

WALSH UNIVERSITY
COMMENCEMENT REMARKS
DR. TIM COLLINS
7 MAY 2022

WELCOME CAV NATION!

WELCOME FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS OF CAV NATION TO YOUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY. WE ARE HONORED WITH YOUR PRESENCE TODAY FOR THIS MOST SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN THE LIVES OF THESE SOON-TO-BE NEWEST GRADUATES OF AMERICAN CATHOLIC HIGHER EDUCATION!

ARE THERE ANY ALUMNI WHO HAVE RETURNED TO CAMPUS FOR THE WEEKEND?
PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED AS WE WELCOME YOU HOME!

WILL OUR LEGACY GRADUATES FROM THE CLASS OF 2022 ... THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF OUR ALUMNI ... PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED?

FIRST RESPONDERS AND OUR MILITARY (ACTIVE, GUARD, RESERVE, RETIRED, OR VETS) ... PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WHO SACRIFICE EVERY DAY AND SO MUCH MORE DURING THIS GLOBAL PANDEMIC ... PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

FOR ALL OF THOSE IN RELIGIOUS LIFE ... IN CONSECRATED LIFE ... PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

A SHOUT OUT TO OUR CAMPUS POLICE WHOSE ACTIVE PRESENCE CONTRIBUTES IN SO MANY WAYS TO OUR SAFE CAMPUS TODAY AND ALWAYS ... YOU HONOR US!

A SHOUT OUT TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE THIS WEEKEND POSSIBLE – FACULTY, STAFF, COACHES, COMMERCIAL VENDORS, AND PARTNERS ... AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE QUIETLY AND DILIGENTLY “BEHIND THE SCENES” PREPARED AND PRESENTED OUR BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS AND ALL OUR FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO US TODAY.

SIXTY-TWO YEARS AGO, SEVEN BROTHERS OF CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION STOOD ON THIS VERY GROUND AND IMAGINED A CATHOLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTED TO STUDENTS WHO WOULD WORK AND LEARN TOGETHER SO AS TO EVENTUALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH GUIDED THEM ... AND IT CONTINUES TO GUIDE OUR INSTITUTION TODAY.

IN THE SUMMER OF 2020, OUR BROTHERS WITHDREW TO THEIR HOME IN ALFRED, MAINE, AS THEY HAD SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR MISSION IN NORTH CANTON, OHIO.

THEY WITHDREW KNOWING THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE BROTHERS HAS BEEN INFUSED INTO THE FABRIC OF OUR CAMPUS CULTURE.

BROTHER FARRELL, WALSH UNIVERSITY'S FIRST PRESIDENT, CALLED FOR THE BROTHERS "TO PLANT AND NURTURE THE SEED FOR FUTURE GREATNESS OF WALSH COLLEGE."

AND THAT THEY DID!

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WE ARE ALL HONORED TODAY TO HAVE WITH US, BACK FROM ALFRED, MAINE, SEVERAL BROTHERS, AND WE PAUSE, NOW, TO THANK THE BROTHERS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED AND BLESSED US FOR OVER SIX DECADES.

BROTHERS, PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

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WE FIND OURSELVES GATHERED TODAY TO REFLECT UPON COUNTLESS HOURS OF STUDY, SEEMINGLY HUNDREDS OF TESTS TAKEN, HOURS AND HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR OTHERS, AND INTENSE INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PREPARATION AND COMPETITION ... ALL LEADING TO THE COMPLETION OF A WALSH EXPERIENCE FOR AMERICA'S MOST RECENT HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES.

CONGRATULATIONS! ... TO EACH NEWLY MINTED GRADUATE ... TO THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED YOU ALONG THE WAY ... AND TO THE FACULTY AND STAFF AND COACHES OF THIS CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY THAT IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EACH OF YOU THE CONTINUATION OF AN EDUCATION FOR LIFE!

OUR 648 GRADUATES ARE A DIVERSE GROUP OF STUDENTS REFLECTIVE OF GOD'S PLAN AND THE WORLD HE CREATED AROUND US.

SOME OF YOU HAVE COME TO US FROM AS NEAR AS NORTH CANTON AND OTHERS FROM AS FAR AWAY AS SAUDI ARABIA AND NEPAL. YOU REPRESENT EIGHT (8) COUNTRIES AND 19 STATES. YOU ARE EARNING DEGREES IN 64 MAJORS. ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-TWO (132) OF YOU ARE SCHOLAR ATHLETES.

