

March 22, 2020

Dear Roberto, Emory, Brian, Claire,  
Grace, Emily, Will, Emily C.  
Oralle, Naji, Sam, Megan,  
Ojay, Remy, Kari, Brandon,  
Jacy, Naji, and Steven.

I write this with a heavy, yet hopeful heart. Each of you are experiencing the ripple effect of this global crisis in your own ways. You are each going through this differently - yet, we are all in this together.

I think about high-school seniors with no prom, to our own seniors who won't get that Department Senior dinner and award celebrations.

Then, I think of those who never had those opportunities to begin with. So many high school seniors never get to go to prom. Maybe due to being too poor or perhaps they are too "odd" or "not cool enough" to feel comfortable even going. So many kids don't even get to college due to their position in life - the hand they were dealt - maybe too poor or they have to care of their siblings or parents.

Life is complex and full of sadness. Yet we must train our minds to see that silver lining. See, right now in the midst of uncertainty - I think of those things, such as the fact that with being told to stay home, we are with our families. Nowhere should we have to be being called to remain diligent, resilient and responsible for the common good.

I think of those who never get to attend the high-school senior dinner and was teased as being "odd" or "not cool enough". I recall moments, MANY, where my Mom never ate because after four kids had our meal, nothing was left. Sacrifices are being made around the world. My daughters have fathers who can't see them right now. And babies grow faster than the speed of light. Nonnau's father may not see her for two months! Yet, we do this for others because that is the Marianist message.

With that said, I pray you each take this time, as that - TIME. Time to be grateful for any privileges you know you have, from that roof over your head to those socks on your feet. I ask that you imagine what it must be like for homeless people right now, and for families with children who are now laid off and can't provide - their world is crumbling. The poor are suffering even greater now. I ask that you pray for those who are suffering the most. Pray for medical workers and delivery drivers and grocery store employees who are extending themselves day and night. Pray for those who have no choice but to work.

Also, if you don't pray for those in need, close your eyes, take deep breaths and manifest only positive energy out.

This time gives science the endless time to research this novel virus and provide solutions to the world. Science is incredible.

May you see this time as one of reflection. We will recover, but we won't ever be the same. Yet, we have one another. We have the ability to create change and give hope. We have the privileges of education and the means, comfy beds and water. Take this time to love yourself. To be grateful for life and that you have to offer - and for each of us that making is different. So practice social distancing and wearing masks. If you go out, be protective of others. That is the silver lining too. Life is about others, not just you.

You are young. Blessed to be with a ton of responsibilities. Stay focused on those positives which remain positive and empathetic.

I will miss your faces so very much. I hold a deep interest in your success and personal well-being. Let's continue our friendship via cyber world, and embrace it with positive thoughts. We will accomplish the rest of our journey out comes. And we will remain focused on our education as that provides us with logic and understanding.

Sincerely,  
Nijah

hopeful heart  
we are all in  
to get them  
think of those  
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silver lining  
families  
the common good  
MANY dinners  
My daughters  
TIME  
is incredible  
We will recover  
ability to create  
education and hot meals  
LOVE