

Darius Penikas – Principal’s Remarks - June 4th, 2016

Archbishop Molloy High School – Commencement Ceremony

Good Afternoon!

My fellow Administrators, Faculty, Parents, Family members, Friends and Class of 2016..... Congratulations!!!! I want to begin by specifically thanking a number of members of the Archbishop Molloy family. First, thank you Stanner parents. Thank you for the faith you have placed in us, it has been a pleasure working with your children. Next, I would like to thank our wonderful faculty for the hard work and dedication with which they do their job every day. Finally I would like to thank my fellow administrators for all your help, support, and wisdom.

This is a wonderful day. It is a day for celebration and reflection. Today marks the completion, not the end, of the Class of 2016’s academic journey through Archbishop Molloy. Indeed, a Molloy education is not an end. It is similar to many other great endeavors in the sense that the experience itself is a springboard to greater accomplishments, experiences, and meaningful revelations. You, the class of 2016, have learned a great deal. Your academic courses have taught you to think and reason, to conduct research, to synthesize and present ideas, and to be curious and active examiners of our world. Our Liturgies, your experiences with service, our religious studies program, and your interactions with our community have taught you the importance of using your talents for the benefit of others. As individuals and as a class, you really are very impressive. Your record of accomplishments, in the many forms they have taken, is extensive and striking. And today, you can add Archbishop Molloy High School graduate to this list.

So, what do you do now? You will soon begin your college career and, before you can blink, will find yourself in the professional world. Judging by your record, you will rise quickly to positions of leadership and influence. Upon arrival, you will be faced with many problems, choices, and opportunities. You will notice that a specific and complete “how to” manual of life will not be available. Your choices are going to be left up to you and you alone to make. So, when you are in need of guidance or inspiration I have a thought that I would like to share. I recommend that you make your future decisions, especially the most important decisions, based on the core principles that you learned at Archbishop Molloy. Let the life and example of St. Marcellin Champagnat be your guide. Like Marcellin, be bold, be kind, be present, work hard, be generous with your time, be thankful for all you have been given, and allow God to be present in your life. Live a life dedicated to helping others. Do this both in your everyday actions and in the larger course of your profession. On any given day, you may not be able to save the world, but you will have more than a few chances to offer a smile, a word of encouragement, or a helping hand to someone in need. In other words, be a Stanner. That matters. It matters a great deal. It also builds habits that will create a momentum that will impact the other parts of your life. If you do, I am confident that you will find great satisfaction with the decisions you make and real meaning in your life. You will not wonder “am I successful”. You will know, intuitively, that you are.

Thank you and God Bless You! I now ask the graduates to rise..... and, as a sign of your successful completion of the academic program of Archbishop Molloy HS move your tassels from the right to the left.