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From the President: Strengthening Our Resolve

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STRENGTHENING OUR RESOLVE

As we plot a path forward for DePaul amid the tumult and uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our mission and values continue to serve as our guide, aided by a belief in the power of science and reliance on the most authoritative information available. It is for this reason that we share stories of our faculty, students and alumni excelling in the health care and health sciences fields in this issue of DePaul Magazine.

Notwithstanding our rich history—one that stretches back almost 125 years—DePaul is experiencing a significant number of firsts. During spring quarter, our first fully online academic term, our stellar faculty transitioned in a matter of weeks to teach 4,000 classes online. More than 800 faculty, staff, students and alumni participated in our first virtual Vincentian Service Day. We celebrated the graduation of more than 6,000 students at our first virtual commencement ceremony. We created our first prospective student virtual tours and visit days to introduce thousands of future DePaul students and their families to our university.

COVID-19 prompted the DePaul community to pivot, and we responded with grace and determination—because that’s the DePaul way.

I have always seen higher education as a vehicle for changing the trajectory of one’s life. This pandemic has only strengthened our resolve to find ways to serve students through new and intriguing pathways. Driven by our Catholic, Vincentian mission, we are more determined than ever to provide a diverse community of learners with access to nationally ranked academic programs and support services that will enable them to thrive.

Looking ahead, DePaul plans to be open for limited in-person learning this fall quarter. Delivering classes safely will require nimbleness, creativity and patience. A detailed blueprint is in development, while ensuring the health, well-being and safety of the entire university community remains our highest priority.

We know Vincentians learn from experience and apply that knowledge to each circumstance. True to that spirit, we have continued to learn and grow as we face each new challenge this pandemic presents. I

have no doubt that we will continue in this spirit through the uncharted territory that lies ahead.

The new DePaul experience will look different from yours, but the knowledge and values that accompany a DePaul education will not. The world needs DePaul graduates more than ever right now, and I remain grateful for the continued support of our alumni and friends in making a DePaul education accessible to a new generation of leaders, problem-solvers and achievers.

If there ever were a time to call on St. Vincent de Paul, who persevered through the plague and wars throughout his life, this is it. He reminds us that the fervent prayers of the humble pierce the clouds. He called them “darts of love.” We hope you feel the love of the DePaul family today and always.

Stay safe. Stay well. We are DePaul.

A. Gabriel Esteban

A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD
President