

# Salutatorian's Charge to Graduating Class

Dominic Corridore

Good morning, faculty, staff, students, friends, families, special guests, and Father Eurel Manzano; (as Dr. Newcomb stated) my name is Dominic Corridore, and I am absolutely honored to be addressing this farewell speech. For the past nine years of our life since we started school we have been pondering, pondering to ourselves if we would ever make it to this day, this day being the day in which we finally transform into bright young men and women. However, on the behalf of my peers, I do not think we ever needed to ponder. For, when I first met these exceptional people there was no doubt in my mind that all of us were capable; for instance if I were to ask Chidubem Ezike, the human calculator, to solve  $(53*76)$ , he would say(.....), if I were to ask Jakob to spell onomatopoeia, he would respond (.....), and if I were to ask Felicia, to explain DNA replication she would effortlessly proceed and describe (.....), but most importantly there was no doubt in my mind that all of us were willing to arrive at this day. My fellow graduates, in life you may find a task that immediately you are not capable of completing; however, if you are willing to pursue the task, the capability will be one of the accommodations you gain as you advance. This is an important nuance, because particularly, in life there are lots of people who have the capability to achieve something, but don't have the will to do so, and thus they do not accomplish the task. Therefore, I can say that due to our many long hours of hard work, our amazing dedicated teachers, Mr. George, Mr Turrentine, Mr. Liu, Dr, Capitano, and all the faculty and staff (we can't forget them), and our loving parents and families we are here today graduating.

Today marks the peak of this part of our great journey, but my friends this is not the end of our journey as a whole, because not yet have you been to the mountain top (where the saints and angels dwell). However, I can still humbly and proudly say that we are not only the graduating class of 2017, but also the first of Saint Theresa. I do not know about you, but it seems to be that graduating is one of the most mysterious feelings a young lad or young lady can feel. I say this because I myself feel torn between our fond memories that we shared together, and the anticipation of my future. Should we dwell on what were possibly the most amazing years of our lives -moments stocked with excitement from the amazing aroma in the cafeteria on International Day, particularly Mr. Ezike's excellent Jollof rice, the serious competitiveness during the athletic tournament, the resounding tune of Mr. Turner's always phenomenal choir, and Mr. George's influential yet hysterical religious talks? Or, should we concentrate on our next stage in this voyage called life? It seems so odd to me that we have for many years impatiently waited for this day--and now we just want to say timeout! Timeout! My fellow graduates, it is fine to be reminiscent of the hap-hazard puns of Mr. Fernando Urdaneta and it is absolutely fine to be dreaming about you future, but as Buddha, the great philosophical teacher who meditated underneath a fig tree for 49 days once said,

“Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment.” Let's just at this time focus on the precious fleeting moments that we have left with each other.