

## Lorcan's Graduation Speech 2015

(965 words including ... 7 mins)

I'd like to begin with a story. Last Saturday morning, I booked an appointment at BloodSource to donate platelets and to have some quiet time to reflect on how to say goodbye to the class of 2015. I arrived at BloodSource early on Saturday ... only to be greeted by a MEMBER of the class of 2015 ... Kevin Vaughn ... donating blood. What a perfect inspiration. A week BEFORE graduation, Kevin was already living out our school motto, "*Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve.*" (((PAUSE))) Kevin is just one example of an exceptional class ... a class I've heard some CB teachers refer to as a "once in a career" class.

As sophomores, this class welcomed international students as CB launched an International Student Program. Our football team gained a quarterback from Sweden, Chris Guillen ... a.k.a. "the Swede." And this class elected to student council ... Lee-ven Lu-ahw (((Liwen Luo))), a young lady from China.

To the Swedish members of the class of 2015 who left THEIR families to join the CHRISTIAN BROTHERS family for a few years ...

- "Tack foe at dew har varwit ain vikteeg maydlem ov velt skewul sahmhele."
- And to our Chinese graduates ... "See-eh see-eh nee men chung way CB chung yow duh ee yu-en."
- Thank you for being an important part of our school community.

In addition to distinguishing themselves as goodwill ambassadors, the class of 2015 can boast other distinctions:

- The choir, band, and actors in this class have set a high standard as the first to star on stage in the Cunningham Performing Arts Center!
- The men's basketball team won Holy Court
- During their four years, CB was listed on the *Washington Post's* list of the "most challenging private high schools" in the country for three years., and

- The class of 2015 affirmed CB's dominance in the (((SLOW))) LIP DUB domain.

(((BODY)))

(((PAUSE))) What lies ahead for the class of 2015?

In past generations, sociologists defined the human life cycle in FOUR stages: childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. In this construct, high school graduation marked the transition from adolescence to adulthood ... which meant a high school graduate would typically have a career, be married, own a home, and start a family by the time he or she turned 30. This may have been the standard for your grandparents.

Today, sociologists see the human life cycle as occurring in SIX stages: childhood, adolescence, ODYSSEY, adulthood, ACTIVE RETIREMENT, and old age. In this construct, the class of 2015 has a little buffer between *adolescence* ... and *adulthood*. This buffer is the ODYSSEY ... the epic life journey you're about to begin.

Members of the class of 2015 will begin their odyssey in TWENTY STATES and TWO foreign countries. They will do well as their bags are packed with Catholic, Lasallian values.

(((MOST IMPORTANT VIRTUES)))

Throughout your odyssey – and the rest of your life -- it is important that you stay true to your values.

(((PAUSE))) Last month I had the pleasure of attending a speech with a group of these graduates. The speaker was David Brooks, nationally recognized political columnist and social commentator. He spoke about "resume virtues" and "eulogy virtues."

Resume virtues list accomplishments and skills one brings to a job. Remember the brag sheets you prepared last summer for your college applications? Those list resume virtues.

Eulogy virtues are deeper. They exist at the core of your being ... kindness, bravery, honesty, charity, faithfulness, and mercy. Eulogy virtues stress relationships.

I'd like to share a brief story that illustrates the difference between resume virtues and eulogy virtues. The story involves a member of the class of 2015. It occurred this spring ... when the college letters were rolling in. This student involved scored in the (((SLOW))) top 1% **OF 1% NATIONALLY** on the ACT and is a standout athlete ... clearly qualified to succeed at any college. But when he came home from a CB retreat this spring, there was a 'rejection letter' in an email from a highly selective college. A normal teenager might be crushed. But he wasn't. Thanks to his parents, his teachers, and his classmates this young man possessed a wonderful life perspective.

(((PAUSE))) On retreat, he received letters from some of his classmates. The letters spoke to his CHARACTER. His classmates told him how they admired him ... and how he was there for them when they needed an encouraging word. (((PAUSE))) What this student said to his dad at this poignant moment was indicative of the character of the class of 2015. (((PAUSE))) "That rejection letter doesn't really affect me. THESE letters from my classmates are the ones I REALLY care about."

This young man 'gets' the difference between resume virtues and eulogy virtues. The class of 2015 knows what is really important.

(((PAUSE))) As you walk the road of YOUR odyssey over the next several years, I hope that you will always have the wisdom to know the between resume virtues and eulogy virtues. It's not always easy. But you're never alone.

(((CONCLUSION)))

St. John Baptist de La Salle said, (((SLOW))) "EXAMPLE makes a much greater impression than words." In this auditorium, you are surrounded by family and friends ... wonderful EXAMPLES of integrity, charity, compassion, dependability, and LOVE. When your odyssey becomes confusing, (((SLOW))) bend your life to mimic theirs.

And when you're not in the presence of your family and friends, take your mind back to your days at Christian Brothers and ... REMEMBER ... you are ALWAYS ... IN THE HOLY PRESENCE OF GOD. Bend your life to mimic Christ. Live the 4<sup>th</sup>!

Congratulations Class of 2015. You will be missed. Enjoy the odyssey.

St. John Baptist de La Salle ... (((RESPONSE))) Pray for us!

Live Jesus in our Hearts ... (((RESPONSE))) Forever!