

Good evening families, friends, and most importantly, members of the Class of 2019!

Welcome to the 143rd commencement celebration of Christian Brothers High School. My name is Chris Orr and I am honored to serve as Principal. If you will please indulge me for a moment. I just need to "Snap" this to my "story."

The world needs to share in this moment as we celebrate the phenomenal Class of 2019 – 263 of the finest young men and women you could ever hope to meet. They have transformed our school community with their brilliant minds, loving hearts, helping hands and abiding faiths.

This past year has been an incredible year for Lasallians worldwide as we celebrated a Jubilee year commemorating 300 years since the passing of our founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle, into eternal life. His incredible legacy of Lasallian education lives on in 80 countries educating nearly 1 million students around the globe. In California, we celebrate 150 years since the Brothers first arrived on the west coast. We are profoundly blessed to carry on this rich Lasallian educational tradition long-recognized for its scholastic excellence, spiritual richness, and social consciousness.

In one of his meditations, St. John Baptist de La Salle wrote "To be entrusted with the teaching of the young is a great gift and grace of God." Distinguished guests, these graduates have been such a gift and grace of God!

Class of 2019, you have distinguished yourselves as scholars, artists, and athletes. You have lovingly given of yourselves in service to the vulnerable. You have served as retreat leaders and you have explored and celebrated faith. Most importantly, you have each shared of yourself. Each of you has contributed your own unique gifts to our community and each of you is forever a part of the history and tradition of this incredible school. Class of 2019, in the immortal words of Walk the Moon, you have carried each other and I know the kids are right!"

Speaking of history and tradition, audience members...are there any CB alumni in the house? It's always important to recognize alumni...Thank you for your contributions to our history and to this great legacy.

I'd like to leave the class of 2019 with a message of courage and of hope...Jonas Salk wrote, "Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality." I encourage you, class of 2019, to have the courage to reach for your dreams, the courage to work for your dreams, and the courage to fight for your dreams. We fully believe in you and will always be here to support you.

In the fall, the Class of 2019 is off to colleges and universities and programs in 20 states, the District of Columbia and two foreign countries. One of our young men has enlisted in the United States Coast Guard where he will serve and protect this great nation.

Tonight, we celebrate them all. I welcome you, again, to the 143rd commencement celebration of Christian Brothers High School. Thank you again for celebrating with us, and God Bless.