

VITERBO UNIVERSITY

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SUMMER

# *Commencement*



*Friday, June 28, 2024*

*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**

Daisy Figueroa, PhD  
Associate Dean, School of Education

### **INVOCATION**

Fr. Conrad Targonski, OFM  
University Chaplain

### **COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Thomas A. Thibodeau  
Distinguished Professor of Servant Leadership

### **ST. FRANCIS CHOIR**

Polly Pappadopoulos '99  
Assistant Director, Liturgical Worship, Ministries, and Chapel Programs

## **PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

### **AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS**

Daisy Figueroa, PhD

### **CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

Daisy Figueroa, PhD

### **CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

Daisy Figueroa, PhD

### **ALUMNI WELCOME AND ADDRESS**

Kathy Duerwachter, MBA '10  
Director, Alumni Engagement and Affinity Giving

### **ALUMNI SPEAKER**

Benjamin Wopat, MEd  
Principal, West Salem Middle School

# Program

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## **PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS**

Julie Davies, EdD

Adjunct Professor, School of Education

## **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**

Scott Mihalovic, MEd

William Medland Endowed Chair for Educational Leadership

## **Commencement Marshals**

Todd Braun, Adjunct Professor, School of Education

Michael Michalsky, Adjunct Professor, School of Education

## **Acknowledgements**

St. 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

Laquita Becker '13, '15  
Anthony Binsfeld  
Ann Boland '94, '10  
Georgia Christensen, FSPA '70  
Fr. David Couturier, OFM Cap.  
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Helen Elsbernd, FSPA '65, '04, '22  
Clara Gelatt  
Kourtney Gibson  
Margaret Hammell '87  
Amanda Hoefling

Cynthia Hougum '88  
Theresa Keller, FSPA '79  
Jane Kirschling '80  
Gregory Lind '76  
Fr. Tom Lindner  
John Lyche  
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  
Mark Skogen '92  
Brian Soller '94  
Brad Sturm  
Col. Beth Sumner '95  
Rick Trietley  
Matt Watson

## Commencement Committee

Emilio Alvarez  
Kathy Duerwachter '10  
Mary Ehle  
Jennifer Hedrick-Erickson '95  
Debra Kappmeyer '98

Chad Kolbe  
Jessie Latten  
Dillon McCardle '06  
Meghan Mullin  
Carol Page  
Cari Mathwig Ramseier

Michael Ranscht '85  
Kori Salaski  
Barbara (Bobbi) Schamberger '90  
Delaney Servais  
Sheila Severson '20, '23

## Viterbo Alma Mater

Words and music by Joyce Grill

The musical score is written for a single voice in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: Vi - ter - bo, dear old Al - ma Ma - ter, we sing our praise to you, 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

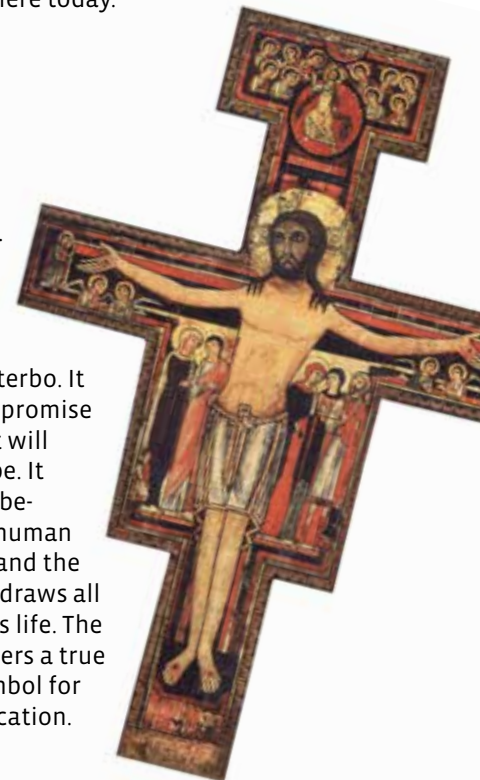
In lieu of the university mace, which is often the traditional symbol used by institutions of higher learning, the San Damiano Cross has come to represent Viterbo.

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.

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## 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

**Marissa Jo Anderson**  
Hillsboro, Wis.

**Kristin Marie Apps**  
Green Bay, Wis.

**Kailey Anne Battisfore**  
Kenosha, Wis.

**Erin Elizabeth Baus**  
Oshkosh, Wis.

**Emily W. Benson**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Amanda Joy Bergemann**  
Pleasant Prairie, Wis.

**Jennifer Rae Bindl**  
Reedsburg, Wis.

**Emily Marie Blanchard**  
Tripoli, Iowa

**Jamie Nicole Boodle**  
Schofield, Wis.

**Madalyn Renee Brueggeman**  
Holmen, Wis.

**Christina M Caceres**  
Kenosha, Wis.

**Carlie Jean Cardinal**  
Ripon, Wis.

**Gary Lee Carpenter**  
Pardeeville, Wis.

**Nancy Kay Casto**  
Deforest, Wis.

**Brittany Jean Chikowski**  
Berlin, Wis.

**Heather Jean Clements**  
Richland Center, Wis.

**Saleema Najma Covington**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Damari Cuevas**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Allison Marie Doelle**  
Trempealeau, Wis.

