Dear Graduate and Family,

It is my pleasure to send you information about your upcoming graduation.

It seems like only yesterday that I stood before you and your parents at Orientation to welcome you to Villanova. Now, in just a few months, you will be graduating and moving on to the next chapter in your lives. My hope is that each of you has been transformed in mind and heart during your time here, and that you will carry our Augustinian values of truth, unity and love throughout your personal and professional lives.

You have worked incredibly hard to get to this point, and you and your parents should be extremely proud of your accomplishments. On behalf of the entire Villanova community, I wish you the best as your time as a student comes to a close, and I look forward to welcoming you, the Class of 2017, as the newest members of Villanova’s alumni.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA
President
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## COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND

### Schedule of Events

#### Friday, May 19

- 9 a.m.: Charles Widger School of Law Mass St. Thomas of Villanova Church
- 10:30 a.m.: Charles Widger School of Law Commencement Ceremony The Pavilion Reception to Follow School of Law
- 1 p.m.: Naval ROTC Mass and Commissioning Ceremony St. Thomas of Villanova Church
- 4 p.m.: University Commencement Ceremony Villanova Stadium President's Reception for Graduates and Guests Connelly Center

#### Saturday, May 20

- 9 a.m.: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Convocation The Pavilion Diploma Distribution Villanova Room, Connelly Center
- 9:30 a.m.: College of Nursing Convocation and Diploma Distribution Driscoll Hall
- 10 a.m.: College of Professional Studies Convocation Cinema, Connelly Center Diploma Distribution Radnor/St. David's Room, Connelly Center
- 10 a.m.: College of Engineering Convocation The Campus Green Diploma Distribution CEER
- 2 p.m.: Villanova School of Business Convocation Mendel Field Diploma Distribution Bartley Hall
- 2 p.m.: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Studies Convocation and Diploma Distribution Mendel Field Baccalaureate Mass The Campus Green
This year, Commencement Weekend will take place May 19–20. The Class of 2017 Commencement Ceremony for all colleges and degrees will take place on Friday, May 19.

The Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, University president, will host a reception for all graduates and their guests on Friday evening following the Commencement Ceremony. Families are invited to take part in this celebratory event.

On Saturday, May 20, colleges’ graduation convocations will take place, followed by the Baccalaureate Mass. The convocations are college-specific and feature the calling of each graduate’s name. More information about these events will be sent by each graduate’s college. Diplomas are distributed immediately after convocations.

Please read this booklet and keep it for reference as Commencement approaches. It contains valuable information and several action items throughout the spring semester regarding diplomas, announcements, cap and gown pickup, and events during Commencement Weekend.

For this and other Commencement information, please refer to the Commencement website: villanova.edu/commencement.

Commencement Tickets and Seating
Graduates will be given up to two tickets for the Commencement Ceremony. Tickets will be distributed during the Graduation Fair on April 27 in the Villanova Room, Connelly Center. Information regarding the Graduation Fair and the Graduation Fair Form will be available online and emailed out to students. The graduate and his/her two guests will be seated on the Stadium field for the Commencement Ceremony. Non-ticketed guests will be seated on a first-come, first-served basis in the bleacher seats on both sides of the field. Gates to the Stadium will open at 2:30 p.m. In the event of severe weather (thunder, lightning, heavy rain), the Commencement Ceremony will be moved indoors to the Pavilion. The same two tickets will be used for seating in the Pavilion.

Commencement Etiquette
Graduates and guests are expected to behave respectfully to maintain the dignity of the ceremony. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted. Families are asked to adhere to this policy to help create an appropriately festive and celebratory environment for the graduates.

