



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

June 2019

St. Anthony's High School
275 Wolf Hill Road
South Huntington, New York 11747

Dear Graduating Seniors:

As your Bishop, your Servant and a Successor of the Apostles on Long Island, I want to congratulate you on your graduation from St. Anthony's High School.

Your growth as a missionary disciple, your ever-expanding friendship with Christ, your rock-solid commitment to your Catholic faith spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, your discernment with the Holy Spirit of your own unique educational, career and vocational path in service to the mission of the Church to the World is a great inspiration to your family, your friends and to everyone you will be meeting as you take your next steps to a University or the world of work.

Know that you are all daily in my prayers and Masses. As you arrive at a new University campus on Long Island or another part of the country this August, you will have an important existential decision to make the first Sunday on campus.

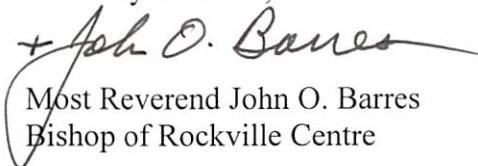
Will you be faithful to the Sunday Mass?

I ask that you make that decision and commitment now. Radical fidelity to the Sunday Mass and the Body and Blood of Christ helps keep you centered in Christ and His will for your life, faithful to the Splendor of Truth of Catholic moral teaching, and deeply receptive to the Holy Spirit's guidance for your unique mission in the Church and service to the World.

JRR Tolkien, the author of *The Lord of the Rings* and a passionate Catholic, once wrote these words to his son: "I put before you the one great thing to love on earth, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. There you will find true romance, true honor, true glory and the true ways of all your loves upon earth."

May the Word of God be a light and lamp for your steps through life (Psalm 119) and may the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ be the true way of all your loves upon earth.

Sincerely in Christ,


Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre