



Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House

October 29, 2022

Ms. Patricia McGuire  
President  
Trinity Washington University  
125 Michigan Avenue, Northeast  
Washington, D.C. 20017

Dear Madam President:

Thank you for your generous invitation to participate in this morning's Convocation and celebration of Trinity's 125th anniversary! Students, alumni and friends of Trinity are in awe of your magnificent leadership: propelling this storied academic institution into a vibrant, inclusive university shaping the mission-driven leaders of tomorrow. Thanks also to Chair Amy Freeman and the entire Board of Trustees for your excellent stewardship of this treasured institution.

I wish that I could be there for this weekend's festivities – as this campus and our community are very close to my heart. Indeed, it is always a delight to walk the marble corridors of the Main Hall, to bask in the splendor of the breathtaking Notre Dame Chapel, to proudly don the purple and gold – and to be with my closest friends in the world. My family is relieved and thankful to report that Paul is receiving excellent medical care, and he is expected to make a full recovery. We deeply appreciate all of the love, prayers and kind messages of support we have received during this difficult time.

Trinity was founded at a time when women did not yet have the right to vote and the deadly regime of Jim Crow reigned. Yet in this crucible, Trinity was forged by the courage, vision and pioneering spirit of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Today, Trinity endures: one of a handful Catholic women's colleges in America – and now, proudly, one of only three both Predominantly Black and Hispanic Serving academic institutions. This is as important now as ever: ensuring that the brightest young minds from all walks of life have an opportunity to succeed.

To that end, Paul and I are proud to establish the Nancy D'Alesandro Pelosi Chair in Global Affairs and Politics: to further Trinity's important mission of producing public servants who reflect the beautiful diversity of our great nation. And it is our hope that this initiative will lift up leaders who – enhanced by their Trinity experience – will go on to fight for justice, progress and peace.

On this day, it is also my special honor to send warm greetings from the United States Congress to the VIPs of today's ceremony: the Class of 2023! Powered by your hard work and perseverance – and supported by your loving families and wise faculty – you are quickly closing in on graduation day. And you will soon be sent forth with a world-class education and a hunger to make a difference.

In order to triumph over economic inequality, racial injustice, the climate crisis, the march of autocracy and more, we need your energy and your perspective, your voice and your ideas. As we face the many immense challenges before us, know this: there is nothing more wholesome for our politics, our government and our society than the full participation and leadership of women.

As you prepare for your path forward, allow me to share the best advice that I have ever received.

Be yourself – be ready to seize your opportunity to serve when it arises.

Know your "why" – what drives you in this fight, springing from your family and your faith, your vision and your values.

Know your power – your unique way to spark change. The authenticity of you is what your community, your country and your world need right now.

As you go forward, know that your fellow Trinity Sisters look to you with great pride.

best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI  
Speaker of the House