Special Needs
Guests who may be unable to manage the bleachers should alert an usher. The usher will provide direction to appropriate seating on the field. There is no registration or tickets required. Guests who require a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the President at (610) 519-8882 to secure special needs reserved seating. A simulcast will be available in the Jake Nevin Field House regardless of weather.
Parking
Graduates will have the opportunity to receive two designated-lot parking passes for the ceremonies. Prior to the Graduation Fair, each graduate must indicate on the Graduation Fair Form online the number of parking passes needed. One of the two parking passes that each graduate receives can be exchanged for an accessible parking lot (Lot A-2) pass if the graduate notes that request on the online form. Passes will then be distributed at the Graduation Fair on April 27 in the Villanova Room, Connelly Center.

On-campus parking will be limited. Every vehicle must have a Commencement parking pass to enter campus on Friday afternoon and Saturday. Additional free parking with shuttle service will be available at the Radnor Financial Center.

Severe Weather
Graduates will be given two tickets for the Commencement Ceremony. Should severe weather conditions (thunder, lightning and heavy rain) force the ceremony to be moved inside of the Pavilion, the same two seating tickets are used for the indoor ceremony. Children under the age of three do not need tickets. Due to fire regulations and building capacity, additional tickets for the Pavilion are not available and requests for additional tickets will not be honored. Only those in academic attire or with tickets will be admitted to the Pavilion. Information regarding a change of location will be communicated by 2 p.m. via the Villanova University homepage (villanova.edu) and voice message on (610) 519-8882. Messages will also be sent via social media and the Commencement text alert system.

Degrees are conferred at the official Class of 2017 Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 19. In addition, all five Colleges hold convocations for graduates. Each graduate’s name is called and special recognition is given to award winners.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Undergraduate: The Pavilion at 9 a.m.
Graduate: Mendel Field at 2 p.m.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences holds two different events. Candidates for undergraduate degrees are expected to participate in the College’s Convocation and diploma distribution at 9 a.m. on Saturday in the Pavilion. Candidates for graduate degrees are invited to participate in the Graduate Studies Convocation and diploma distribution at 2 p.m. on Mendel Field.

Doors to the Pavilion will open at 8 a.m. Seating in the Pavilion is first-come, first-served. Tickets are not required. There are several areas available to those who cannot manage bleachers; no advance reservation is required. Guests needing special assistance should see an usher upon arrival.

Undergraduate candidates are asked to report to the Jake Nevin Field House to line up for the procession and should wear full academic attire. The Convocation lasts approximately 90 minutes. Diplomas are handed out immediately following the ceremony in the Villanova Room, Connelly Center.

College Convocations
Saturday, May 20

Graduates’ Report
Time for College Convocations
45 minutes prior to ceremony start time
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Graduate Studies
Mendel Field
The Graduate Studies Convocation will take place under a large tent on Mendel Field. Guest seating will be available starting at 1 p.m. Tickets are not required. The graduate candidates will line up in front of Old Falvey beginning at 1:15 p.m. and should wear full academic attire. The ceremony lasts approximately one hour. Diplomas are distributed immediately after the ceremony on Mendel Field.

Guests needing handicapped parking must have a parking pass for this designated lot. Other guests may be dropped off at the Galberry entrance off of Lancaster Ave. Once guests have parked, hosts and golf carts will be available to assist with transport to the Commencement ceremonies.

College of Nursing
Driscoll Hall
The College of Nursing Convocation will take place on the Driscoll Hall Lawn at 9 a.m. Guest seating will be available starting at 8 a.m. Tickets are not required. The graduates will line up beginning at 8:15 a.m. and should wear full academic attire. The ceremony lasts approximately one hour. Diplomas are distributed immediately following the ceremony in Driscoll Hall.

Guests needing handicapped parking must have a parking pass for this designated lot. Other guests may be dropped off at the Galberry entrance off of Lancaster Ave. Once guests have parked, hosts and golf carts will be available to assist with transport to the Commencement ceremonies.

College of Professional Studies
Cinema, Connelly Center
The College of Professional Studies Convocation will take place in the Cinema at 9:30 a.m. Guest seating will be available starting at 8:30 a.m. Tickets are not required. The graduates will line up beginning at 8:45 a.m. and should wear full academic attire. The ceremony lasts approximately one hour. Diplomas are distributed immediately following the ceremony in the Radnor/St. David's Room, Connelly Center.

