June 2017

"Remember Now Thy Creator in the Days of Thy Youth"
Ecclesiastes 12: 1

Dear Cadet Recruits and Parents;

Throughout our nation's history, her military leaders have known that the strength of a nation lay with the spiritual strength of its leaders. For this reason, the Citadel's mission to "educate and prepare graduates to become principled leaders in all walks of life," includes the moral and spiritual dimensions of cadet life. Accordingly, for the last forty years, the Cadet Chaplain has sponsored an event called **"The Gathering"** on Matriculation weekend.

"The Gathering" is a non-denominational convocation for all religious faiths and is held in the historic Summerall Chapel the evening before Matriculation Day. The purpose of the convocation is to provide an introduction to the campus clergy, cadet religious leaders and to the vibrant, campus religious life at the Citadel. This initial contact has proven to be helpful throughout a cadet's journey at The Citadel. Repeatedly, parents and cadets tell us how important **"The Gathering"** has been in assuring them of the many opportunities available on campus for their cadets to grow in their faith. With this in mind, you are cordially invited to the **"The Gathering 2017"** to be held at **Five PM** (5:00), Friday evening, **August 11th**, in Summerall Chapel. This convocation will be followed by an opportunity to meet with the campus pastor or religious leader of your own faith group or denomination.

On behalf of all of the many wonderful and dedicated campus pastors and leaders, I hope you will join us for **"The Gathering"** so that we have the pleasure of meeting you and answering your questions about campus religious life here at The Citadel. I believe that you'll find this time together will provide meaningful fellowship and be a source of encouragement during the challenging days ahead.

Sincerely,

Chaplain Joe Molina, CDR -SCM
Chaplain to the Corps of Cadets
And Director of Religious Activities