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Message: Most Rev. David Zubik, Pittsburgh

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Dear Spiritan Fathers and Brothers:

It gives me great delight to send greetings on the 150th anniversary of the founding of the United States Province of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit. You are part of my own heritage as a graduate of Duquesne University. There, you sought to shape my intellect, my heart and my soul in the image of Jesus Christ, and to teach me to be attuned to the Holy Spirit. My prayer is that my ministry to the Church of Pittsburgh has honored your ministry to me.

Spiritan ministry epitomizes Jesus' parable of the great banquet, in which the host reaches beyond the privileged to invite those who are poor, marginalized or struggling with disabilities. Your earliest ministry in the United States was among persons of color on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line and among marginalized immigrants. In 1878, in the rooms above a bakery on Wylie Avenue in the Hill District, Duquesne University was founded so that the daughters and sons of immigrants might gain an education that would take them beyond the mills and mines.

Through your ministry at Duquesne you have influenced our community and our world, helping those in need and sending out graduates prepared to live the values of the Gospel.

Over the course of the last century and a half, you have responded to the pastoral needs of our faithful in Emsworth, Greenfield, Hazelwood, Millvale, Oakland, Polish Hill, Sharpsburg, the Strip District, Tarentum and West Mifflin. The legacy of the Spiritan Charism still continues in those areas of the

The Spiritan commitment to persons with disabilities is inspirational. Duquesne offers classroom education for people with Down Syndrome and other intellectual challenges, while "Best Buddies" brings more seriously impaired students to campus for enrichment activities with student volunteers. This is a blessing to the students with challenges, to their families, to the students who accompany them and ultimately to every community where any of the participants live. Your ministry highlights the value of every human life.

The presence of the Spiritan provincial headquarters in the Church of Pittsburgh is quiet but powerful. For 150 years you have sent out servants of our Lord, who invite hurting, forgotten and destitute people to come to the banquet of faith, knowledge and love in God's kingdom. May God bless and renew your ministry for the next 150 years.

Grateful for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God," I am

Your brother in Christ,

Most Reverend David A. Zubik

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Bishop of Pittsburgh

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