ELEVEN (11) OF THE INDIVIDUALS EARNING THEIR DEGREES TODAY ARE CHILDREN OF EMPLOYEES, AND 13 OF YOU ARE THE CHILDREN OF OUR ALUMNI, CONTINUING THE TRADITION OF WALSH UNIVERSITY WITHIN YOUR FAMILIES AS LEGACY GRADUATES.

OUR NEW GRADUATES HAVE MADE US ALL VERY PROUD IN THE CLASSROOM AND IN THE COMMUNITY. YOUR ACADEMIC WORK HAS BEEN AMAZING, AND YOU PERFORMED THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF SERVICE.

WHEN I LOOK OUT UPON YOU TODAY, I SEE IN OUR NEWEST GROUP OF WALSH UNIVERSITY ALUMNI A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR OUR NATION AND THE WORLD.

YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY AND HAVE EARNED – YES, EARNED! – YOUR DEGREES.

NO ONE IS GIVING YOU ANYTHING TODAY.

WHILE YOU ARE EXCITED FOR WHAT TOMORROW MAY BRING, YOU MAY ALSO BE SITTING THERE PONDERING ...

- AM I READY TO FULFILL MY LIFE'S PURPOSE?
- AM I READY TO SERVE?

- AM I READY TO LEAD OTHERS?
- AM I READY TO GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD TO TAKE MY PLACE?
- AM I READY TO APPLY THE LESSONS LEARNED HERE TO MY ENVIRONMENTS OF TOMORROW?
- IN SHORT ... AM I READY?"

YOUR WALSH UNIVERSITY EDUCATION HAS BEEN “ALL ABOUT” THIS VERY MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE ... MAKING YOU READY ... ENSURING YOU CAN CONFIDENTLY ANSWER THIS MONUMENTAL QUESTION.

WE HAVE TAUGHT YOU AN APPROACH TO EDUCATION THAT IS DIFFERENT THAN WHAT A SECULAR SCHOOL PROVIDES:

- THAT FAITH AND REASON BOTH WILL LEAD YOU TO THE TRUTH
- THAT WE ARE TO UNCOVER AND DISCOVER THE TRUTH – NOT CREATE THE TRUTH
- THAT THERE IS AN OBJECTIVE REALITY
- THAT YOU HAVE A REASON TO BE ON EARTH – A PURPOSE AS UNIQUE AS YOUR FINGERPRINT
- AND THAT YOU ARE EMPOWERED TO TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD WITH YOUR INTENDED PURPOSE TO FIND TRUE *JOY* IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS

JOY ... MUCH DEEPER THAN SIMPLY HAPPINESS.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS TELLS US JOY IS THE CENTRAL FEATURE OF CHRISTIANITY.

AND CHRISTIANITY HAS BEEN PROMINENT THROUGHOUT YOUR EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT WALSH UNIVERSITY.

FOR YOU SEE, EDUCATION IN THE CATHOLIC TRADITION IS FOCUSED ON THE FORMATION OF MEN AND WOMEN OF CHARACTER ... THIS IS THE IMMEDIATE AND PROPER END OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION:

- TO MAKE HUMAN INDIVIDUALS CHRIST-LIKE.

“THE TRUE CHRISTIAN [WHO IS THE PRODUCT] OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION,” WRITES POPE PIUS XI, “IS THE SUPERNATURAL MAN WHO THINKS, JUDGES, AND ACTS CONSTANTLY AND CONSISTENTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RIGHT REASON, ILLUMINATED BY THE SUPERNATURAL LIGHT OF THE EXAMPLE AND TEACHING OF CHRIST; HE WHO IS *THE TRUE AND FINISHED MAN OF CHARACTER.*”

YOUR FORMATION AS MEN AND WOMEN OF CHARACTER IS THE PRIMARY END OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION. THE SECONDARY END IS THE FORMATION OF USEFUL CITIZENS.

FULTON SHEEN TAUGHT THAT THE WORLD OFFERS EACH OF US THREE WORDS THAT GUIDE OUR CHOICES: *PLEASE, MUST, AND OUGHT.*

- I CAN DO AS I PLEASE. OR ...
- I MUST ACT IN A MANNER THAT PLEASES ME. OR ...
- I OUGHT TO TAKE THIS PARTICULAR ACTION.

QUOTING THE EMMY-AWARD-WINNER AND VENERABLE ARCHBISHOP SHEEN,

“OF THESE THREE, WE MUST CHOOSE *OUGHT.*

THAT LITTLE WORD *OUGHT* SIGNIFIES THAT MAN IS FREE.

- FIRE MUST BE HOT, ICE MUST BE COLD, BUT A MAN OUGHT TO BE GOOD.

