



# ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 6, 2014

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Archdiocese of Denver is blessed to be located in a part of the country that is rapidly growing and experiencing a boom in job creation. In the past year, Aurora, Boulder and Denver have all been named by numerous studies in the Top 10 for cities that are the best places to find a job.

At the same time, Pope Francis, joining Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Saint John Paul II, reminds us in his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* of the need to make faith an integral part of our daily lives, not just something that we practice in church. Our new Holy Father has also urged Catholics to bring the good news of forgiveness and healing in Christ and his Church to those on the “outskirts” of society. This means those who are materially poor, spiritually poor, or both.

I believe that Young Catholic Professionals will provide a place where the young people can grow in their faith, professional skills and, most importantly, in their ability to bring the Gospel into the workplace. Many times, those who are spiritually poor and living as if God does not exist can be found in our offices and companies.

It is much easier to set faith aside in today’s secular work environment than it is to be a person of faith. But Christ calls each of us as he did St. Peter, ‘Follow me’ (Jn. 21:19, 22). Saint John Paul II echoed this call when he visited Denver in 1993. “Do not be afraid...to take up the challenge of making Christ known in the modern metropolis,” he told those gathered in Cherry Creek State Park.

In keeping with that mandate, I offer my strong support to Young Catholic Professionals and encourage the faithful to support its work in the Archdiocese of Denver.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L.  
Archbishop of Denver