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## **Ave Maria University Celebrates Largest Graduating Class in School History**

*Bestselling author to deliver commencement address*

**AVE MARIA, Fla., May 4, 2023** – Ave Maria University in Florida will celebrate its largest graduating class in the school's 25-year history at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 6, with 297 students receiving their diplomas.

“We are honored and blessed to celebrate our largest graduating class in school history,” said Mark Middendorf, president of Ave Maria University. “The continued growth of our graduating classes is a testament to our remarkable faculty and staff, and the Catholic values to which we adhere at Ave Maria University.”

Patrick Lencioni, president of the Table Group and bestselling author of 13 books, which have sold more than 8 million copies and been translated into more than 30 languages, will be the commencement speaker for Ave Maria University’s 2023 graduation class. As president of the Table Group, Lenconi spends his time speaking and writing about leadership, teamwork and organizational health and consulting with executives and their teams.

“Patrick is not only an authentic Catholic but also one of the most inspirational business speakers and experts on leadership and teamwork,” said Middendorf. “The insightful wisdom he imparts to our students will be invaluable as they embark upon their future vocations as men and women of Christ.”

Ave Maria University's graduation ceremony will be preceded by a baccalaureate Mass at 5 p.m. Friday, May 5 at the Ave Maria Catholic Church and the president's dinner at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 5 at the Bob Thomas Student Union. Tickets are not required to attend Mass. The dinner, which is open to all graduating seniors, their family and guests, and to all faculty and staff members, requires advanced reservations and tickets. Seating is limited; tickets are available first come, first serve.

For more information about Ave Maria University's graduation, Mass and dinner, please visit <https://www.avemaria.edu/graduation/>.

To schedule an interview with Mark Middendorf, please contact Kevin Wandra (404-788-1276 or [kwandra@carmelcommunications.com](mailto:kwandra@carmelcommunications.com)) of Carmel Communications.

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### **About Ave Maria University**

Ave Maria University is a Catholic institution of higher learning located in Ave Maria, Florida. Ave Maria University was established in 2003 as a Catholic university, according to the guidelines of the Code of Canon Law by the Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida. The recognition of Ave Maria University as a Catholic University is granted upon the university's commitment to continue to be guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church and faithfulness to the apostolic constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. Ave Maria University is committed to helping its students develop the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life and grow in their appreciation of truth. The goal of AMU is simple: to build the foundation of a truly Catholic university that forms future generations of truly Catholic men and women faithful to the Magisterium of the Church. For more information about Ave Maria University, please visit [www.avemaria.edu](http://www.avemaria.edu).