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Memorial Service Thank You

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Memorial Service Thank You

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President Petillo <president@sacredheart.edu>

Mon 2/15/2021 5:30 PM

Dear members of the Sacred Heart community,

Today was both a moving and heartbreaking day at Sacred Heart as we honored those in the state who have been lost to COVID-19, along with those connected to members of our community, by reading their names. One of the University's core values is to recognize the worth and dignity of every human being, and that is what we did today by putting names—and in some cases, faces—to the more than 7,000 people in this state who have already succumbed to this deadly disease.

I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to put together such an impressive and poignant service in a very short period of time. Thanks, especially, to the team from the Office of Mission and Catholic Identity for their hard work in planning the program for the day, organizing readers and keeping everything moving onsite. Thanks also to the folks from marketing & communications for collecting the names, putting together the livestream on YouTube and the campus monitors, scrolling the names, publicizing the event and much more. We are also very grateful to the singers who provided the beautiful music.

A special thank you goes out to all the members of the planning committee: Father Tony Ciorra, Jason Ebert, Rob Gilmore, Bill Haug, Michael Iannazzi, Valerie Kisselback, Beth Koscinski, John Michniewicz, Ami Neville, Deb Noack, Julia Olson, Christopher Quigley and Saji Thengumkudiyil.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who volunteered to read the more than 7,000 names—125 or so for each of you. Without you, this service would not have been as meaningful. To have students, faculty, staff, alumni and state and local leaders all participating in the reading was extremely impactful. It brought home to all of us just how deadly this disease has been and how many families have been impacted by the loss of one or more loved ones to this pandemic. As Father Tony said in his opening welcome, today was a day of solemn remembrance at Sacred Heart.

So my thanks for reading go to Ismail Abdulrashid, Michael Alfano, Lauren Bayreuther, Melissa Blanco, Rachel Bowman, Alicia Briley, Corry Brinken, Robin Cautin, Dale Danowski, Maryann Davidson, Colleen DeGennaro, State Representative Laura Devlin, Mary Alice Donius, Kylee Dubroski, Christine Douville, Christopher Douville, Margaret Flaherty, Michael Frechette, Nick Frias, Trendon Gardner, Mike Giarratano, Rob Gilmore, Susan Goncalves, Sara Helfrich, State Senator Tony Hwang, Angela Klensch, Beth Koscinski, Kayla Kruk, Fairfield First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchik, Julie Lawrence, State Representative Jennifer Leeper, Maria Lizano-Dimare, Nicole Loiz, Greg Madrid, Corina Marcu, Rebecca Margolnick-Fernandez, Lee Morgan, SHU Trustee Jim Morley, Deb Noack, Amy Novak, Trevor O'Brien, Rupendra Paliwal, Sabina Petillo, Pam Pillo, Dom Pinto, Joseph Polizzi, Susan Skoog, Shannon Szefinski, Denise Tiberio, Shannon Torres, State Representative Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Alison Villanueva and Jessica Wallace.

If you didn't have a chance to stop by or view the livestream while it was happening, [you can still watch some or all of it](#). I recommend that you take a look and get a feel for what a significant and relevant event it was. For those of you in our community who submitted names and photos or who have lost a loved one to this disease, you have our deepest condolences and our prayers.

Thank you.

John J. Petillo, Ph.D.
President

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