

## NEWS RELEASE

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### SCHOOL SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS ELECT NEW U.S. LEADERSHIP TEAM *Three sisters bring extensive experience to provincial leadership roles*

Milwaukee, Wis., March 2, 2019 – The School Sisters of St. Francis, an international community of Catholic sisters who unite with others to build a just and peaceful world, today elected Sisters Kathleen O'Brien, Mary Catherine Schneider, and Kathleen Braun as the U.S. Provincial Team.

Elected by delegates at the community's U.S. Provincial Assembly, meeting at Alverno College in Milwaukee, the sisters will begin their four-year term on July 1.

**Provincial Coordinator Sister Kathleen O'Brien** has been the vice president of academic affairs at American Islamic College, Chicago, since 2016. Prior to that, Sister Kathleen served for 40 years at Alverno College, Milwaukee, as an instructor, associate professor, chair of business and management, academic dean, and senior vice president of academic affairs. She began her career as a teacher at schools in Nebraska and South Dakota. Received into the community in 1963, Sister Kathleen earned her bachelor's degree from Alverno College; her master's degree in business administration from Vanderbilt University; and Ph.D. in management from the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

**First Councilor Sister Mary Catherine Schneider** has served as associate treasurer of the School Sisters of St. Francis since 2018. She has been a clinical psychologist in private practice in Chicago since 2001, and previously served as director and staff psychologist for the Institute of Women Today (now Margaret's Village), Chicago. Received into the School Sisters of St. Francis in 1961, she began her career as a musician at grade schools and high schools in Illinois and Wisconsin. She earned her bachelor's degree from Alverno College; master's degrees from the University of Colorado and Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago; and a doctor of psychology degree from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Chicago.

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**Second Councilor Sister Kathleen Braun** has ministered as chaplain since 2005 at Casa Alexia, the sisters' ministry on the southwest border in El Paso, Texas, and since 2008 at Bienvivir Senior Health Services, also in El Paso. Received into the School Sisters of St. Francis in 1962, Sister Kathleen earned her bachelor's degree from Alverno College and a master's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University Chicago. She previously ministered as a medical technologist at hospitals in Texas, Mississippi, and Wisconsin; served in pastoral ministry in Illinois and Texas; and was a hospice chaplain in Park Ridge, Illinois.

The sisters will be based at the U.S. Provincial offices at Sacred Heart in Milwaukee.

#### **About The School Sisters of St. Francis**

The School Sisters of St. Francis are an international community of Catholic sisters who unite with others to build a just and peaceful world. Founded in 1874, the congregation now has sisters, associates, staff, donors and volunteers actively working to address the needs of those who are poor and marginalized by society. Their mission is thriving throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America and India. For more information about the School Sisters of St. Francis, please visit [www.sssf.org](http://www.sssf.org).

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