

February 26, 2020
The Mother St. Anne Lachance Society
Canonical Sponsorship Signing Ceremony

Greetings from Sister Theresa Campeau
Ursuline Leadership Circle of Chatham Ontario

A thank you to Susan Mumm and a warm greeting to Bishop Fabbro, and to all of you.

I am so sorry that we were unable to be here with you for this significant occasion.

When we take time to recall the many blessings that have graced Brescia over 100 years, there are a number in particular that come to mind. I would like to highlight four significant 'moments' that quickly stand out for us as Ursulines. One of these is Brescia's trail-blazing beginning, a dream realized in 1920, when Mother St. Anne Lachance became its first Dean. With perseverance and unwavering faith, the first Sisters remained steadfast in their commitment to women's education. Brescia grew and blossomed as it stayed true to its foundation, mission and values.

A second significant moment I wish to recall is the vision and foresight which led to expanding Brescia's leadership positions beyond the Ursuline Community. The time was ripe for the Ursulines to pass on the baton to the hands of very capable women and men. In 2000, Dr. Theresa Topic became the first secular Principal to follow in the footsteps of Ursuline Principals. Dr. Topic was deeply involved in Brescia's significant transition and her time of leadership reflected the wisdom of this move forward.

Then the signs of the times brought us to another moment of change. It was time for us to sell Brescia. Again, calling on that same Spirit who accompanies us, we set the course that would honour Brescia's past and continue to bring life to its present and to its future. With the sale in 2008, we moved from owners to Canonical Sponsors. We made a conscious decision to clear the way for new hopes and dreams and we promised to continue our prayers, support and interest in Brescia.

Today, 22 years later, we are again invited to welcome the new. The last three plus years have been dedicated toward pursuing Canonical Sponsorship for Brescia that would support its founding traditions long into the future. We are very grateful to have come to this moment – the creation of the Mother St. Anne Lachance Society being realized today, February 26, 2020. We owe a debt of gratitude to the committee who worked diligently through many drafts to arrive at this final one. We want to express our deep and sincere appreciation to Father Frank Morrissey, Dr. Susan Mumm, Father Paul Baillargeon, Dr. Laretta Frederking, Karen McKay and Karen Friday-Field. In a special way, we thank you Bishop Fabbro, for your support, prayers, interest and participation throughout the process.

On behalf of our Ursuline Community, I sincerely assure you, the Brescia Family, that we promise to be with you in prayer, support and in friendship. Our connection to you remains unwavering.