



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

June 2021

Dear Graduates of the Class of 2021:

Blessings and congratulations as you reach this milestone in your education!

At this special time let me express my congratulations on your success. Your accomplishments in face of the challenges over the last 15 months, marks a truly remarkable achievement. Many children in your position are focused on the present and overlook the efforts and sacrifices that so many made for you to reach this point. Your progression through the grades was supported by loving parents, dedicated teachers and administrators that saw to it that you had the support you needed to succeed. This passage was not made by any single student without the help of others.

The education you received has armed you with the academic skills needed to be successful in the future. You have also been equipped with skills that will allow navigation through the difficult social and moral dilemmas that you will face. Of all of the gifts you have been given with your Catholic elementary education, the gift of faith and the knowledge of Our Lord are the most powerful. Knowing that, as you move onward, remain close to Our Lord through prayer and the sacraments to help you to meet the challenges you will face. As you have learned in elementary school, keep prayer in your heart and use it daily to guide you. Be the leader that our society needs. Know that the grace of the Holy Spirit will guide you if you are open to the inspiration it provides.

I know a time such as graduation is filled with mixed emotions. Leaving your elementary school can be difficult. You are leaving familiarity, friends you know, routines that make you comfortable and fond memories. The thought of high school can be exciting, yet generate anxiety as well. Embrace this opportunity. Be kind to the new friends you will meet. Open yourself to the new ideas that High School will present. I am confident that you are prepared for this next step in your life. Cherish your memories and embrace the challenge to make our world a better place.

May your high school years provide you with many opportunities to move forward in faith. May Jesus bless you and all of those who helped you reach this accomplishment. Go out and do great things in the name of Jesus and remember –

Never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit working in you, through you, and despite you.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nelson J. Pérez".

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia