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Valedictory Address
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Have you ever heard the proverb, "curiosity killed the cat"? Well quite frankly, I think it's pretty dumb, and terribly misleading. It is the power of the curious mind that has allowed us to reach the level of human advancement and knowledge which we value today. The thrill of discovering a new favorite song, or the rush of excitement brought about by a new encounter all satisfy an innate desire to explore the unexplored. Our gift of curiosity has been nurtured by our experiences in high school and will be one of our greatest assets as we enter the next chapter of our lives.

When we entered Christian Brothers as freshmen, we were young, oblivious, and eager to experience the "refined subtleties" of high school. Now as graduating seniors, we're a few years older, a little less

oblivious, and perhaps desperately eager to escape the constraints of a dress code. Of course, I am understating our growth as individuals these past four years. Our class has contributed to some of the greatest accomplishments at CB, all while demonstrating resilience in face of adversity. Looking back at our vast high school experiences, I believe our progress was driven by a universal, unbounded curiosity. It challenged us to test our abilities in athletics, to understand our complex world through academics, and to explore our range of talents in visual and performing arts. It drove us crazy when our inquisitive minds were told to simply “trust the process” on Kairos, and it inspired us to discover new worlds and new ways to help others through service opportunities like Venaver. It may have even allowed some of us to make great friends who were just as eager to find compassion and camaraderie at CB. Class of 2015, we dared to be curious, and curiosity rewarded us with triumphs and happiness. But we can’t stop now. After these many years of lectures, essays, and exams, it is easy to dismiss the “spirit of learning” as a chore of high school. We can blame that partly on Mr. English’s lectures, which seem to outlast the span of the Roman

empire. (I'm only kidding, Mr. English). No, now is the time Class of 2015, to cherish every day as a fresh opportunity to quench our thirst for the experiences of life. Christian Brothers has created an exceptional environment promoting our development as thoughtful individuals. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the teachers, parents, counselors, coaches, and mentors, who have dedicated themselves to satisfying the insatiable inquiries of a new generation and inspiring us with their own conviction. We have worked so hard to reach this place in our lives, but we couldn't have done it without them.

Which leads us up to now, where our hard work from these past four years is commemorated with fancy diplomas and unflattering headwear. Some are ready to finally chase down their childhood dreams, while others may only have a vague, clouded image of their future. Many of us are intimidated by the uncertainty of life in this volatile, unpredictable world, and for good reason. But I must remind you, the unexpected, spontaneous turns in life will excite us a thousand times more than the charted course ever could. Though some paths may lead to

inevitable disappointment, you will come out of the other side with a rewarding sense of perspective and assurance to continue onward.

So what's the secret to success? Well, I couldn't tell you for sure—not yet—but my homie, Albert Einstein once said, “I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious.” Class of 2015, as we move forward with our lives, thrive on your curiosity. Let yourself be disturbed by the slightest doubt of what is possible, and strive to surpass the expectations you set for yourself. This is what will define you, and this is what will determine your impact on the world.

I consider it one of the greatest honors in my life to be a part of this graduating class, and a greater honor to impart my farewell. Stay curious, Class of 2015 and congratulations. Thank you.