OUGHT IMPLIES MORALITY, THAT IS, A MORAL POWER DISTINCT FROM A PHYSICAL POWER.

FREEDOM IS NOT THE POWER TO DO ANYTHING YOU PLEASE ... SO OFTEN EXPRESSED AND ACTED UPON IN TODAY’S EVER-GROWING SECULAR CULTURE.

YOU CAN ROB OUR NEIGHBOR ... YOU CAN CHEAT ON YOUR TAXES ... BUT YOU *OUGHT* NOT TO DO THESE THINGS BECAUSE *OUGHT* IMPLIES MORALITY, DUTIES, AND OBLIGATIONS.”

FOR YOU SEE, HE CONTINUES,

“THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF MAN AFFIRMS YOU CANNOT HAVE ANY RIGHTS WITHOUT CORRESPONDING DUTIES.

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIFE, BUT I HAVE INSEPARABLY DUTY TO RESPECT THE LIFE OF OTHERS.”

THIS BECOMES THE FOUNDATION OF AUTHENTIC SOCIAL JUSTICE ... CONTRARY TO THE TWISTED LANGUAGE OF TODAY’S CULTURE ... CONCEPTS THAT TRACE THEIR ORIGINS BACK TO CATHOLIC DOCTRINE THOUGHTFULLY LAID OUT BY LEO XIII IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY ... AND WILL SEE THEIR FUTURE IN HOW EACH ONE OF YOU *OUGHT* TO LIVE YOUR LIVES.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES YOU ASSUME TODAY ... AS ONE OF ONLY 7 PEOPLE OUT OF EVERY 100 IN THE WORLD TO ACHIEVE THIS LEVEL OF HIGHER EDUCATION ... IS ENORMOUS AS YOU BECOME OUR FUTURE LEADERS – IN THE FAMILY, THE WORKPLACE, YOUR COMMUNITIES, AND THROUGHOUT SOCIETY.

I URGE YOU ... TAKE YOUR FORMATION AND EDUCATION AND PLACE IT IN SERVICE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THOSE AROUND YOU ... OF THOSE ENTRUSTED TO YOU ... THIS IS WHAT YOU *OUGHT* TO DO!

- AMEN? ... AMEN!

WE HAVE ALSO TAUGHT YOU – IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM – HOW TO:

- COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY
- DEAL WITH COMPLEXITY AND AMBIGUITY
- DEVELOP AND EVALUATE OPTIONS
- AND THAT CHOICES THAT RECOGNIZE THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON MATTER
 - AS DOES YOUR INDIVIDUAL HONOR AND INTEGRITY.

THESE ARE LESSONS AND SKILLS THAT WILL SERVE YOU WELL ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE.

NOW, I AM GOING TO PAUSE TO ASK OUR SOON-TO-BE GRADUATE A FINAL QUESTION AND WOULD LIKE EACH OF YOU TO RESPOND, PLEASE ... BUMP THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU ... RESPOND LOUD ENOUGH THAT THE FAMILIES OF OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS – ALL THE WAY TO SAUDI ARABIA AND NEPAL – CAN HEAR US...

HERE IS THE FINAL QUESTION FOR OUR GRADUATES THAT REQUIRES A SIMPLE YES OR NO

- ARE ... YOU ... READY?

YOUR INTERNSHIPS, GLOBAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES, SERVICE-LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, AND ADVANCED STUDIES DID MORE THAN PREPARE YOU FOR THAT FIRST JOB OR CAREER ... THEY WERE DESIGNED TO ASSIST YOU IN DISCOVERING YOUR LIFE'S PURPOSE AND TO FINDING PERSONAL MEANING IN THE WAYS YOU BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS.

- ARE... YOU... READY?

IN OUR RESIDENCE HALLS, CLASSROOMS, ON OUR ATHLETIC FIELDS AND CAMPUS GATHERING SPACES ... YOU DID MORE THAN ENCOUNTER OTHERS.

YOU LEARNED THE LESSONS OF COMMUNITY AND SPORTSMANSHIP AND HONOR AND INTEGRITY. YOU LEARNED HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND A GOOD FRIEND, AND YOU LEARNED WHAT IT IS TO BE “MY BROTHER’S KEEPER.”

YOU LEARNED THAT YOU CAN BE SUCCESSFUL WITH SOMETHING ... AND NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL AS SOMEBODY.

AND WHEN THE COVID PANDEMIC CAME INTO YOUR LIVES YOU LEARNED THE INVALUABLE LESSON OF HOW TO ADJUST AND HANDLE LIFE'S CURVE BALLS, A LESSON THAT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY MAKE YOU MORE RESILIENT THROUGHOUT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

- ARE... YOU... READY?

