



May 2022

Dear Sisters Academy Community,

In the novel Beloved, Toni Morrison writes that her character Baby Suggs "...didn't approve of extra. **'Everything depends on knowing how much,' she said, and 'Good is knowing when to stop.'**"

Over the past 20 years at Sisters Academy of Baltimore, whether I approved or not, the "extra" kept coming. It began with a phone call, an early Saturday morning conversation over coffee, and an invitation to consider doing a feasibility study for a new school in southwest Baltimore. At a time in my life when I needed a new focus, this project found me. And so, I said "yes," to what I perceived to be a short-term ministry.

The "extra" kept coming and became the **"everything"** of the past 20 years. First, there was Suzanne Hall, SNDdeN who became a partner in the study. Then the vision became a reality as the four religious congregations said "yes" to sponsoring the new school. Then came trusted advisors and Board members. We were blessed with Deborah Liesen, SSND as Principal, and Virginia Brune, SSND as teacher. Then came actual students and families. Year after year, we added teachers and staff. Scholarship sponsors came, and donors, and friends who believed in the mission. Then came this year's dedicated teachers and staff and our current academic administrative team, Dr. Jeanne Dolamore and Ms. Gabrielle Hurley.

"Knowing how much" has always been essential to our mission. How does one measure the potential in each entering student? How does one weigh the hope of parents and guardians? How does one quantify the dedication of the teachers and staff? How does one measure the commitment of the sponsoring congregations and the generosity of all of the sponsors, donors, and friends that exceeded all expectations? **I am filled with immeasurable gratitude.**

Since **"Good is knowing when to stop,"** I am writing to share news about an important transition in the life of Sisters Academy of Baltimore. After much discernment, reflection, and dialogue, I have reached the decision that the time has come for a thoughtful, planned transition in the position of President. **I am providing for that transition by resigning as President at the end of the next academic year, June 30, 2023.** It is my hope that good will come from my knowing when to stop.

Know that I will continue to work vigorously as President every day through June 2023 to further our mission and to ensure a smooth transition in leadership. I look forward to supporting the new President starting July 1, 2023.

Thank you. God bless you and keep you always!

Sincerely,

Sister Delia Dowling, SSND
President