

Some Graduation Thoughts

Each of you is here because a long time ago, before time even existed, God decided to give you life. At that moment, God decided to give each of you gifts to develop and share, to bring happiness to the world, and glory to God. He decided to make each of you in His divine image and likeness, so that your good works and kindness would be a reflection of His goodness and kindness.

None of you made it into the world by accident. God has a purpose for each of your lives. The education you have received at _____ school has helped prepare you to move on to the next stage of your education. There, a little more of God's mysterious and wonderful plan for you will begin to unfold.

Sometimes it will be a challenge to believe God has a plan for you. God knows this, and that's why he has given us one another as a community. Each of you is unique, important in God's eyes and irreplaceable. God has given you gifts and talents that are not meant for just you alone. He has called you into the world and into the life of your faith community to be there for others as well. So when you are down, God has someone there to help lift you up, and when you are confused, there is someone to help. When you are happy, there are others there to share your joy. Your life is a gift to the community, and the friendship and love of your community - wherever you are - will be signs of God's love for you: through a classmate or a friend, a parent, a teacher, your Pastor or even a stranger. Trust that God is using your gifts to make the world a better place, and let your light shine before others, so that they can be thankful to God for your life and for their own as well.

Don't ever be afraid to let your faith guide you. Always try to do what is kind, what is right and what is fair. In this way, you will shine as a leader, and no matter what people say, they will always respect you. Be a faith-filled leader, and let the quiet example of your faith shine in who you are - in your friendships, in your school life, in your sports and in everything you do.

Treasure your life, and know that you are a child of God. God made you and saw that what He made was *very good!* Trust that God is walking with you, even when you make mistakes or stray from the right path. Let Jesus the Good shepherd feed your heart and soul at Sunday Mass. He will give you the strength you need to walk the talk as a person of faith with the help of His Church. Never be afraid to go and receive the river of grace that he desires to pour out on you, to refresh you and strengthen you all through your life.

Your life is God's gift to the world. Live it joyfully, live it meaningfully, and live it proudly. Give God your dreams, your hopes and plans, and ask Him to help you. No matter what happens, God will never turn His back on you. He will always be there for you; He will send you people to support you and guide you as His plan for you takes shape over the years.

We have been privileged to journey with you during your years with us. You have grown to become leaders among your school mates. They look up to you because you have accepted the responsibilities that come with growing more mature in your studies and in your faith. Continue to be a faith-filled leader wherever you are. You will find that people are still looking up to you, and in a wonderful way, you are like a light for them, showing them where to walk and how to live their lives as they grow too. Find others who will support you in your journey of faith. And above all, never be afraid to be all that God has called you to be.