

President Richard Karsten '81

Benefactor Luncheon Remarks

2/29/20

As Dr. Penikas pointed out, Molloy has already made some insightful and strategic changes to impact our students' ability to go on to study at impressive colleges and universities. We are also blessed that there is great interest among our prospective students to come to Molloy, and we enjoy full enrollment.

As we begin to roll out our strategic plan, you will continue to hear about many exciting changes to our curriculum, our campus, our financial strength, and our institutional culture. We are reaching new levels of excellence in academics, the performing and visual arts, STEM, safety and security, entrepreneurship, and service opportunities.

Keeping tuition low and providing scholarships for the hard-working families in Queens and New York City remains a top priority. None of these changes could and **will** be possible without **you**, our dedicated and engaged benefactors. Our Named Scholarship program is a wonderful way to honor the legacy of our Marist Brothers, our parents, our spouses, our sons, our former mentors, and beloved family members. Our named

scholarships have a transformational impact on the families who could not otherwise afford the education at Molloy. Once again thank you for putting your trust in Molloy and investing in our future.

With all of this positive change happening, this morning I would like to highlight what truly makes Molloy different from other schools. Through service, community, prayer, and reflection Stanners learn to be thankful for what they have and the importance of developing their God given talents, so they can both lead and serve. We are a vibrant and dynamic school where the students understand the difference between a calling and a career, the difference between a vocation and a profession, and that the largest gift that one can give, is a life of meaningful service to others. Our nurturing teachers, counselors, and administration use the power of presence to shape our growing boys and girls into mature, well-rounded young adults who will truly make the world a better place. Whatever path they take, our students go on to live a meaningful life. THIS is what makes a Molloy education special.

Br. Richard Van Houten, Molloy's first President, used to say, "If you want to see an organization's commitment to mission, take a look at the budget." I am pleased to say that we have significant

resources in our annual operating budget for formation, evangelization, campus ministry, and programs provided by the Province Office of Marist Life & Mission. You may have noticed that this year (in our annual appeal) we highlighted our retreat and encounter program as a component of support for our Annual Fund – The Fund for Molloy. Currently almost 75% of our students participate in our retreats and encounters in Esopus. There are many families who struggle to pay tuition, let-alone extras such as the \$150 fee to participate in a retreat to Esopus. Many students do not attend because of financial concerns. We felt very strongly that the school should financially support this fundamental program in order to meet the Marist Mission at Molloy. Next year, in 2020-21, The Fund for Molloy will subsidize this program and provide the retreat and encounter experience at a minimal cost to take the financial burden off our families. Our goal in the future is to integrate the retreat program into our annual operational budget.

Although the food and our very inspirational speeches are part of the program today, the key objective is for you to connect you with the students who are receiving the gift of education from your generosity. So please enjoy your time together.

Before we break for food and drink, we have one more presentation to demonstrate the result of your philanthropy.

I would like to introduce senior Daniel Ramirez-Mendez, a Stanner who has taken full advantage of all that Molloy has to offer.

Daniel is classic example of a boy who came to us as a quiet freshman. He will be graduating in June, a motivated young man who has interests in broadcasting, marketing and digital media. He will be studying at St. John's University next fall.