

**REMARKS OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE  
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEDICATION OF ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO SEMINARY  
AMBLER, PENNSYLVANIA  
OCTOBER 12, 2024**

Dear Friends,

It is good to be with you today. As the personal representative of the Holy Father to the Church in the United States, I am happy to convey to you the spiritual closeness and paternal affection of Pope Francis.

In his Message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations back in 2019, the Pope reminded us “how the Lord’s call makes us *bearers of a promise* and, at the same time, asks of us the *courage to take a risk*, with him and for him”.<sup>1</sup> You seminarians know how true this is in your own lives: you have taken a risk in following your vocation, trusting in God’s promise of a joy that is capable of bringing fulfillment to your lives.

Today, as we arrive at this dedication ceremony, we also celebrate the risk that has been taken by the entire community of St. Charles Borromeo. It was not easy to leave behind the former Seminary: its beautiful historic buildings, its spacious grounds, and the countless treasured memories of those who spent time there over the past 150 years. It was a risk to make the decision to uproot from there—a risk that required much letting go and understandable sorrow.

But the promise that God has made, and which you carry, is being renewed each day at this Seminary. His promise is to continue to call men to a life of joyful service, and to form them as shepherds after the heart of his Son. May God reward your risk. May he continue to make us a Church that does “not hold back out of fear of making mistakes and our fear of following new paths”, because “There are no priorities to be placed before the proclamation of the resurrection, before the *kerygma* of hope.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis, Message for the 2019 World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 31 January 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Pope Francis, Address to Participants at the International Meeting “The Church Which Goes Forth”: *Evangelii Gaudium*: Reception and Perspectives, 30 November 2019.