



Founders' Day Proclamation April 30, 2025

Happy Founders' Day!

In 1912, a group of ten determined women formed our beloved Theta Phi Alpha to provide a home and place of belonging for Catholic women at the University of Michigan. This endeavor proved to be valuable to our first members, so much so that the experience was desired on other campuses.

Now, 113 years later, Theta Phi Alpha remains a home and a place of belonging for our members. As with any organization that has persevered for over a century, we have adapted to remain relevant and sustainable while providing our members a home and place of belonging.

Our values of *Justice, Friendship, and Truth* are the foundation that connects our present to our past and will lead us into the future. *Justice, Friendship, and Truth* are embedded in our ritual, in our Creed. *Justice, Friendship, and Truth* are the words that greet you when you visit our website www.thetaphialpha.org. *Justice, Friendship, and Truth* embody the vision and mission of the experience we aim to provide our members by encouraging them to live their truths, increase their self-awareness, and cultivate lifelong friendships.

A cherished artifact for Theta Phi Alpha is a copy of our first constitution. Our beloved founder, Amelia McSweeney, wrote the Constitution in longhand, likely in 1912. Article III, Symbols, states, "The Motto of the Sorority is Justice, Friendship, Truth." The constitution, founded in 1931 in the possession of founder Selma Gilday, provides insight into the values and vision of the founders on the cusp of creating Theta Phi Alpha.

As we think about the hopes and dreams that might have been for our founders in 1912--both collegian and alumnae--it is comforting to know that they led this journey of creating community by centering *Justice, Friendship, and Truth*. Thanks to those who have come before us, we have the same opportunity today by cultivating our shared values of embracing justice, nurturing friendship, and valuing truth.

Kristin Henkenius

Yours in the Bonds of Sisterhood,

Kristin Henkenius, Alpha Pi
National President