



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE 2021 GRADS, GOOD LUCK IN HIGH SCHOOL!



FROM THE DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ~
CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

**YOUR TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS WILL MISS YOU,
BUT WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL THAT YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH
IN HIGH SCHOOL AND IN YOUR SUCCESSES BEYOND**

**BE WHO GOD MEANT YOU TO BE,
AND YOU WILL SET THE WORLD ON FIRE.
-ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA**



**2021 Year of
Renewal**
STRENGTHENING THE BONDS BETWEEN
SCHOOLS, PARISHES, AND OUR COMMUNITY

This month marks the final moments of our eighth graders as students in their respective Catholic Academies and Parish Schools and their first steps to becoming alumni. We would like to take this opportunity to offer our congratulations for the accomplishments of the graduating class of 2021.

Our scholars have worked hard to reach this moment in their academic careers and have also been fortunate to have guides on their journey. We would like to thank parents, guardians, and families for their willingness to sacrifice and commit to providing their child with a Catholic education. Your desire to provide your child with an education that is centered around the love of Christ is tremendously important. It is an honor for our schools to be a part of helping your child grow in the faith. As their first teachers, you have laid an incredible foundation of faith-filled, moral character that will guide them through all of life's challenges.

As students began their academic careers, they were blessed with many teachers and staff who served as models of Christ. Within our Catholic Academies and Parish Schools, students not only grow academically but flourish in their spiritual and emotional growth. We thank our teachers, staff, and administrators who are committed to ensuring that each child achieves his or her full potential. Throughout the Diocese, our teachers consistently go above and beyond to provide for their students. In celebrating our graduates, we are also celebrating their efforts, compassion, and love they bring to this vocation.

This past year has been tremendously difficult as we navigated a world of turmoil. The bright light throughout all the negativity has been the children and young adults in our lives. When we think about the changes that our students have had to face, in their schools, homes, and communities, we are astounded by the strength and poise they have

displayed. Our students have spent the last year and half navigating a constantly changing, overwhelming series of events that even as adults we have had difficulty coping with. These graduates however, continued to work their hardest and make the best of an impossible situation. Each year we are fortunate to witness the graduation of many of our Diocesan students and it fills us with pride knowing the effort and heart that they have put into their education. This year, the feelings of pride and awe are magnified as we think of the sacrifices they have made. Their spirit is evidence of their ability to overcome any obstacle they may find in front of them. This strength, adaptability, and fortitude will undoubtedly lead them to become incredible adults.



As we think of our graduates beginning their journey into adulthood, we are filled with hope at the potential that lies in our future. Over the past year, our graduates had every reason to tune out and give up yet, we saw them day in and day out working to make the best out of trying times. We lost hugs; students elbow bumped and had Zoom friend hangouts. We lost in-person learning; students showed up each day to engage with their classmates online. We lost togetherness; students

came up with social distance activities and hosted virtual activities. Masks may conceal this, but we were blessed with many wonderful moments and smiles. These actions show us that our graduates already know how to be a light in the darkness. Just as Jesus was a beacon for others, so to will our graduates guide others on the path of Christ.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021. May your academic career continue to flourish, and your actions lead you along God's path. Remember that God's plan and purpose is unique to each of us. You are blessed by his grace and carry tremendous potential. We look forward to seeing the bright future that each of you has ahead.