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Eight-time Pro-Bowl Selection and Future NFL Hall of Famer Philip Rivers to address Ave Maria University Graduates at 2020 Commencement

AVE MARIA, Fla. (November 1, 2019) — Ave Maria University announced today that Philip Rivers, devout Catholic layman and eight-time NFL Pro Bowl quarterback of the Los Angeles Chargers, will address the Class of 2020 at its Commencement exercises next year.

“We are thrilled to have number 17 with us to celebrate our 17th year as a University and be with our graduates,” President Jim Towey said. “As a father of nine children who, at age 19, married his middle-school sweetheart, Philip Rivers has conducted his NFL career and family life in an exemplary fashion. He is truly a role model for our graduates.” Rivers is in his 16th year in the NFL and is 6th all-time in passing touchdowns, and 8th all-time in passing yards.

Chairman of the Board Michael Timmis is excited about Rivers’ willingness to travel coast-to-coast to be with the Class of 2020 on their special day. Rivers may have a special motivation for the journey: his youngest sister, Anna, an Ave Maria nursing student, will be among the day’s graduates. “It seems everything about Rivers’ life is centered on faith and family, including his football family,” Timmis said. Rivers’ children range in age from 17 years to 8 months old.

Ave Maria University’s commencement takes place on May 9, 2020 at 10AM in the Tom Golisano Field House. Recent commencement speakers have included U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos; former Florida Governor Jeb Bush; Carlyle Group Co-founder, Dan D’Aniello; U.S. Senator Rick Scott; Librarian of Congress Dr. James Billington; President of the American Enterprise Institute, Dr. Arthur Brooks; and His Eminence Sean Cardinal O’Malley, Archbishop of Boston and AMU trustee.