About the Graduation Rehearsal and Mass:

Congratulations on reaching this important milestone in your life and your homeschooling. The Graduation Committee would like to thank you for participating in the Twenty Fourth Annual NICHE Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Exercise.

This year's **Baccalaureate Mass** will be **Friday, June 2nd, 2023 at 3:00 pm,** taking place at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will be our Celebrant for Mass. The **Commencement Exercise will be around 4:50 pm,** at St. Mary Mother of God Catholic Church, 1101 Lafayette St. Fort Wayne, 46802. A pot-luck reception will follow the Commencement Exercise.

A **practice** is tentatively scheduled for **Thursday, June 1st at 1:00 pm.** We will start the practice at the Cathedral and then will proceed to St. Mary's to finish the practice. This will last approximately one and half hours. Parents are invited to stay for the practice.

At the Mass, the graduates will process in and sit together in the front right-hand side of the sanctuary. At the end of Mass, graduates will process down the aisle, immediately following the Bishop. After Mass, graduates will be able to assemble for pictures on the front steps of the Cathedral. The Bishop will be present for pictures if his schedule permits.

The Commencement Exercise at St. Mary Mother of God is not far from the Cathedral. Please plan to arrive by **4:30 to 4:40 pm** so the ceremony can start **before 5:00**. The Commencement will begin with a procession and an opening prayer. There will be the presentation of the diplomas by the parents and our speaker, **Father Stephen Felicichia**, will address the graduates. After a concluding prayer, graduates will process out and toss their caps outside. Pictures may be taken during the presentation of diplomas and after the Commencement.

Parents are responsible for obtaining and presenting a diploma to their graduate at the Commencement Exercise at St. Mary's. Parents will need to bring the diploma to the ceremony. Lora McClamrock has made very nice diplomas for us in the past (check the newsletter in the spring) or you can print your own or order one online. In a pinch, rolling up a piece of paper can serve as a makeshift diploma for pictures. Some parents present their diploma in a frame or diploma cover. When your student's name is called, you will all walk to the front and present your diploma. Please remain at the front until the emcee has finished introducing you and reading any senior bios. There will be a brief opportunity for pictures at this time.

Due to the solemnity of this graduation event, all high school graduates are asked to wear caps and gowns during both the Mass and the ceremony. Color choice for the cap and gown is up to the graduate. Also, all 8th grade and high school graduates are asked to wear modest dress suitable for Sunday Mass. A cap and gown, as well as the tassel and honor cords may be purchased on the web on Amazon, Jostens, HSLDA, or other internet sites. Caps and gowns can also be borrowed from families and friends. If a cap and gown are borrowed please remember to obtain a tassel and honor cord if needed.

Any questions? Please call or text Emily Mondok 260-312-0694 or emondok6@gmail.com