**Lorraine Annette Ewing**  
Wauwatosa, Wis.

**Brittany Anne Fletcher**  
Bolingbrook, Ill.

**Nancy A Friedrich**  
Bristol, Wis.

**Hailey Mae Gardner**  
La Valle, Wis.

**Tricia Lynn Gibbons**  
Holmen, Wis.

**Laura Glander**  
Cochrane, Wis.

**Erika Marie Gooden**  
La Crescent, Minn.

**Kevin James Grafwallner**  
Saint Germain, Wis.

**Lindsey Kay Hamada**  
Cottage Grove, Wis.

**Kyle Hammers**  
New Richmond, Wis.

**Katie Lynn Hardyman**  
Dodgeville, Wis.

**Allison Kate Hartl**  
Beaver Dam, Wis.

**Amy Elizabeth Hatch**  
Wauwatosa, Wis.

**Laura Heinen**  
Janesville, Wis.

**Addison Ann Hemming**  
Portage, Wis.

**Alexandra Sylvan Henrichs**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Rachel Jean Kaderabek**  
Manitowoc, Wis.

**Amber Lea Kaminsky**  
Windsor, Wis.

**Sarah Marie Knecht**  
New Richmond, Wis.

**Malyssa Lynn Krajco**  
Richland Center, Wis.

**Vanessa Marie Lecy**  
Crivitz, Wis.

**Julie Leisses-Corcoran**  
Windsor, Wis.

**Chelsea Caitlin Levash**  
Suamico, Wis.

**Catherine Grace Livingston**  
Montello, Wis.

**Alexa Rose Long**  
Ankeny, Iowa

**Erin Jessica Spaeth**  
Menomonie, Wis.

**Robert John McInnes**  
Neenah, Wis.

**Catherine Olivia Moeller**  
Decorah, Iowa

**Nicole Christine Nuss**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

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**Brittani Nicole Olson**  
Green Bay, Wis.

**Jennae Elise Patras**  
West Des Moines, Iowa

**Kimberly Joan Patton-Matzke**  
Green Bay, Wis.

**Kari Ann Paul**  
New Berlin, Wis.

**Nicole Payant**  
Marathon, Wis.

**Shenile Monique Perry**  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**Jacob Owen Peterson**  
Boyceville, Wis.

**Elizabeth Marit Peterson**  
Madison, Wis.

**Courtney Lynn Poeschel**  
River Falls, Wis.

**Jennifer Lynn Pratt**  
Janesville, Wis.

**Bailee Alissa Reece**  
Loves Park, Ill.

**Lori Diane Rezek**  
Des Moines, Iowa

**Caryn Rosenbeck**  
Appleton, Wis.

**Toni Lynn Ross**  
Norwalk, Wis.

**Kurt Edwin Rossbach**  
Madison, Wis.

**Autumn Marie Rossmann**  
Racine, Wis.

**Nicole Marie Ruegsegger**  
Monroe, Wis.

**Camryn Elaine Salvador**  
Mediapolis, Iowa

**Shane Larry Sandberg**  
Fountain City, Wis.

**Kristine Ellen Schellenger**  
Holmen, Wis.

**Casey Karl Shadis**  
Suamico, Wis.

**Kathleen M Shear**  
Reedsburg, Wis.

**Katherine Marie Shulman**  
Onalaska, Wis.

**Amanda Smithson**  
New Franken, Wis.

**Alison Dianne Spohn**  
La Crosse, Wis.

**Kelly Elizabeth Steavpack**  
Green Bay, Wis.

**Ashley Renae Sternhagen**  
Cedar Falls, Iowa

**Madeline Claire Stieve**  
Baraboo, Wis.

**Janessa Kae Stoegbauer**  
Westfield, Wis.

**Brent James Stoughtenger**  
Mauston, Wis.

**Tia Cathryn Mogensen Svardahl**  
Saint Croix Falls, Wis.

**Lindsey Kay Tennant**  
Richland Center, Wis.

**Kelly Marie Thoma**  
Holmen, Wis.

**Brady Thomas Turner**  
La Crosse, Wis.

**Jordan Alana VanderVelden**  
Kaukauna, Wis.

**Hilary A VanDommelen**  
Burlington, Wis.

**Carrie Anne Wahl**  
Brodhead, Wis.

**Tricia D Waughtal**  
Melrose, Wis.

**Amber Nicole Wendt**  
West Allis, Wis.

**Kathleen K. Wichser**  
Monticello, Wis.

**Cole Williams**  
Trempealeau, Wis.

**Reannon R Wiskerchen**  
Green Bay, Wis.

**Valerie Anne Woods**  
Rice Lake, Wis.



