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Benefactor Luncheon Remarks

2/29/20

Good Afternoon. So if I'm going to be the one who's going to stand up here to thank you all for your generosity and talk about how much Molloy has changed my life, I'm going to have to start at the beginning. Molloy wasn't really my first option when I was in eighth grade, but it turned out to be the most affordable for my family. I'm the oldest of four, and all of my other siblings are currently attending private school. One of my brothers is actually a freshman here at Molloy. Although I grew up going to private school I really wasn't sure what to expect when I got here. Entering Molloy, I was a shy kid that for the most part kept to himself, but throughout my years here, I've used the school's many resources to grow as a person.

Molloy has amazing academics. I remember that in my freshman year I instantly fell in love with my classes. Every teacher had their own teaching style and I was lucky to have teachers that didn't just go with the "listen to what I say and memorize it for the quiz" technique. Teachers would go out of their way to help and support their students if needed. I'll admit I really struggled with Algebra 1 as a freshman, but I did receive help and ended

up passing the class and the regents at the end of the year. The faculty and staff will be there if you need the help so it never feels like you can't catch up.

Faculty and staff will not only support you academically, but they will help guide you with whatever you might be struggling with. Toward the end of my sophomore year my personal life took an unexpected turn. I didn't feel like I could talk to my friends about anything and I felt very much lost. I felt so blessed to have guidance counselors ready if I ever needed them and it helped put my mind at ease during the difficult time. I feel like I can talk to my guidance counselor about anything that may be bothering me and they will not only listen but offer me valuable advice on how to handle situations.

The atmosphere at Molloy is infectious, from the students to the activities, you always feel like there is something to enjoy. I've joined many activities throughout my time here, from Photography Club to Liturgy Committee and beyond. I've met so many wonderful people in these activities and we all are doing something we love. The students are next level. I've had the privilege to meet some of the kindest and most humble people here at Molloy. As an underclassman I was still very much getting used to my

surroundings and kept to myself, but over time with the help of the many offerings here at Molloy I began to be more open. The activities here only strengthened my relationships with others and even exposed me to new people. I still find it hard to believe that after all this time in high school I'm just now starting to find people that are truly amazing and supportive. I've been blessed to meet some spectacular people that I can now gladly call my friends.

Now the biggest thing that I have to thank Molloy for has to be its spectacular Retreat and Encounter programs and Campus Ministry department. And I'm not just saying this because I am a Campus Ministry Leader; even if I wasn't blessed with such an amazing position I'd still be applauding this program. As a freshman I went on two retreats in Esopus that helped me get used to my new life as a high school student with my classmates. It's exactly what I needed to feel comfortable at Molloy. I didn't have the chance to go in my sophomore year but in my junior year everything changed. I went the November of my junior year and that's when I realized there was more to Esopus and Molloy as a whole. I was in awe of what I experienced that weekend, I couldn't believe what I was a part of. I saw first-hand that people went through struggles and overcome

them, they learned from these experiences and the community around them, especially at Molloy, was there at all times. There's always people fighting silent battles, and at Esopus whatever you say stays there. There's a support system that you and your peers have. Everyone has their own struggles, but you're not alone even when you think you might be. After I got the position of Campus Ministry Leader, as well as 9 others in my grade, we went on our encounter and finally found that true meaning to Esopus. We all realized that we had the ability to help others in so many ways, whether it's physically being there and helping out or if it's by simply being supportive and offering a hand when someone feels they've hit their lowest. That's the Molloy Spirit, we lift each other up and make each and every one of us better people through it. Through Esopus and its retreats and encounters, I found my purpose.

It's weird standing here as a senior. Everything I've learned, everything I've experienced in high school has led me to this final year. Everything I've managed to do here at Molloy wouldn't have been possible without the help of people such as yourselves. Thank you for all that you've given to Molloy. Without your generosity Molloy wouldn't be able to continue finding spectacular faculty and staff that will always be supportive and willing to

help you academically and socially. Through the support you have given Molloy is able to have the facilities and the resources to have so many different activities and pull such a fantastic student body. Without your help we wouldn't be able to go to places like Esopus so we can see that the Molloy spirit is larger than we think. As a senior it's now inevitable that I have to look into the future. What's next after Molloy. Just because I'm leaving Molloy that doesn't mean I'm going to leave behind the messages I was taught. I met a Molloy graduate of the Class of 2009 on the December Senior Encounter and he told me something that as I wrap up my final year of High School has never been more true, "A goodbye is only a goodbye if you make it one. If you really care about someone or something, you'll never say goodbye." I've learned that everything I've experienced will only help me in the future. Once my class receives our diplomas it's now on us to spread the messages and the lessons that we've learned here. It's on us to take what we've learned here and shared it with others and I hope that soon more people will strive to have the same mission as Molloy, the mission to make sure that no matter where you're from, you are welcome and viewed as equal. Your continued support will only help fuel the drive of the faculty and students to help those in need and spread the positive Marist messages that we've learned as a community. Hopefully in the end

we can all finally come to realize that no matter how many times we hear it, the inspiring mantra of our school is true, Non Scholae Sed Vitae, not for school but for life.