Good morning and welcome to our annual commitment to nursing ceremony!

On behalf of St. Joseph's, its College administration, faculty and staff, we are so happy to be able to have all of you with us here today to congratulate these extraordinary nursing students who have chosen St. Joseph’s Health College of Nursing, a nationally recognized center of excellence, to advance their education.

Nursing is challenging and demanding – and having the support of families and friends is invaluable. I want to recognize and thank all of you for being there for these students.

I would also like to thank the nursing faculty and college administrators, who are also renewing their commitment today, to our SJCON students. Your dedication to the students is incredible and just one of the many reasons they are successful. Please stand to be recognized.

As they say, it takes a village. And while each of you play a role in directly supporting each other, our incredibly generous donors have also bestowed $24,250 dollars in scholarships and awards to these students. To all the donors - thank you so much for your generosity and belief in our students.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank the members of our college governing board, who have joined us today to honor these students’ commitment to nursing.

Today’s commitment ceremony is an important tradition. We take this time, part of the way through a nursing student’s journey, to reflect on the hard work that has been done and all that has been accomplished, while also looking forward toward the ranks of nurses they will soon join.

We are celebrating you, and what it means to be a nurse at St. Joseph’s Health. This requires exceptional dedication, and we mark this occasion with the presentation of a pin or cross, symbolizing a collective pledge to serve together as compassionate healers to patients and their families.

St. Joseph’s Health nurses dedicate themselves to caring for each patient’s needs in the healing spirit of the gospel. It is a calling; one we are both happy and proud you have answered.

Congratulations to all of our students on your hard work and achievements. Your commitment to the profession of nursing makes a difference: to your patients, to St. Joseph’s Health, and to our community. Never has nursing’s importance been so profoundly clear as has been demonstrated over the past year in our state, the nation, and around the world.

Your work makes a difference.

We—the administrators, the faculty, and I—are so very proud of each of you, and we will continue to support you as you strive to complete your initial nursing education.

Congratulations, and take pride in what you have achieved. You are becoming a St. Joseph’s Health nurse.