



# Bishop McDevitt High School

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(215) 887-5575

Office of the Principal

January 5, 2006

Dear Colleague in Education:

I wish to extend to your school, faculty and students, a cordial invitation to participate in a unique religious encounter, The Papal Colloquium. This conference will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at Bishop McDevitt High School. The World Affairs Club will assist in hosting this event. Please remember that twenty years ago on April 17, 1986, Bishop McDevitt and the Brothers of Charity hosted a similar conference entitled, The Triest Colloquium. On that day, your school participated in that memorable gathering.

This Papal Colloquium will focus on Pope John Paul II's encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae*, "The Gospel of Life." Invitations have been sent to all of the Archdiocesan and Private Catholic Secondary Schools within the Archdiocese. We would request that you select 4 articulate leaders who are committed Catholic youth, from your Senior and/or Junior class to represent your school.

We encourage you to select these students from diverse activities such as: Student Council, CSC, National Honor Society, School Newspaper, Forensics and Athletics. After the Colloquium, we will hope that these student participants would transmit their experiences back to their respective schools and individual classes.

Dr. Robert P. George, the McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University has accepted an invitation to give the keynote address for this Papal Colloquium. Please know that we have received a most encouraging endorsement from the Office of Catholic Education of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Enclosed you will find a) 4 copies of the Papal Encyclical and b) 5 copies of articles and questions which should assist you in reviewing and understanding this document. During the conference, three discussion sessions will treat the following aspects of the Encyclical:

- Session I – Chapter 1 – New Threats to Human Life
- Session II – Chapters 2 + 3 – The Christian Message Concerning Life
- Session III – Chapter 4 – The New Culture of Human Life

In these sessions, an adult facilitator will lead and guide the discussion and encourage all participants to share their reflections with the students in their group.

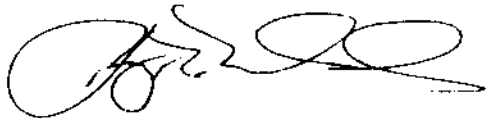
The registration on Tuesday, January 31 will begin at 1:00 PM in the rear of the auditorium at McDevitt. Here, only the faculty advisor should report to the right table where Colloquium materials will be distributed. There will be two tables for the schools- table 1 for those schools whose first names begin with letter A through K; table 2 for those schools whose first names begin with letter L through Z.

The registration fee will be \$10.00 for each of the student participants. Please make the check (\$40.00) payable to Bishop McDevitt High School. This fee will cover dinner, which will be provided. Faculty advisors will be our guests.

In the coming weeks, we urge your students to examine prayerfully and critically this encyclical. During these sessions, the students will discuss vital issues, share insights and listen. They will come away with a deeper appreciation and understanding for the subtleties and frustrations as well as the satisfaction of leadership in a world desperately searching for moral values and principles.

Your enthusiastic response to this unique spiritual experience will be appreciated. Please take a moment to complete the registration sheet and return it in the enclosed envelope.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harry R. Neenhold', written in a cursive style.

Harry R. Neenhold  
Principal