



DAEMEN

COLLEGE

A World of Opportunity

Office of the President

March 1, 2021

Daemen College
Students, Faculty and Staff

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you today with some very sad news. Last night, Dr. Dennis DePerro, President of St. Bonaventure University, passed away after a long battle with COVID-19. He was 62 years old.

Our deepest sympathies go to Dr. DePerro's family and the entire St. Bonaventure community. This is sadly another reminder of the devastation and nondiscriminatory nature of this virus. We are approaching a year since the official nationwide stay-at-home orders were first issued, and I know that we are all experiencing fatigue over the precautions and limitations associated with our "new normal." That being said, Dr. DePerro's passing reminds us that we are still battling this pandemic and must remain conscientious and vigilant.

I am proud at how well the Daemen community has responded to this challenging year. Your dedication has allowed us to keep our positivity rate extremely low, but we cannot become complacent or let down our guard. We must continue to keep one another safe by sticking to our plan: respect to protect.

The vaccine distribution continues to make substantial progress so we should all feel a sense of relief that the light at the end of the tunnel is near, but stay the course! We will get to the other side of this pandemic and be stronger for it.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson
President