Archbishop Lori, Bishop Malooly, Bishop Madden, Father Hurst, Distinguished guests and friends: Good Evening.

My name is David Kinkopf and I serve as the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of St. Mary’s Seminary & University. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am privileged to add our words of appreciation to Fr. Tom Hurst for his leadership and service to this university.

I am happy to acknowledge the presence of so many trustees, former trustees, priests, and other friends and supporters of the Seminary and University, whose presence attests to the respect and appreciation we all have for Fr. Hurst. I would also note the presence of many staff this evening, who have worked so well and closely with Fr. Hurst over the years and who share Fr. Hurst’s commitment to helping form the best of the next generation of priests. Fr. Hurst, we are all here tonight because we have such admiration and affection for you.

We are blessed in so many ways to have Fr. Hurst and his many talents leading the Seminary and University. One surprisingly beneficial talent (of the many Fr. Hurst has) is that Fr. Hurst’s academic interests lie in archaic languages. In fact, his Ph.D. is in Semitic Languages and Literature, specializing in Hebrew, Arabic, and Syriac (which I didn’t even know was a language). Fr. Hurst is also quite proficient in 5 other foreign languages; personally, I have trouble with just English most days. When Fr. Hurst came here, we did not know how useful it would be to have this knack for translating some other rather obscure and exotic tongues--because that is exactly what is needed in the wide range of issues he has to deal with in higher education administration and when talking with a board made up of people with widely diverse backgrounds and expertise-- including bishops, Sulpicians, faculty, students, leaders in business and higher education, and even the occasional, dreaded lawyer. Fr. Hurst had to do a lot of translating of archaic terms: Fr. Hurst could translate for us laity when the discussion involved church issues like ecclesiastical faculties, canonical patrimony, or concepts in *Pastores Dabo Vobis*; but those are issues for which we knew he was well prepared; he then showed great flexibility in translating for the non-business priests and bishops financial concepts he mastered like investment yields, loss control accounting, and environmentally-restricted bequests; and of course he really showed his translation mettle by making sense to us non-academics the niceties of accreditation with its perpetual strategic planning, performance measures, and feedback loops. These are subjects Fr. Hurst didn’t study in Seminary, but his translating skills were definitely put to great use.

More seriously, this highlights Fr. Hurst’s deftness and sensitivity in managing a complex institution. He does it with a strong, steady hand; with a marvelous ability to know when to step in and directly resolve a concern, when to step back and trust the work of others, and when and how to gently guide us toward the right answer he knew all along. And his does it with a wonderful sense of humor and a deep love for the Church and Her mission.

And most of all, we have seen how Fr. Hurst leads as a true model of the Good Shepard, a pastor to this community whose legacy will be felt most profoundly through the many who leave here and like Fr. Hurst, live a life of discipleship following Christ and His command to “Go, Teach All Nations.”[[1]](#footnote-1) Thank you, Fr. Hurst.

1. Matthew 28:19; inscribed in the façade over the main door to St. Mary’s Seminary and University. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)