

August 1, 2016

My dear Neumann Family,

I write today to share with each of you that I have prayerfully reached my decision to retire on June 30, 2017, the end of this academic year.

Together with my husband and family, I thought and prayed at length about this decision. The Good Lord has shown us in many ways that now is the right time for this transition for us and for our beloved Neumann University. Our leadership team is strong, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaffirmed our accreditation and commended our self-study process. Our University trustees are the most wonderful of people; they are courageous leaders with the acumen to continue to guide the institution to new and greater heights. The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, as they have for more than 50 years, continue their sponsorship and support of Neumann and its Catholic Franciscan identity and mission.

I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude for the privilege to serve as Neumann's President. I prayed daily for strength and wisdom to handle with integrity and authenticity the responsibility I viewed as vocation. For more than half my life, I have ascended this holy hill almost every day. I have been and continue to be inspired by the goodness of our students, the talents of our faculty and staff, and the knowledge and generosity of colleagues across the campus, the region, and our Church. Most especially, I am inspired by our Catholic Franciscan identity - the rock on which Neumann University and my leadership has stood.

My past 20 years as president and the many years before that as a faculty member and administrator were filled with awe and inspiration and have been, for Tony and me, a labor of love. It has been a sacred privilege to be on this journey with each and every one of you. Each day, over the years and still today, I witnessed and led change. Keep in mind, however, that Neumann University has not changed from what it was into something else. It has changed in order to remain true to its original calling - a university committed to the pursuit of truth in love in service to the Church, the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia, and the world. There is abundant evidence that Neumann University is blessed and will continue to prosper into the future.

May these last days of summer bring you peace, joy, and energy as we welcome our new and returning students to campus. My prayer and desire for each of you is to do all that you are here to do and to do it the very best you can. **You** are what will keep Neumann University thriving.

Pace e Bene,

Rosalie M. Mirenda, Ph.D.
President