

Mary Margaret Speed

Good morning to Father Eurel, Ms. Donoghue, faculty, staff, students, and families. My name is Mary Margaret Speed, and on behalf of the eighth grade graduating class of 2018, I would like to thank all of the wonderful people seated in this room for helping us to succeed during our final year at Saint Theresa Catholic School. Each of the graduates has received support from teachers, parents, friends, and the parish community. All of us have been given the best possible instruction by dedicated teachers, and we share our skills and talents from God with others. As St. Therese of Lisieux once said, "Use the gifts you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you."

In every class at Saint Theresa, our gifts have been cultivated by our teachers, parents, and friends. In every class, we are taught to do our best for the glory of God. In every class, be it Math, English, PE, Spanish, Latin, Art or Music, we strive to achieve the highest possible quality of work. Our teachers have pushed us to our limits in order to create students who tirelessly work toward perfection. During this last year of middle school, they have supported us during our high school applications process, and they have successfully prepared us for the next step: high school.

In addition to the teachers' contribution to the formation of a great student, behind every student is a family: a family that tolerates late-night anxiety over a test tomorrow, a family that tells you to get off the computer and do your homework, a family that loves you no matter what grade you got on that one essay. I would like

to thank those families for their endless patience, love, and advice throughout the year.

In a few months' time, our class will be separated. Although we will be attending different schools, we will never forget our exciting group projects, our inside jokes, or our competitions. We'll never forget how much encouragement we received from classmates when we were unsure of ourselves, or how quiet the lunch table was when one of us was missing. We'll never forget how relieved we all were to be accepted to our high schools and how we made plans for the future together. And we will never forget our heroic efforts at teaching three-year-olds their numbers.

Throughout our middle school journey, the people around us have helped us to follow the Little Way of Saint Therese through their examples. Now that we are moving on in life, our class must become an example for the younger grades. We must become the best versions of ourselves in order to promote virtue, dedication, and kindness. Through our continued virtue and hard work, we can prompt young students to follow Saint Therese's Little Way.

Although we now depart from Saint Theresa Catholic School, the memories and emotions of middle school will stay with us throughout our lives. I thank every person who has devoted time and energy to our education and well-being, and I ask that you all might pray for us as we enter high school next fall. Thank you all for these wonderful years at Saint Theresa Catholic School, and I pray that you will have an equally wonderful high school experience.

Thank you.