Guests needing handicapped parking must have a parking pass for this designated lot. Other guests may be dropped off at the Galberry entrance off of Lancaster Ave. Once guests have parked, hosts and golf carts will be available to assist with transport to the Commencement ceremonies.

College of Engineering
The Campus Green
The College of Engineering Convocation will take place outside on the Campus Green at 10 a.m. Guest seating will be available starting at 9 a.m. Tickets are not required. The graduates will line up beginning at 9:15 a.m. and should wear full academic attire. The convocation lasts approximately one hour. Diplomas are distributed immediately following the ceremony in CEER.

Guests needing handicapped parking must have a parking pass for this designated lot. Other guests may be dropped off at the Galberry entrance off of Lancaster Ave. Once guests have parked, hosts and golf carts will be available to assist with transport to the Commencement ceremonies.

Severe Weather
Should severe weather cause a change in plans for the individual college convocations on Saturday, a message will be communicated via the Villanova University homepage, voicemail (610) 519-8882, social media and the Commencement text alert system.

The College of Engineering severe weather location: Jake Nevin Field House
Baccalaureate Mass
Saturday, May 20
The Campus Green
4 p.m.

To officially conclude the Commencement celebration, all graduates and guests are invited to attend the Baccalaureate Mass on Saturday, May 20, at 4 p.m. on the Campus Green. Seating for Mass will be available starting at 3 p.m. It is recommended that graduates wear their gowns and hoods for the Mass (no caps). The Baccalaureate Mass lasts approximately 90 minutes. Following Communion, a blessing of the graduates will be included in the celebration. For this reason, graduates are asked to sit with family and friends for the Mass. Families are highly encouraged to attend this beautiful liturgy; all faiths are welcome.

Severe Weather
In the event of severe weather (thunder, lightning and heavy rain), the Baccalaureate Mass will be moved into the Pavilion. Guest seating will be first-come, first-served. When capacity is reached in the Pavilion, guests will be invited to attend the simulcast in the Jake Nevin Field House. Information regarding a change of location will be communicated by 3 p.m. via the Villanova University homepage (villanova.edu), a voice message on (610) 519-8882, social media and the Commencement text alert system.

Graduate Instructions
Prospective graduates should be sure to register for any remaining coursework required for degree completion. Students also must submit a Prospective Graduate Form indicating plans to graduate and providing instructions for the diploma engraver. All undergraduate students and graduate students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences may complete this form online via the Student tab on the MyNova portal. Graduate students in all other colleges should contact their respective academic dean’s office to complete a Prospective Graduate Form/Graduation Application.

Graduation Announcements
Villanova graduates can order graduation announcements from Nova Docs. Customers have the option of including the graduate’s name, college and degree in the text of the announcement. Students will also be able to order their announcement at the Graduation Fair.

After March 1, the Registrar’s Office will email all prospective graduates instructions to check their graduation status by choosing “Display and Verify Diploma Information” on the Student tab of the MyNova portal. Only the names listed on the Registrar’s Office Prospective Graduation List will be included on lists that permit cap and gown pickup (unless the student has received prior approval to participate in the Commencement Ceremony from his/her academic dean). Only graduates who have completed all of their degree requirements before May 31, 2017, will be listed in the Commencement Program. A diploma will only be released once the student is approved by his/ her academic dean’s office. Prospective graduates must meet all financial obligations before their diploma and final transcript are released.

Class of 2017 Graduation Fair
The Class of 2017 Graduation Fair will take place on April 27 in the Villanova Room, Connelly Center. At the fair, graduates will pick up their caps and gowns, seating tickets, and parking passes. Additionally, graduates will have the opportunity to meet someone from the Villanova University Alumni Association, purchase a yearbook and diploma frame from the University Shop, and make a donation to the Senior Class Gift.

