

Good afternoon and welcome Your Excellency Bishop Sullivan, Father Perry, visiting priests, Ms. Boyle, Miss Dennen, administration, faculty, members of the board of trustees, parents, family, friends, and fellow classmates. Thank you all for being here today to celebrate this joyous occasion. Today we celebrate the success, achievements, and prosperity of the Class of 2019 at Holy Spirit High School.

Today is the day we will fly to greater heights than ever before. For the past four years, we have been nurtured by our education, faith, and families. We have learned that responsibility will not end here; it is actually the total opposite. From now on, there will be no more Mr. Smith yelling down the halls in the morning telling us we are late. We will not get three more warnings before we face serious consequences. And we certainly will no longer have skirts four inches above the knee, penny loafers, ties, belts, and shirts tucked in all crisp and clean. In a sense we are finally free, but, with this new found freedom, we must take time to look back at the journey that has gotten us here.

It all started 1,378 days ago when we walked into school knowing our lives would change forever. We were just a bunch of little kids who had no idea what was in store for us. Our first couple of days brought excitement when we received our brand new iPads, embarrassment when we had to go through a boot camp to learn how to use them, and relief when it was all over. From the Frosh Social to the school masses in the auditorium, we experienced a whole new world of firsts. The first year of high school was all about making friends and wishing this very day to come as quickly as possible. If we had only known how fast the time would actually go, we would not have wished it away.

When sophomore year rolled around we walked a little taller, not just because our growth spurts kicked in (a least for some of us), but because we were finally one step closer to being at the top. We were no longer aimlessly wandering the hallways trying to find our next class, and everything seemed a lot less scary. We realized that once we were finished with sophomore year we would have officially completed half of our high school careers. This was our chance to have a little fun before Miss Dennen, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Sheets would give us the big college talk.

Junior year was all about buckling down, getting our work done, and surviving the SATs. All while enjoying our time before heading into the real world. We were looking forward to prom and all the pictures that would fill our phones, and the Junior Ring ceremony when we could finally and proudly show off our class rings. We realized that everything we were doing in high school, from taking tests to giving community service to playing in games or acting in plays, were opportunities to broaden our horizon for the future. The future was coming whether we wanted it to or not.

And, believe it or not, we are all sitting here today because we made it! Senior year was filled with highs and lows of joy, tears, and relief. We got through application after application for colleges and scholarships, and could not wait to hear the results of all of our hard work. In the meantime, we celebrated with our carnival, prom, senior skip day, hypnosis, and so much more. I could go on forever trying to list all of the great times we've had with each other, but we would be here all day. Our journey has brought us memories that we will cherish forever.

On behalf of the class, I say thank you to everyone. For the past four years our teachers have put up with every single one of us. Whether we needed extra help with school work, wanted to push ourselves in our faith, or accidentally broke the vending machine, they were behind us through it all. So - thank you. To my classmates: thank you for showing up on time today because I know, for some of us, that was the hardest thing we have done so far. And last, but certainly not least, thank you to our parents. Without you, none of us would be where we are today. You have sacrificed more than we even know.

Congratulations Class of 2019. My advice to you is to always remember where you came from, the faith that supports you, and the people you aspire to be. I wish each of you nothing but the best moving forward and I am excited to see what the future holds. Good luck and Godspeed.