

Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

June, 2019

Dear Graduates of the Class of 2019,

Congratulations on this wonderful day. It's a very proud moment for you and for your family.



On April 2 this year, Pope Francis issued a special message on "Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment." His words contained three great truths. The first is this: God knows and loves each of you uniquely. The second is that Jesus, out of love, died on the cross in order to save you. And finally the third is this: The Risen Christ is alive, here and now, and he listens intently to the hopes and fears in each of your hearts.

In his message, the Holy Father writes that "Young people can help keep the Church young" as she pursues her mission to bring the world to Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ to the world. That's both a privilege and a responsibility, and both are now in your hands as young adult disciples.

As you go forward today, dear young people, look for opportunities to show that God is alive, to share God's love and to serve others. Our world needs models of goodness and reminders of God's great care for each person. So much can be changed in our world when people come alive in the power of Jesus Christ. I pray you will make that choice each day.

May you go forth and make a holy difference in this world. May God bless you, your families, dedicated teachers, administrators, religious and priests who have brought you to this great day of accomplishment!

Sincerely yours,


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Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., C.B.
Archbishop of Philadelphia