Prior to the fair, graduating students MUST fill out the Graduation Fair Form online at villanova.edu/commencement. Students will receive more information via email as the date approaches.

Diploma Size
The Villanova University Shop carries a large selection of diploma frames. Diplomas measure 16 by 12 inches. Frames will also be available for purchase at the Graduation Fair on April 27 in the Villanova Room, Connelly Center.
Senior Survey
Each year, Villanova collects important data from its graduating full-time and part-time undergraduate students through the Senior Survey (graduate school students do not complete this survey). Students will be asked to complete both parts of the Senior Survey online prior to the Class of 2017 Graduation Fair.

Cap and Gown Pickup
Academic attire will be available for graduates to pick up at the Class of 2017 Graduation Fair in the Villanova Room, Connelly Center. There is NO FEE for academic attire, and students WILL NOT need to be measured. Graduates will keep all academic attire at the conclusion of the ceremonies. Students who are unable to pick up their cap and gown may have these items shipped to them (fees apply), or have someone else (a proxy) pick them up. The proxy must bring with them written/email permission with the graduate’s name, height and degree indicated. If a proxy is picking up materials, the graduate must still fill out the Graduation Fair Form online in advance.

Commencement Video Available
University Information Technologies (UNIT) will offer video of Commencement 2017 for all to view for free on YouTube (youtube.com/VillanovaUniversity). The video will also be available for download via iTunesU (villanova.edu/itunes).

Commencement Flowers
Villanova has contracted with a vendor to sell flowers on campus throughout Commencement Weekend. Information is available on villanova.edu/commencement. Orders may be placed ahead of time and picked up at the ceremony location. Flowers are also available for sale on the day of the ceremonies without pre-order.

Commencement Photos
Villanova has contracted with a vendor to provide photography throughout Commencement Weekend. The individual college convocation photos will be available for purchase through Legacy Photos. There will also be general weekend photos available for purchase online immediately following Commencement. Please visit villanova.edu/commencement for more information.

Belle Air Yearbook
Congratulatory ads are available in the 2017 edition of the Belle Air Yearbook. Each ad will be created by the University’s graphic design team to maintain consistency and professionalism.

To purchase a senior congratulatory ad or yearbook, please go to villanova.edu/yearbook. Yearbooks will also be available for purchase in the University Shop during Commencement Weekend.

VU Seniors
The VU Seniors Program consists of social, professional and spiritual activities designed to unify the senior class while preparing them for life after graduation. Campus offices offer many helpful, fun and informative programs, including a senior retreat, career resources, a senior spirit basketball game, and the annual Last Lecture. For more information, visit villanova.edu/seniors.

Senior Week Activities
Villanova Senior Week is a series of social programs for seniors to enjoy their last week as Villanova students. Seniors can make lasting memories on and off campus during this exciting time of year. Please visit the VU Seniors website (villanova.edu/seniors) for updates on Senior Week programming and pricing information. Events for this year may include the Senior Ball at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Senior Mass celebrated in the St. Thomas of Villanova Church, a Phillies game, the Senior Picnic at the Oreo, the Senior Class Gift Donor Recognition and more!

Senior Class Gift
Each year, the senior class shows its gratitude for their experience at Villanova and belief in the University’s future by making its first gift to the University. Seniors are asked to make a donation in honor of their senior year. They can choose to support a specific area that they feel has contributed to their overall success at Villanova.
What if my guests have special needs?
Any graduate whose guests require accessible parking may exchange one of their two designated-lot parking passes for a pass to an accessible parking lot by indicating such on the Graduate Fair Form. Eligible persons include those with a state-issued handicapped license plate or handicapped placard. The license plate must be on the vehicle or the placard displayed and easily visible to the parking attendants when cars approach the parking lot. Once guests have parked, hosts and golf carts will be available to assist with transport to the Commencement ceremonies.

