

PARENT PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS EMAIL 4.20.20

Subject: 100% Tuition Coverage for New Students for Fall 2020

Dear NAME,

Peace and Blessings!

The impact of this pandemic will be felt for years, and I find myself praying frequently for all of you mourning for precious lives lost in your families and around the world.

I am also praying for those whose sense of peace and purpose have been disturbed by these trying times and for those trying to recover from the economic harm caused.

So much of your SON's/DAUGHTER's life has been disrupted by the coronavirus: HE's/SHE's missed out on HIS/HER last prom, last sports season, last theater production, as well as senior week, commencement exercises, and graduation parties—all that makes a last semester in high school memorable in so many ways.

Please know that CHILD's NAME has been in my thoughts and prayers as HE/SHE copes with the loss of those last, treasured high school moments. But as sorry as I am about that—and I truly am sorry—I am also concerned that CHILD's NAME may miss out on the important “firsts” in HIS/HER future.

That first day as a college freshman . . . the first time moving into a new dorm . . . the first friend made, that forever friend . . . the first class in a new favorite subject with a new favorite professor . . . the first mission trip that meant more than ever imagined . . . the first scrimmage with teammates—who are also CHILD NAME's BROTHERS/SISTERS in Christ . . . the first time your SON/DAUGHTER encounters Jesus here at Franciscan. . .

You see, because of the uncertainties and fears spawned by COVID-19, I have heard from many parents who now have concerns about sending their child to college. They're thinking about switching to online classes or delaying college a year. For some, that's because of fear; for others, that's because of financial troubles or family issues. And, I get that. I really do.

I wish I could remove fears or resolve family problems. I can't. But I can help you a bit with the finances.

**Franciscan University will cover 100% of your child's tuition after scholarships and grants for fall 2020, through Step in Faith, our COVID-19 response plan.**

Franciscan University has never done anything like this before. I seriously doubt we'll ever do it again. Honestly, it's a step in faith for us as a university—as I know it is for you as a parent.

Sending your child off to college can be scary even in a normal year. Although I am not a parent, I understand that this year will require more than the usual courage and confidence in God's protection to let your child leave home. But as a spiritual father to the 2,300 “kids” the Lord has entrusted to me, I assure you that I take very seriously the charge to provide a safe, healthy campus community for your child.

As you'd expect, Franciscan University follows recommended guidance for creating and maintaining a healthy environment and responding to COVID-19. More importantly, our Franciscan University community is small and exceptionally caring, so we notice and tend to your child's needs more readily than large state schools.

Again, this is a step in faith—one I hope you'll take with Franciscan University this fall.

And I also hope it helps you a bit to know that Franciscan University will cover 100% of CHILD'S NAME'S tuition after scholarships and grants for fall 2020.

Your child has this unprecedented opportunity now because I don't want CHILD'S NAME to miss out on the Franciscan "firsts" that I experienced in my undergrad years here—the vibrant faith community sharing in Masses, Festivals of Praise, eucharistic adoration, and faith households; the excellent academic formation; the challenge to grow as a Catholic; the serious and silly late-night conversations; the lessons learned on the playing field; and so much more.

All of these have an irreplaceable value. A value I want CHILD'S NAME to experience at Franciscan University of Steubenville—a value I hope our [Step in Faith plan](#) can help your SON/DAUGHTER to embrace in our academically excellent and passionately Catholic community.

Please know you remain in my prayers—and that I look forward to welcoming your SON/DAUGHTER to Franciscan this fall.

Peace,  
Father Dave

Father Dave Pivonka, TOR  
President  
Franciscan University of Steubenville