



THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

April 8, 2020

Dear High School Seniors and Families,

I hope that you all are doing well and are healthy and safe despite these unusual times. I know that the physical closing of our school buildings has been especially difficult for you, and my heart goes out to you. This is certainly not what any of thought would happen at the end of senior year.

I want you to know that your principals and I share your concerns about our honored high school traditions of baccalaureate and commencement. Now that we face additional restrictions through May 1, it is difficult to know if these events will be able to go on as planned. I sincerely hope that this terrible COVID-19 situation subsides within a timeline that will allow you the opportunity to enjoy these traditions and events as previously planned.

The Diocese of Columbus is committed to finding a way to honor you, our seniors, either by holding baccalaureate and commencement in person or, if ordered by the State of Ohio guidelines, in a virtual setting. This may require us to reschedule graduation ceremonies later in the summer or to make modifications to ensure the health and safety of all involved. However, we will find a way to enable families to celebrate the achievement of all of the members of the Class of 2020.

We will continue to examine all possible options in the changing context of this pandemic. As this develops, your principals and I will certainly share that information as quickly as possible. We remain committed to ensuring that you will have the opportunity to graduate from our Catholic high schools ready to pursue your dreams, hopes, and goals.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Adam J. Dufault

Episcopal Moderator for Education
Superintendent of Catholic Schools