Any guests without a handicapped placard but still requiring assistance may be dropped off at the Galberry entrance off of Lancaster Ave.

Where is Commencement parking?
On-campus parking for all ceremonies will require a designated-lot parking pass. Graduates will receive up to two parking passes after completing the Graduation Fair Form online. Additionally, off-campus parking and shuttles are available. Please refer to the parking section of the Commencement website (villanova.edu/commencement) for specific details and directions.

Do I need tickets for Commencement, and how many guests can attend?
Each graduate receive two tickets for the Commencement Ceremony after filling out the Graduation Fair Form online. These will be distributed at the Graduation Fair on April 27 in the Villanova Room, Connelly Center. Information regarding makeup dates will be emailed to students.

Gates to the Stadium will open at 2:30 p.m. In the event of severe weather (thunder, lightning, heavy rain), the Commencement Ceremony will be moved inside of the Pavilion. The same two tickets will be used for seating in the Pavilion. Unfortunately, should an indoor ceremony be necessary, additional guests cannot be accommodated. A simulcast will be available in the Jake Nevin Field House.

How long will the Commencement Ceremony last?
The University Commencement Ceremony on Friday will last approximately 90 minutes, and the recession should conclude by 6 p.m. Following the ceremony, all are invited to the Connelly Center for the President’s Reception for Graduates and Guests.

How long are the individual college convocations?
Each convocation on Saturday will differ in length, but typically last between 60 and 90 minutes. If your plans include lunch reservations, 1 p.m. would be a suggested time. Guests will have enough time to return to campus for the 4 p.m. Baccalaureate Mass, which concludes Commencement Weekend.

How long is the Baccalaureate Mass?
The Baccalaureate Mass on Saturday takes place on the Campus Green at 4 p.m. At the conclusion of the liturgy, there is a special blessing of the graduates. For this reason, graduates are encouraged to sit with family and friends. Mass normally ends by 5:30 p.m. It is recommended that any dinner reservations be made for after 6 p.m.

Are there seating and parking accommodations for those with special needs at each ceremony?
Guests who may be unable to manage the bleachers in the Stadium and Pavilion should alert an usher at any entrance. The usher will direct them to the special needs seating areas. Please allow only one or two guests to accompany those who require special needs seating so as to ensure enough seats for all guests with special needs. There is no advance registration for these seats. Guests may also view a simulcast of the Commencement Ceremony in the Jake Nevin Field House regardless of weather. All other locations have moveable seating on level ground.

Guests who require a sign language interpreter should contact the Office of the President at (610) 519-8882 to secure special needs reserved seating.

Get Commencement Text Updates and Announcements
Villanova University offers a complimentary text system for Commencement 2017 updates. The system will provide guests with text messages regarding parking and traffic, as well as notification should any Commencement events be moved or canceled due to weather or an unexpected circumstance. Registration, via a text message, is quick and easy, and will be available starting in March.

Please note:
• This service is designed to be used only in the case of urgent Commencement messages.
• Numbers will be purged following Commencement.
Is there a separate graduation ceremony for students who graduate in September or December?
Villanova holds one Commencement Ceremony each year in May for all graduates. All September and December graduates (prior to the upcoming graduation year) will receive the Commencement Information Booklet and automatically be included on the list that permits cap and gown pickup in May. September and December graduates do not need to notify the University in advance about their plans to attend Commencement.

If I graduate in September or December, may I participate in the May Commencement Ceremony?
September and December graduates may participate in the Commencement Ceremony in May following the completion of their degree. If September or December graduates wish to participate in the May Commencement Ceremony preceding their actual graduation, they must receive written permission from their academic dean. Graduates who wish to participate in commencement before degree completion must visit the Dean’s Office and complete the Request to Participate Form (also known as the “walker” form), which must be signed by the department chair, as well as a representative from the Dean’s Office. Please note: Candidates who choose this option will not have their name listed in the Commencement Ceremony Program and will not be issued a diploma until their degree requirements are completed.