YOUR TIME AND EXPERIENCES IN THIS CATHOLIC ENVIRONMENT OFFERED YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS FAITH AND VALUES IN ACTION – FROM THE STAFF, COACHES, FACULTY, OTHER STUDENTS, AND EACH OTHER.

YOU LEARNED NOT ONLY HOW TO BE A LEADER IN SERVICE TO OTHERS ... YOU BECAME A LEADER IN SERVICE TO OTHERS.

- ARE... YOU... READY?

THE TIME YOU HAVE SPENT HERE ON OUR CAMPUS IS PRECIOUS TO US. WE ARE HONORED YOU CHOSE WALSH UNIVERSITY FOR YOUR HIGHER EDUCATION, AND AS YOU EMBARK ON YOUR FUTURE, WHEREVER THAT MAY LEAD YOU, WE KNOW – AND YOU KNOW –

- YOU ARE READY.

WHAT A DRAMATIC COUPLE OF YEARS THIS HAS BEEN.

WE HAVE FACED MUCH ... ENCOUNTERED MANY CHALLENGES.

AND WHILE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN TIMES WHERE WE WERE DISHEARTENED, WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE MADE IT THROUGH TO THIS COMMENCEMENT AND THE CONFERRAL OF DEGREES.

WE HAVE FACED ALL THOSE CHALLENGES, AND WE HAVE PERSEVERED THROUGH THEM ALL.

WE HAVE SEEN SADNESS ... FOR SURE ... YET WE HAVE RENEWED OUR HOPE.

AND WE HAVE RECOGNIZED THE VALUE OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER AND LEARNED THAT ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE – AND A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING.

IF THERE IS A SINGLE LESSON THAT SUMS ALL OF THIS UP – IT IS THIS:

- LIFE IS DIFFICULT AND REQUIRES SACRIFICE.

YOU HAVE HAD THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS LIFE LESSON THAN ANY GENERATION OF STUDENTS IN DECADES!

AND I STAND HERE TODAY VERY, VERY PROUD OF YOU ... FOR YOUR RESILIENCE, LEADERSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER, AND THE CHARITY YOU EXTENDED TO OTHERS THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC.

SO HERE WE ARE.

YOUR TIME IN OUR COMMUNITY AS A STUDENT CONCLUDES TODAY ... IN THIS MOMENT.

BUT LET THIS NOT BE THE END TO EITHER YOUR EDUCATION OR YOUR LEARNING.

I ENCOURAGE YOU ... NO, I CHALLENGE YOU ... TO CONTINUE YOUR SELF-IMPROVEMENT ... EVERY DAY ... FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES.

BECOME **LONG LIFE LEARNERS**.

SUCCESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS NEVER FINAL.

TODAY IS NOT AN END POINT BUT A TRANSITION POINT ... IT MARKS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN ANEW.

I URGE YOU ... YOU OUGHT TO EMBRACE OPPORTUNITIES THAT COME BEFORE YOU AS YOU TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE WORLD WITH CONFIDENCE, WITH GRACE, WITH HUMILITY

- ALWAYS MEETING OTHERS WITH CHARITY AND KINDNESS
 - SPEAKING THAT LANGUAGE THAT ...
 - THE DEAF CAN HEAR ...
 - AND THE BLIND CAN SEE.

AS SO, YOU WILL NOW STEP OUT OF THIS WALSH EXPERIENCE ... THE MOMENT HAS ARRIVED WHEN YOU MUST NOW STEP UP TO A LIFE OF SERVING OTHERS.

IT HAS BEEN OUR PRIVILEGE TO HAVE BEEN PART OF YOUR JOURNEY, AND WALSH UNIVERSITY ... YOUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY... LOOKS FORWARD TO ACCOMPANYING YOU INTO THE FUTURE... AS YOUR PARTNER IN *EDUCATION FOR LIFE*.

SO, I NOW ASK MYSELF THIS SAME QUESTION: DO I THINK YOU ARE READY?

- ABSOLUTELY ... YOU ARE READY!

FINALLY, WE PLACE INTO THE HANDS OF THE FIRST LADY OF WALSH UNIVERSITY – OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP – OUR PRAYERS FOR HER INTERCESSIONS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SAFETY, WELL-BEING, AND SUCCESS AS SERVANT LEADERS MODELING CHRIST IN ALL THAT YOU THINK AND DO.

