



Diocese of Pittsburgh

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Office of the Bishop

September 8, 2019

Dear Sister Candace, administration, Board of Directors, faculty and staff together with students and parents of LaRoche University:

Every year I look forward to the Holy Spirit Mass at LaRoche. In remembering my own college days first as a seminarian and later as a graduate student, I made friendships that have lasted to this day. I learned so much about God and the world which He created and especially what it means to serve the people in God's world.

Because I had major back surgery just several weeks ago, I am still restricted in public activities. As much as I wish it could be otherwise, I can only be with you in spirit. I am grateful to Father Dorner, Chaplain to LaRoche University, for being celebrant of today's Mass in my absence.

Foremost in my prayers today are you, the students. May the Holy Spirit guide your time at LaRoche to prepare you for the mission to which God has called you. Our faith teaches us that God has given every single person a mission to make this world a better place through service to Him and to each other.

So my first prayer is for you to discover your mission. It may not be directly related to your major. Perhaps the career for which you are preparing will be the means to support a volunteer calling or a particular role within your family that is God's priority for you. Perhaps you will discover, as I have done, that research I undertook or books I studied will, years or decades later, provide crucial knowledge for a particular situation. The Holy Spirit uses all of our experiences.

You also have my prayer that you will resist the temptations that pull you away from God. Seek the Holy Spirit's guidance and protection to keep your relationships and activities wholesome and holy. Dedicate yourself to helping others; avoid harmful words or actions and apologize when you fall short. Find grace and mercy in the sacraments of Eucharist and Confession. And, as God is merciful to you, then be merciful to yourself and to others. None of us is perfect. Always remember that your worth is not measured by your grades and accomplishments but by God's unwavering love for you.

In this academic year and throughout your life, may the Holy Spirit so illumine your minds and fire up your souls that your studies will not only transform you but bring hope and healing to the world at large.

Grateful for our continued efforts together in being *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, and for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God," I am

Your brother in Christ,

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Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Bishop of Pittsburgh

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