

Good morning Mr. Karsten, Mr. Penikas, administration, faculty, family, friends and The Class of 2019.

I'm so **honored** and **humbled** to receive this amazing acknowledgment.

Our class has grown over the past four years, *probably some of us more than others*. We came in as **young, naive** freshmen, and now we leave our mark on Molloy as **mature** seniors. We've worked hard to manage our time between extracurricular activities, academics, and enjoying our time with friends. The **time** and **effort** have paid off, and I am so happy to see the progress we've made as a class.

Molloy offered each of us the opportunity to expand our horizons. For me, Molloy has meant baseball, band, Esopus, but most of all...**community**. I grew up in Floral Park. My parents always encouraged me to try new things and learn from new experiences. When I was younger, my dad sat me down and drew a dot with concentric circles surrounding it. The dot represented me, while the circles represented the broader experiences I would encounter throughout my life. Molloy has been the **most important**

circle for me at this point in my life. College will be the **next circle** for all of us.

Molloy has done an excellent job preparing us for the future. The many honors and advanced placement classes Molloy offers **challenged** us with rigorous coursework and sparked our interests. *By taking Calculus Honors and AP Physics in my senior year, I realized I wanted to major in engineering.* There were extracurricular activities available for **everyone** and for **anyone**. I was a member of the baseball team and the band. In addition, I was a Campus Ministry and Peer Group Leader, and volunteered at Esopus. I was a Peer Tutor and volunteered with the LifeSpire bowling program. *I also landed on the moon and saved the world from a zombie apocalypse.* While we all did a variety of activities, it's not necessarily the **things** we did that stand out; it's the **impact** we had on others that makes the difference.

Many people have inspired and motivated me throughout my time at Molloy. The amazing teachers, staff, and faculty have made all of us the people we are.

First, I'd like to acknowledge a few of these individuals I feel many of us share relatable experiences with. Mr. Kelly was my English teacher twice. His idea of reading to **understand**, and not just to get it **done**, not only encouraged me to analyze books with a deeper meaning, but also made me more interested in reading. I had Brother James Norton for Peer groups in sophomore year, and I was a peer group leader for him in senior year. Whenever anyone was worrying about something that hadn't happened yet, he would always remind us that the **future** doesn't exist and you can only control what's happening **right now**. I'll always remember walking into Mr. Kilkelly's junior English class everyday: he'd give everyone a **fist bump** and tell us that today was going to be a **big day**, which was always true. Mr. Harrison, my personal finance teacher in senior year, had a knowledge and passion for finance that was **infectious**, but his love for **squirrels** really made the class *interesting*.

I asked some of my friends about their memories of teachers. Mr. Sheehan has a saying on the light switch in his classroom that reads, "reserving **judgements** is a matter of infinite **hope**." Ms. Longerano's passion for math helped make math a fun subject. She always said that math is just **playing** with numbers. Ms. Gannon taught public speaking and retired last

year. She challenged us to make public speaking about **emotion**, and not just **facts**. Ultimately, Mr. Esgro, Mr. McGuinness, and Brother Brogan walked each of us through every step of the college process. They **answered** our many questions, **offered** their insights, and **shook** our hands once we'd picked our respective colleges. College, like Molloy, offers each of us the **opportunity** to try new things.

Molloy provided us with **structure** and reinforced the skills needed for both college and in the real-world such as **time-management** and **organization**. Molloy made me a more confident person, and helped strengthen my leadership qualities. Molloy also taught us many important values, especially **empathy** and **kindness**, values we will implement in our lives to help people and make the world around us a better place. I encourage all of us to do the right thing every day. Molloy has educated us both in and out of the classroom. We come from **different** backgrounds, **different** places, **different** cultures. Molloy has **united** all of us in one community with the common goal of making ourselves, and the world around us, better. We are the **thinkers** and the **doers**. Our world needs us. If we dig deep and bring to the surface our own dreams, then the work we do to accomplish these dreams won't seem like work at all. In fact, it will

seem like fun. I encourage all of you to dream big and work hard, and to do so with kindness and empathy. That is when you'll be a success.

Now, it's very important that we take a moment to acknowledge and thank all the people who have helped get us to this point.

First, we need to thank our **parents** for their dedication, perseverance, and love. Our parents have been our biggest supporters. I want to thank mine for always being there for me through thick and thin, through the highs and lows. I love you guys.

Next, we need to thank our **family** and **friends**, the people we can lean on when we need to. I've grown up with my grandpa at my side. He's taught me valuable lessons, shared with me the wisdom of almost ninety years' life experience. Thank you poppy.

We also need to thank those who challenged us **daily** to be the best versions of ourselves. To our teachers, faculty, coaches, brothers and counselors throughout our four years at Archbishop Molloy...thank you.

Lastly, I would like to share an excerpt from **Michael Josephson's** poem *What Will Matter*. This poem is read on the senior Encounter, and was read to my Pop Lit class by Mr. Kelly on the last day of classes. Now, I want to share it with all of you.

What will matter is not what you bought but what you built, not what you got but what you gave. What will matter is not your success but your significance. What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught. What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

Thank you for making these last four years memorable! Congratulations to Archbishop Molloy's Class of 2019!