

Good morning, before I address the graduates, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge a member of our community who is retiring this year.

Adele Solari

For the past 24 years our community has been blessed to have Adele Solari as a member of our faculty. In those years Mrs. Solari taught thousands of Stanners about the specifics and importance of Math. From Freshmen Algebra to Seniors taking college level Calculus Mrs. Solari's knowledge, enthusiasm, and ability to guide students through the steps that must be taken to solve problems has not only taught them the material of the course but also how to approach a discipline that many fear with confidence. A lifelong Catholic educator, Mrs. Solari's career is a testament to the impact that a caring, compassionate, and faith filled educator can have on the future of many students. On behalf of her current and former students and the entire Molloy community I would like to congratulate Adele Solari on a fantastic career!

BREAK

My fellow Administrators, Faculty, Parents, Family members, Friends and Class of 2019.... On behalf of the administration, faculty, and staff at Archbishop Molloy ...Congratulations!!!! Today we join all of you in celebrating all your accomplishments and welcoming you as the newest members of the Stanner alumni community.

Archbishop Molloy Class of 2019.... over the past month I have asked a number of you to reflect on your time at Molloy and heard many of you wonder out loud where the last four years went. You vividly remembered your Freshman field day, your first Esopus Retreat, and multiple experiences you had inside and outside the classroom. Often you fondly recalled a moment or a relationship you made during your time as students at Molloy. Your responses revealed the kind, generous, aware, and intelligent young adults you have become and serve as a prelude to the tremendous accomplishments that await you in the years to come.

These conversations highlight a few thoughts which I would like to (briefly) share with you. First, I heard over and over that you cherished, and will miss, the “feel” of Molloy. Asked to expand on this, several of you spoke about the sense of community and inclusion you felt over

the last four years. One senior said, “when I left for Molloy in the morning, I felt I was leaving one family and going to the other”. I tell anyone who will listen that Molloy is a special place with the best students around. When I say this, I am not only speaking about academics. I am speaking about the care and compassion that I so often see one student showing for another. Treating each other with respect and encouraging each other to collectively reach greater and greater heights is a core Stanner characteristic.

The Marist Charism, our tremendous faculty and staff, and the legacy established by the Marist Brothers and the students who came before you are all essential components in making up the “feel” or essence of Molloy. What I want to highlight to you right now, however, is how important you, the Class of 2019, have been in keeping this feeling alive and well. You have learned, and then taught the underclassmen the importance of being kind every day, developing your talents, and serving others. That doing the little things quickly adds up to making a big difference. Please take pride in your role in passing on this great legacy... but **don't** stop there. **Bring** this “feel” to the **world**. It's no secret that we live in a fractured world which is quick to

blame, mock, and belittle the other. The breakneck pace of technological development has improved our ability to accomplish so many things, but it has also, in a number of ways, helped polarize our society and move us apart. Yet, from your incredibly varied backgrounds and experiences, you the class of 2019, are a testament how things can be. Your experiences have taught you how to bring people together and extend yourself for the benefits of others. If you take this knowledge and apply it to your campus, your company, your organization... you will be doing to work of a true Stanner, and our world will be better off for it.

Another theme I heard often was the previously mentioned disbelief at how quickly the last four years have gone. I would like you to take one second right now to think of yourself four years ago. You are probably thinking, **wow**, a great deal has changed. You are **absolutely right**. Now, high school is the period where there is perhaps more change in one's life than any other time, **but** the lesson for you on the day of **your** high school graduation is that life can happen very quickly. You, as Molloy graduates, are equipped with all the tools to make amazing things happen. I encourage you to employ those tools right away. Don't wait for great

things to happen to you or take the view that you will only be able to have a real impact once you have this degree... or that job... or this position. Ask the question that is on your mind, apply for the internship you are interested in, and don't for a second think that an accomplishment is out of your reach. I am confident that acting on your dreams and goals will prove to you that incredible things that are possible.

Yes, there will be setbacks... sometimes there will be many of them. Think of them as opportunities to learn and continue moving forward. The example of St. Marcellin Champagnat will serve you well. If you took an honest accounting of whether the founding of the Marist Institute would be successful, the smart money would have been against it. St. Marcellin, however, was not concerned with that. Instead, he focused on ministering to the people of post war France and making Jesus known and loved in a war torn, deeply distrustful and broken society. The result can be seen today here today at Colden Auditorium and across the world in the thousands of Marist schools and millions of people whose lives have been positively impacted by the Marist mission.

So, as you conclude your career as students at Molloy and begin your life as Stanner alums know that you have the knowledge, tools, and values necessary for a full and successful career and life. You bring a great deal to the table and the world needs your talents, your compassion and your abilities. Never forget your relationship with God, be confident in your abilities... and driven in your mission. Remember...you will gain the greatest fulfillment and experience the most joy when you work as hard as you can to help someone else. Finally, remember you are always a Stanner and always welcome home at Molloy.

On behalf of everyone at Archbishop Molloy, I again congratulate you. May God Bless you and your families! I now ask the graduates to rise..... and, in recognition of your successful completion of the full academic program of Archbishop Molloy HS, move your tassels from the right to the left. Congratulations!!!!