PROVIDENCE

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS GRADES 6-12

Continuing the Vision

A continuation of the vision of
Blessed John Martin Moye
founded by and in collaboration with the
Congregation of Divine Providence

Preamble

Sponsorship is a term used in North America to describe the ever-evolving relationship between religious institutes and the institutions which they founded and, for many years, owned, administered, managed, and staffed. It is the purpose of this document to clarify and articulate the meaning and implications of the relationship between the founders, the Congregation of Divine Providence (CDP) and Providence Catholic School, Inc. (PCS). Fundamentally, Providence Catholic School derives its Catholic identity through its affiliation with the Congregation of Divine Providence.

History of the Relationship

The Sisters of the Congregation of Divine Providence (CDP) built Providence High School on the five acres of the Henry P. Drought estate, opening its doors to young women of San Antonio on September 4, 1951. Begun by Mother M. Angelique as a furtherance of Fr. Moye's 1782 educational initiative called "the project," the presence and influence of the CDP Sisters continue still. Today, Providence Catholic School embodies the charism and mission of the Congregation, educating young women from sixth through twelfth grades, preparing them for life both academically and spiritually.

History , con't

Blessed John Martin Moye, with the intention of educating "children and other people who needed instruction" in France, sent Marguerite Lecomte as the first Sister of Providence in 1762, to teach and to live the four virtues of simplicity, poverty, charity, and abandonment to Divine Providence. From this beginning then in 1866, Sr. Alfonse Boegler and Sr. St. Andrew Feltin – named Superior - traveled to Texas to continue the mission of education, landing in Castroville; by 1886 – a mere 20 years later – the CDP Sisters were operating 24 schools in Texas. By 1896, the Academy of Our Lady of the Lake was founded, later chartered as a four-year college in 1919, subsequently to become Our Lady of the Lake University. Finally, Providence High School opened in 1951, to become Providence Catholic School with the addition of the middle school in 2005.

In 2008, acting on a recommendation from the Providence Board of Directors, the name of the school was legally changed to Providence Catholic School.

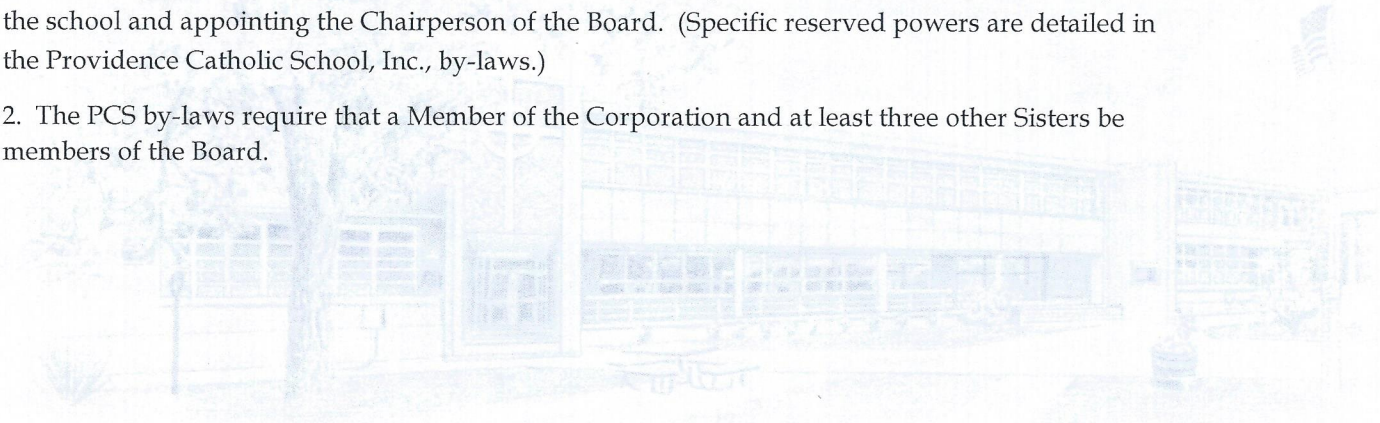
In those early years of Providence High School, the Sisters of Divine Providence staffed the teaching positions of the school, 22 Sisters in the first year alone, and 25 in both 1959 and 1965, the highest number in its history; the Drought house, now the Najim Campus Center, served as their residence through many of those years. The number of Sisters present at the school, however, has declined over the years. Without the strong and daily presence of the Sisters at the school, both entities must define the relationship, identifying clear ways to maintain the influence and charism of Fr. Moye and the Sisters in the life of Providence Catholic School. This document defines that sponsorship relationship.

Legal Responsibility of the Founders

When Providence High School was incorporated in 1993, and renamed in 2008, the legal relationship between the Congregation and the school that continues to exist was defined as follows:

1. The Members of the Corporation are the Superior General and General Councilors of the Congregation. The Members are responsible for maintaining the mission and Catholic identity of the school and appointing the Chairperson of the Board. (Specific reserved powers are detailed in the Providence Catholic School, Inc., by-laws.)

2. The PCS by-laws require that a Member of the Corporation and at least three other Sisters be members of the Board.



Sponsorship

The relationship between the Congregation and Providence Catholic School is a covenant in which the Sisters and the school commit to educating young women to become adults secure in their faith and trust in a Provident God, achieving academic excellence, practicing integrity, and seeking justice. Founders and the sponsored institution seek to provide a grounding in the CDP history and spirit, and connections with the Sisters, for the Providence Catholic School students, parents, faculty, staff, and alumnae.

Specifically, the Sisters and the school will collaborate to:

- Implement a Mission Council, consisting of the Principal, a member of the Corporation serving on the Board, a faculty representative (preferably a CDP Associate), and a member of campus ministry. The Mission Council will meet at least once each semester to articulate ways to implement and expand the relationship, and to evaluate the effective promotion of the relationship.
- Nurture within the Providence community a relationship with the Provident God through prayer, celebrations, activities, and CDP charism-focused groups.
- Incorporate the CDP charism and heritage in the curriculum across subject areas including the history of the Congregation, its core virtues, the on-going mission of the Congregation throughout the world today, and the commitment to our role as stewards of God's creation.
- Initiate new employees into the charism and history of the CDPs, and provide ongoing formation for all faculty and staff via programs, resources, and materials.
- Promote the Associate program among the PCS community, and actively include Associates in the promotion of the CDP spirit. Provide initial and ongoing formation of Associates.
- Foster occasional student and faculty presence at Our Lady of the Lake Convent and occasional visits of Sisters to the school for retreats, liturgies, programs, and performances.
- Use all opportunities to acknowledge to their constituencies the relationship between the Sisters and the school, including promoting the school in CDP publications.
- Pray regularly for one another.



Inspired by the vision, resourcefulness and fortitude of Fr. Jean Martin Moye and the Sisters who founded the School, the Sisters of Divine Providence and Providence Catholic School enter into this covenant, confident that the future is in the hands of God whose Providence never fails.

Initiated: 17 August 2015

For the Congregation:

Sister Pearl Ceasar, CDP

Sr. Pearl Ceasar, CDP
Superior General

For the School:

Alicia Garcia

Alicia Garcia, Ph.D.
Principal

For the Board of Trustees:

Mary M. Botello

Mary Botello '70
Chair, Board of Trustees

For the Faculty:

Susan Gonzales

Susan Gonzales
English Language Arts Teacher

For the Staff:

Elsa J. Rodriguez

Elsa Rodriguez
Receptionist

For the Parents:

Eddie Martin

Eddie Martin
Parent Representative

For the Alumnae:

Jasmin Hernandez

Jasmin Hernandez '07
Providence Alumnae Association President

For the Students:

Victoria Trevino

Victoria Trevino '21
High School Student Council President

Phoebe Mendiola

Phoebe Mendiola '25
Middle School Student Council President

This covenant is to be renewed annually at the start of each academic year. Changes to the covenant deemed necessary may be made prior to the annual renewal, with approval from the Members of the Corporation who serve on the Board.

September 21, 2020