
Julie Davies, EdD, Adjunct Professor, School of Education

## **Acknowledgements**

Saint Francis Choir  
Viterbo University Alumni Association  
Bookstore  
Communications  
Instructional and Information Technology  
Faculty and Staff Assisting Today  
Registrar

## **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 University Board of Trustees

Chad Babcock '98  
Laquita Becker '13, '15  
Anthony Binsfeld  
Ann Boland '94, '10  
Georgia Christensen, FSPA '70  
Fr. David Couturier, OFM Cap.  
Andrew Dahl  
Helen Elsbernd, FSPA '65, '04, '22  
Daniel Gelatt  
Kourtney Gibson  
Margaret Hammell '87

Cynthia Hougum '88  
Theresa Keller, FSPA '79  
Jane Kirschling '80  
Gregory Lind '76  
Fr. Tom Lindner  
John Lyche  
Lee'Ann Mathy  
John McHugh  
Paul Molling, DO  
Paul Mueller, MD

Mike Nickel '06  
Mike Quillin  
Scott Rathgaber, MD '22  
Duane Ring Jr.  
Arbender Robinson '98  
Mark Schneider  
Brian Soller '94  
Brad Sturm  
Col. Beth Sumner '95  
Rick Trietley  
Matt Watson

## Commencement Committee

Emilio Alvarez  
Colton Anderson  
Kathy Duerwachter '10  
Jane Eddy  
Anouk Goreta  
Christine Hardie '22

Jennifer Hedrick-Erickson '95  
Debra Kappmeyer '98  
Chad Kolbe  
Jessie Latten  
Dillon McArdle '06  
Nancy Oelke

Carol Page  
Cari Mathwig Ramseier  
Michael Ranscht '85  
Kori Salaski  
Barbara Schamberger '90  
Sheila Severson '20

## Viterbo Alma Mater

Words and music by Joyce Grill

The musical score is written for a single voice on a treble clef staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the staff, with some words aligned under specific notes. The score consists of four lines of music. The first line ends with a double bar line. The second line ends with a double bar line. The third line ends with a double bar line. The fourth line ends with a double bar line.

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

## The University Seal



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 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, 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.

## The San Damiano Cross

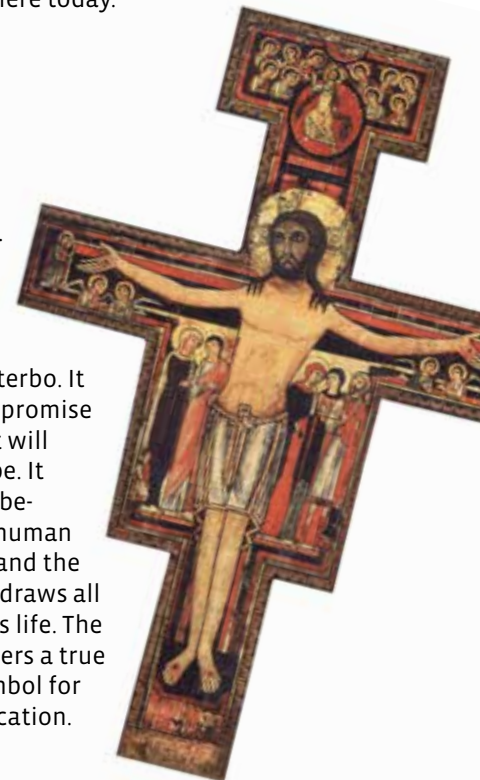
In lieu of the university mace, which is often the traditional symbol used by institutions of higher learning, the San Damiano Cross has come to represent Viterbo.

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 some time 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.

*Continued on next page*



## Academic Dress

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 U.S. 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), white (mental health counseling), white (nutrition sciences), and apricot (nursing).

## 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.

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; and Clare Apartments. Major renovations occurred in San Damiano Chapel, The Fine Arts Center, Brophy Center, and the Reinhart Center to include the Skogen Family Welcome Center. 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 and of preparing students for faithful service and ethical leadership.



