

Lorcan's grad speech 2016
(((943 words, 6 mins, 20 seconds)))

(((INTRO)))

Recently, I read a story of a mom who was busy at home preparing something important for work. She was also keeping an eye on her 7 year old son, Timmy. She needed a way to keep him occupied so she could get her work done. She found a magazine with a brightly colored map of the world. She ripped the picture into dozens of pieces and threw the pieces on the floor. Then she said to Timmy, "If you can put the map of the world back together, we'll go out for ice cream." Timmy had no idea what the map of the world looked like. So the mom knew this would occupy him for quite some time. But Timmy was done in five minutes. "How did you do that," asked the mom. He responded, "I noticed on the back of the map there was a picture of a man. So I put the picture together of the *man* using tape. Then I turned it over because I figured if I got the man right, the world would be right." (((REPEAT, SLOW))) *If I got the man right, the world would be right.*

This made me think of the class of 2016. If we get each of YOU right, then the world will be right.

(((BODY)))

One of the lessons you'll learn about survival in the adult world is to avoid talk of politics and religion in polite conversation. I'm going to violate that notion tonight. My message is both political and religious.

(((Politics)))

We can learn an important political lesson from our Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle. In pre-revolutionary France, the Brothers ran schools for the poor boys of the streets. In school, De La Salle would pass around a bread basket. He would tell these starving boys to *take what you need ... and put some bread in the basket if you can spare some*. De La Salle usually found that there was *more* bread in the basket *after* it had been passed around.

The political lessons ... be fair, share the sacrifice, and be grateful for what God has given you.

Fast forward to our current reality. The level of discourse among our political leaders is low and the divisiveness among the American people is deep. Sadly, *you* have grown up in a time when too many *politicians* have given *public service* a bad name.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

At CB, the class of 2016 built a great community where 238 students from all walks of life respect each other and care for each other. So you know it IS possible. Now ... show the WORLD that it is possible.

In 32 years, when we're watching the presidential debate on CNN and Tommy Payne, the republican senator from Yolo County is debating the democratic candidate and war hero Steven Schneider ... we expect a civil debate on how to build a better country. And ... gentlemen ... if you AREN'T civil and respectful ... your teachers AND YOUR MOTHERS ... will interrupt the debate and remind you of the values you've been taught.

It's up to people like Tommy and Stephen ... and ALL members of the class of 2016 to be fair, share the sacrifice, and be grateful for what God has given you.

((Religion))

Now on to the second topic that's taboo in polite conversation ... religion.

When you came to CB's Open House five years ago, we told you that ... while you may CHOOSE CB for academic excellence, it is our hope that when you graduate, you will know that our greatest priorities have been your spiritual and moral formation.

How did we do?

Did our liturgies, retreats, and daily prayer, -- and the example of our faculty and staff -- inspire you to lead moral, faith-filled lives? Think about the number of times, you've been asked to respond to the prompt, ((motion to the grads)) "Let us Remember" ... ((RESPONSE)) THAT WE ARE IN THE HOLY PRESENCE OF GOD.

Hopefully, you've taken the opportunity to really give this thought, to really take stock in the miracles that surround us every day because we are in God's Holy Presence.

- Did you feel the Holy Presence of God when you stood together to watch the sunrise after your freshmen lock-in?
- Or on Kairos?
- Think about your friends. Was it the HOLY PRESENCE OF GOD that inserted these people into your life at just the right time?
- Have you ever wondered how lucky you are to have the parents you have ... to live in this country ... and to be blessed with tremendous opportunities?
- And, wouldn't you love to have been in God's Holy Presence when he thought to himself ... this Burbridge girl ... this Brouwer boy... this Cornejo kid ... pretty cool ... I think I'll make two of 'em?

When you try to wrap your brain around all of these miracles, it can be overwhelming. People *without* faith call it coincidence. People of *faith* see God's hand at work.

Religion is the means of seeking to understand these miracles ... and developing habits of mind and heart, and a moral framework ... to appreciate these miracles and help others embrace and appreciate God's blessings.

(((CONCLUSION)))

Class of 2016, thank you for touching our hearts these past four years.

The world is your democracy. You vote with your life. Go out there to bring the Holy Presence of God to a world in desperate need of people like you.

St. John Baptist de La Salle ... PRAY FOR US

Live Jesus in our Hearts ... FOREVER