

Maria College, Albany  
April 25, 2018  
Jacqueline Marie Kieslich, RSM

Let us pray.

We gather here to bless and celebrate this wonderful extension to the Maria College campus. We pray that this expansion of the campus will “excite our hearts and kindle in our minds a creativity that allows us to journey beyond old limits” -- which is, in fact, the mission of higher education!

We pray that these new facilities will embrace students with new ideas and provide a “vision that will inspire” providing exceptional educational benefits to both students and the eventual communities in which they will live and serve.

We pray that the faculty may be blessed with the “grace of encouragement, awakening the gifts in their students, and building in them the confidence to follow the call of the gifts they possess.”

We pray for the students that their studies may be “worthy of their hearts and the light of their thoughts”.

We pray for Maria College’s Board and Administrators that they will lead with courage and foresight, recognizing the educational and social needs and continue to create a learning community responsive to the economic and social and health needs of the greater Albany district.

As always, we pray these petitions in God’s name and our patroness, Sister Catherine McAuley, asking for the courage to respond with thankfulness for all that has been, and a resounding yes to all that will be. Amen.

All sections in quotes were inspired and taken from John O’ Donohue’s reflection on “For a New Position” in *To Bless the space Between Us: A Book of Blessings*; 2008. The final sentence was inspired by Dag Hammarskjöld’s words.