GOD BLESS YOU. GOD BLESS WALSH UNIVERSITY. AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

SWORDS UP!

**INTRODUCTION OF
BISHOP DAVID J BONNER
2022 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**

I HAVE THE DISTINCT PRIVILEGE AND HONOR OF INTRODUCING TO YOU OUR COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER FOR THE 59TH GRADUATING CLASS OF WALSH UNIVERSITY.

THE MOST REVEREND DAVID J. BONNAR RECEIVED A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY IN PITTSBURGH AND STUDIED AT THE PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE IN ROME, RECEIVING A BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN SACRED THEOLOGY IN 1987 FROM THE PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY IN ROME. HE WAS ORDAINED A PRIEST FOR THE DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH ON JULY 23, 1988.

THROUGHOUT HIS MINISTRY, BISHOP BONNAR HAS SERVED THE CONGREGATIONS OF SEVERAL PARISHES AS PASTOR IN THE PITTSBURGH DIOCESE AS WELL AS SERVICE AS THE DIOCESAN DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS, DIRECTOR OF THE PRE-ORDINATION PROGRAM, DIRECTOR OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE PROGRAM AND RECTOR OF SAINT PAUL SEMINARY IN PITTSBURGH.

IN ADDITION TO HIS MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS, BISHOP BONNAR HAS ALSO SERVED ON THE DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH POST-ORDINATION BOARD, CLERGY PERSONNEL BOARD, SEMINARY ADMISSIONS BOARD, CHAIR OF THE PERMANENT DIACONATE ADMISSIONS BOARD, CHAIR OF THE PRIESTLY FORMATION BOARD, AND CHAIR OF THE PRIESTHOOD CANDIDATE ADMISSION BOARD. SINCE 2014, BISHOP BONNAR HAS BEEN THE EDITOR OF *THE PRIEST* MAGAZINE AND IN 2020 WAS APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS. FOR 12 YEARS BISHOP BONNAR WAS ALSO CHAPLAIN TO THE NFL’S PITTSBURGH STEELERS PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM.

ON NOVEMBER 17, 2020, WHICH HAPPENED TO BE THE 60TH BIRTHDAY OF WALSH UNIVERSITY BY THE WAY, HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS APPOINTED HIM THE SIXTH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN.

AS YOU JUST HEARD, HE HAS DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO SERVANT LEADERSHIP, AND WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE HIM WITH US HERE TODAY SO THAT WE MAY PRESENT HIM WITH AN HONORARY DEGREE.

BISHOP BONNAR, PLEASE COME FORWARD FOR YOUR HOODING AS I OFFER THE CITATION:

FOR YOUR DECADES-LONG SERVICE AS A PARISH PRIEST AND YOUR COMMITMENT TO MAKING PARISHES VIBRANT AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES, FOCUSED NOT ON THE BRICKS AND MORTAR OF THE CHURCH BUILDING, BUT RATHER ON THE MINISTRY STEWARDED WITHIN,

FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT, TO HELP PEOPLE TRULY KNOW CHRIST, WE MUST MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE – WHETHER THEY BE IN THE SEATS OF A CLASSROOM, THE PEWS OF A PARISH, OR ON THE BENCHES OF AN ATHLETIC FIELD,

FOR YOUR PASSION FOR SUPPORTING PRIESTS IN THEIR FORMATION, HELPING THEM TO GROW SPIRITUALLY, INTELLECTUALLY, AND PASTORALLY SO THAT THEY MAY BEST SERVE OTHERS,

FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO ACCOMPANYING STUDENTS AND TEACHING THEM FAITHFULNESS TO OUR LORD,

FOR YOUR FAITH-FILLED LEADERSHIP OF THE 160,000 CATHOLICS LIVING ACROSS THE SIX COUNTIES THAT COMPRISE THE DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO,

FOR YOUR CONSISTENT MESSAGE OF UNITY, THE CALL TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER, TO SHOW MERCY, NOT JUDGMENT, AND THE CONVICTION THAT THE PATH TOWARD TRUTH MUST BE PAVED SO “THAT ALL MAY BE ONE,”

FOR YOUR LIFELONG LOVE OF AND COMMITMENT TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH AND ITS CHURCH,

THEREFORE, UPON RECOMMENDATION OF THE FACULTY AND APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WALSH UNIVERSITY, I HEREBY CONFER UPON YOU THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, HONORIS CAUSA, THIS SEVENTH DAY OF MAY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2022.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING A TRUE SERVANT-LEADER, YOUR 2022 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER ... HIS EXCELLENCY DR. DAVID J BONNER, BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN.