

# Irene Horstmann Hannan

## Class of 1968, Trustee Emerita

To “proclaim ideals that never swerve” is the hallmark of a Trinity Woman — no alumna lives Trinity’s ideals with more passion than Irene Horstmann Hannan, Class of 1968.

Growing up in Philadelphia in a family steeped in Trinity tradition — her mother Catherine was a member of the Class of 1938, her sister Marianne Class of 1975, and her father Ignatius was chair of the Board of Trustees, along with many aunts and cousins including Ann Horstmann Rafferty Class of 1967 — Irene came to Trinity in the fall of 1964 as a Political Science major.

Following her graduation in 1968 and graduate school at Temple University, Irene started her career in business while also raising four children — Irene, Hilary, Richard and Alec. Taking up positions in banking, Irene became a senior vice president with Citizens Bank, overseeing a \$6 billion nonprofit portfolio. She quickly became one of the most recognizable and respected women business leaders in the Philadelphia region, serving on numerous boards including the national and local boards of the Girl Scouts and the Pennsylvania Commission on Women, among others. Her advocacy for women in business garnered many awards including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Red Cross.

Even as she managed that very large portfolio of professional and volunteer work, Irene always found time for alma mater. She joined Trinity’s Board of Trustees in 2005 and had a significantly positive impact on Trinity’s financial management as chair of the board’s Finance Committee.

In 2018, Irene started her next career in a place where she could truly focus on values she holds dear: she became the CEO of the Faith in the Future Foundation,



a nonprofit organization responsible for the oversight of Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Under her impressive leadership, the Catholic high schools grew stronger in their commitment to academic excellence and fidelity to Catholic values. With her legendary business acumen and gifted fund raising talent, Irene provided exceptionally strong leadership for those schools through the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, Philadelphia’s Catholic high schools emerged from the crisis stronger than many peer schools thanks to Irene’s leadership.

For the many ways in which she has lived Trinity’s ideals, for her significant contributions to the financial management of Trinity, and for her leadership on behalf of Catholic education, the Trinity Board of Trustees is pleased to bestow upon Irene Horstmann Hannan the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