# 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

**Stephanie Anne Ammerman**  
Poynette, Wis.

**Allison Lynn Balk**  
Pella, Iowa

**Joshua Barnett**  
Oconomowoc, Wis.

**Chantalle Yvonne Beggs**  
Plainfield, Wis.

**Samantha Emily Boehm**  
Green Bay, Wis.

**Tianna Marie Borchardt**  
Marathon, Wis.

**Anastaslowa Marie Bouras**  
Madison, Wis.

**Scott P Boylen**  
Waterville, Iowa

**Jayd Marie Brown**  
Ames, Iowa

**Jesus Manuel Bruno**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Meghan Leigh Bruns**  
Waterloo, Iowa

**Maretta Joy Budde**  
Warrens, Wis.

**Katrina Marie Charlton**  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

**Megan A. Colgan**  
Holmen, Wis.

**Sydney Rose Collins**  
Lake Geneva, Wis.

**Christina Joy Crabb**  
Appleton, Wis.

**Taylor Lee Curless**  
Green Bay, Wis.

**Lauren Jennifer Curtis**  
Viroqua, Wis.

**Laura Diane Depner**  
Abbotsford, Wis.

**Austin Michael Depner**  
Abbotsford, Wis.

**Ryan Jerome Deprey**  
Green Bay, Wis.

**Courtney Mary Devenport**  
Oregon, Wis.

**Angela Marie Diener**  
Weston, Wis.

**Mackenzie Marie Douglas**  
Fitchburg, Wis.

**Triclowa Jeanette Draus**  
Waterloo, Iowa

**Kelli Lynn Dreier**  
Kendall, Wis.

**Laura Clare Dubosq**  
Rockland, Wis.

**Connor Aaron Ellenbecker**  
Athens, Wis.

**Yubelky Estevez**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Jeffrey M Evans**  
Washington, Iowa

**Molly Elizabeth Fenske**  
De Forest, Wis.

**Breja Fink**  
Beloit, Wis.

**Cassandra Ann McMahon**  
Colfax, Wis.

**Jessica Folkerts**  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

**Jill Ann Burt Fortin**  
Medford, Wis.

**Heidi Jo Ganshert**  
Argyle, Wis.

**Megan Marie Gleiter**  
Belleville, Wis.

**Katherine J Greer**  
Lodi, Wis.

**Tiffany Marie Hang**  
Two Rivers, Wis.

**Olivia Ann Mroczenski**  
Eau Claire, Wis.

**Claire Elizabeth Heindel**  
Wausau, Wis.

**Sara Hendrickson**  
New Glarus, Wis.

**Hillary Karyn Elda Hilbert**  
Corwith, Iowa

**Nicole Hilgen**  
Whitewater, Wis.

**Michele Hobson**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Marieva Danielle Holt**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Heather Kay Horton**  
Muscoda, Wis.

**Karissa Jahn**  
Pardeeville, Wis.

**Remy Maria Jankowski**  
Westby, Wis.

**Jennifer June Johnson**  
Black River Falls, Wis.

*Continued on next page*

**Megan Katherine Simenson**  
Neenah, Wis.

**Michelle Kapfhamer**  
Prairie Du Chien, Wis.

**Tara Rooney Key**  
Onalaska, Wis.

**Mary J. Kiefer**  
Spring Valley, Wis.

**Faye Marie Kirschbaum**  
Lancaster, Wis.

**Courtney Lynn Klapoetke**  
Montello, Wis.

**Marcus Bryan Kral**  
Rhineland, Wis.

**Jessica Leigh Krause**  
Mc Callsburg, Iowa

**Shannon Kreuziger**  
Pardeeville, Wis.

**Pamela Landers-Blake**  
Sun Prairie, Wis.

**Lanee E MacLean**  
Belleville, Wis.

**Megan Manderscheid**  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

**Jeff Marquardt**  
Wausau, Wis.

**Nicole Joanne Mathews**  
Wausau, Wis.

**Chad Ryan McLaughlin**  
Sussex, Wis.

**Megan Lee Michaels**  
De Pere, Wis.

**Dana John Mittelstadt**  
Shorewood, Wis.

**Dallas John Moe**  
Merrill, Wis.

**Paige Leigh Mowery**  
Marshalltown, Iowa

**Ashley Evelyn Nee**  
Westfield, Wis.

**Nicole Sue Osgood**  
Onalaska, Wis.

**Amanda Lynn Pakala**  
Reedsville, Wis.

**Julie Jolene Payne**  
Jewell, Iowa

**Abbie Maria Perez**  
New Hartford, Iowa

**Kelsey Ann Piepho**  
Rice Lake, Wis.

**Jessica Jean Pinkall**  
Oshkosh, Wis.

**Annie Jo Pitcher**  
Cashton, Wis.

**Ashley Marie Plisch**  
Athens, Wis.

**Cassandra Jo Pronschinske**  
Independence, Wis.

**Wanda Janette Rodriguez Burgos**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Tara Jean Runaas**  
Pardeeville, Wis.

**Nicole Sue Sanford**  
New Hampton, Iowa

**Samantha Ann Schmitz**  
Portage, Wis.

**Kurt Jacob Schommer**  
Greenville, Wis.

**Chelsea Eileen Schultz**  
La Crosse, Wis.

**Alan Helmuth Seabrooke**  
Ridgeway, Wis.

**Daniel Sedlacek**  
Genoa, Wis.

**Chelsea Ann Showers**  
Columbus, Wis.

**Jerry Lee Smith**  
Altoona, Wis.

**Jill Christine Sobota**  
Menomonie, Wis.

**Nicolas M Sprecher Katzmarek**  
Stevens Point, Wis.

**Nicole Maye Stanek**  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

**Christina Elizabeth Steeves**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Brooke Elizabeth Sulzmann**  
Suamico, Wis.

**Michelle L Taylor**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Emily Jean Tessmer**  
Clintonville, Wis.

**Laura Jean Thomas**  
Westby, Wis.

**Robin Sherie Thompson**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**E'lan Tillman**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Jordyn Kaye Trager**  
Trempealeau, Wis.

**Richard Twomey**  
Merrill, Wis.

**Erica Nicole Upton**  
Winona, Minn.

**Madison Riley VanSickel**  
Des Moines, Iowa

**Trevor Alan Verdon**  
Onalaska, Wis.

**Emily Kathryn Volk**  
Oshkosh, Wis.

**Amanda Larisa Wayner**  
Menasha, Wis.

**Sally Josephine Wenzel**  
Edgar, Wis.

**Katie Marie Williams**  
Green Bay, Wis.

**Tiffany Lee Wittmus**  
Stevens Point, Wis.





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