



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – OCT. 3, 2024

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The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM) are pleased to announce the establishment of Holy Names Educational Ministries (HNEM), an innovative new sponsorship model designed to ensure a strong and mission-focused future for the educational ministries founded and still beloved by the Sisters of the Holy Names.

Approved by the Vatican Dicastery for Institutes for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in December of 2022, Holy Names Educational Ministries (HNEM) is designated by the Vatican as a **Ministerial Public Juridic Person (MPJP)**. This designation allows the schools sponsored by HNEM to maintain their Catholic identity, which has been a central value throughout the process of planning for future sponsorship. This Catholic identity is also shaped significantly by the ministries' commitment to the core values which are at the heart of the charism, life, and mission of the Sisters of the Holy Names. HNEM is further enriched and strengthened by ongoing relationships and communication with local bishops and archbishops in dioceses where SNJM sponsored ministries are located.

SNJM member schools are:

- ❖ Academy of the Holy Names - Albany, New York
- ❖ Academy of the Holy Names - Tampa, Florida
- ❖ Holy Names Academy - Seattle, Washington
- ❖ Holy Names High School - Oakland, California
- ❖ Holy Names Music Center - Spokane, Washington
- ❖ Next Step Learning Center - Oakland, California
- ❖ Ramona Convent Secondary School - Alhambra, California
- ❖ St. Mary's Academy - Portland, Oregon

Currently governed by a Board entitled the Sponsors Council, a group that will be composed of both committed lay colleagues and Sisters as long as possible, HNEM will eventually become entirely lay led. Sisters and lay persons on the Council are appointed by the Province Leadership of SNJM and are persons who have an understanding of Sponsorship and the role of Canonical Stewards as well as a deep commitment to the mission of Catholic education.

Careful preparation for this moment has been in process for several years. Now the moment has come for the transition to and implementation of HNEM. A formal transition ritual will take place in October, and on campus rituals will occur at each sponsored educational ministry over the next few months.

Sister Maureen Delaney, Province Leader, made the following statement:

The Sisters of the Holy Names of the U.S. – Ontario Province are very excited and hopeful about this new form of sponsorship and believe that it will ensure a vital, mission-focused future for our beloved educational ministries. The establishment of HNEM ensures that the charism and values of the Sisters will live on in ministries that are thriving and vibrant, while the day-to-day operations of the schools such as finance, governance, and academics remain the responsibility of the school administrators and boards. Our Sisters will continue to be present to and support these educational ministries for as long as we are able. When that is no longer possible, we will be able to confidently entrust them to our extraordinary and committed lay partners.

About Holy Names Educational Ministries

Holy Names Educational Ministries (HNEM) is the sponsoring body for our six high schools and two other educational ministries. HNEM was created by the Sisters of the Holy Names U.S. – Ontario Province and approved by the Vatican to provide a sustainable way to affirm Catholic identity and to ensure that the SNJM Charism and Core Values continue in our educational ministries. HNEM is led by a committed group of Sisters and lay leaders who strongly believe in our ministries and want to do our part to ensure their viable mission-focused future. More information is available at www.hnem.org.

About the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

Founded in 1843 by Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary community is dedicated to the full development of the human person through education, social justice, contemplation and the arts. Among SNJM's chief commitments are advocating for the right to clean water for all, freedom from every form of human trafficking and the welfare of immigrants and refugees. The SNJM U.S.-Ontario Province engages in ministry throughout the United States and the Canadian province of Ontario. More information is available at www.snjmusontario.org.