

TO: Clarke Graduation Candidate and Families

FROM: Joan Lingen, BVM, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Commencement Activities

As we prepare for this year's baccalaureate liturgy and Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 8, I'd like to share some important information to assist you in planning for this momentous day. All graduates (Bachelor, Masters, DPT) are expected to participate in the Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement. Of course, family and friends are invited to attend and tickets are not issued. The schedule for Commencement weekend includes:

Friday, May 7:

9 a.m. Baccalaureate & Commencement Practice (gather in the Wahlert Atrium)
Students will line up by their degree and alphabetically. Practice should conclude by 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 8:

8:30 a.m. Robert and Ruth Kehl Center Open

8:30 – 10 a.m. Whitlow Bookstore Open.
Quick breakfast food/beverage items and lunch tickets available for purchase.

10 a.m. Baccalaureate Mass in Robert and Ruth Kehl Center (students line up at 9:20 a.m. in Atrium)

11:30 – 12:30 Robert and Ruth Kehl Center closed.

12:45 Grad Toast with family, in the Student Activity Center (Invitation Only)

11:30 – 1:00 Buffet picnic lunch available in the Student Dining Room in Mary Josita Hall.
Tickets may be purchased in the bookstore 1-2 weeks prior to commencement, in the Kehl Center from 8:30-10 a.m. on Saturday or in the entrance of Mary Josita Hall just prior to lunch.

2 p.m. Commencement Ceremony in the Robert and Ruth Kehl Center
(graduates line up at 1:15 p.m. in Atrium)

3:30 Student Family Reception in the Atrium with light refreshments.

- The Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement ceremony are major events on campus that require a great deal of coordination. In order to ensure a smooth running event, it is important for students to attend the rehearsals on May 7. Rehearsal gives students an opportunity to understand the order of line up and

procession, identify seating arrangements, become familiar with Jolesch Photographer request and give input on the correct pronunciation of your name.

- **Proper Dress for Graduation:** As a formal academic procession, we recommend **black or dark dress shoes** be worn with your academic attire. Since you will be climbing stairs to and from the stage, practicality is of greater consideration than fashion. Gentlemen are encouraged to wear dress shirt and tie. **Flowers are never worn with academic attire.**
- Caps/gowns will be available for distribution one week prior to graduation in the Whitlow Bookstore. When picking up your cap/gown, be prepared to indicate the number of family/friends planning to participate in the on-campus lunch that is available in the Student Dining Room from 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m. on Saturday, May 8.

Please make plans to meet your family/guests after each ceremony on the Atrium concourse, not the Kehl Center concourse or steps. The Kehl Center area becomes congested and safety is a concern for all exiting the building.

We look forward to helping make this a most memorable occasion for you and your family. Additional details may be found on the Clarke College Web site at www.clarke.edu/currentstudents.