

**Ladies and gentlemen, Father Manzano, School Board Members, Ms. Donoghue, faculty and staff, families of the graduates of the Class of 2018, honored guests, and friends of the School: Good morning and welcome to our second ever Graduation Ceremony at Saint Theresa Catholic School!**

*Tempus fugit.* As a young boy growing up in rural Virginia, this was the only Latin phrase that I knew that I knew—if you know what I mean. It was etched on the glass of my grandparents' mantle clock, and I thought it sounded like a magical incantation.

*Tempus fugit*—time flies or time flees—and so it did. It was many years later, when I was a young man studying at college, that I learned that this phrase was inspired by a line from Book 3 of Vergil's *Georgics*. The full quotation suggests that all creatures, and we humans in particular, have little time upon the earth, yet waste much of it.

*Tempus fugit.* Today, however, we gather to mark the unceasing march of time in a particular way—we note the swiftly passing years that have led our graduates to this blessed day of endings and new beginnings.

Today we celebrate a group of very impressive young men and women who have not wasted their time, but have rather read, pondered, written, thought, recited,

deduced, cogitated, leapt, calculated, lurched, parsed, demonstrated, outlined, diagrammed, raced, factored, and memorized for many hours along the long road to high academic distinction. It is also a day that we measure the fallen leaves of calendar pages and mark them as a season in the life of the remarkable educational institution that is Saint Theresa Catholic School. Having met challenges both large and numerous, individually and as an institution, we rejoice now in all the days and months of sacrifice and toil that have brought us so felicitously to this grand day of celebration!

*Tempus fugit.* Yet our hours have been greatly blessed by the Lord, and enriched by our own labors. In the early days of STCS, the handful of students didn't even have their own facility. Ten years later, we occupy one of the most beautiful school buildings in the Archdiocese and have grown to more than 240 pupils studying in 11 grades. This year alone our students have gathered laurels in Art, Track and Field, Basketball, Volleyball, and Spelling competitions. Thanks to Ms. Dorian Speed, we made a very impressive showing at the Private School Interscholastic Association meets, earning eight medals at the state level. As a result of the efforts of Mr. Ben George, we remain a force to be reckoned with in Chess across the Archdiocese. Dr. Catherine Bilow led our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students to noble distinction

in our first-ever administration of the National Latin Examination. Mr. Zachary Turner deftly guided our students to extraordinary heights of performance, from *Una Noche de Musica* to the *Stabat Mater* concert. The work of Dr. Capitano and Mr. Turrentine enabled our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students to win the annual Saint Agnes Math Challenge. If that were not cause enough for celebration, each of our 11 Eighth Grade students was accepted to his or her top pick high school—and this includes institutions of such stature as Strake Jesuit, Saint Agnes Academy, Saint John XXIII, and Incarnate Word Academy. Please join me in saluting this small but striking group of young men and women, and in thanking them for setting the bar high for the students who will follow after them.

*Tempus fugit.* Mothers and fathers of the class of 2018—please know that Father Manzano, Mrs. Rice, and I are also deeply grateful for your sacrifice of thousands of hours of volunteer service that have contributed to the success of this school and of your children. We also appreciate the many thousands of dollars you have paid in tuition for the building up of this community of classical learning and Catholic faith.

*Tempus fugit.* From our humble beginnings a decade ago, this year we have set record highs for new applicants and enrollment. Truly, our labors and our hours have been blessed with grace by the Lord Jesus,

as we have sought to make alive here an institution that reflects His glory.

*Tempus fugit.* All of us here will look back on this day as a time to take stock of our labor, and the love that animated our embrace of duty in the service of one another. *Tempus fugit.* We will look back and know that this was a season of tremendous change, renewal, and growth for STCS. *Tempus fugit* (say it with me: *Tempus fugit!*)! This year STCS enters its second decade, surveying what has been, and turning with confidence to face the future. We say goodbye to pride and prepare to serve a new generation of students and families. As we strive to be a stronger and more resilient institution, we ask the Lord to continue to bestow His grace upon our work.

As we look to the blessings of the future, I would like to introduce our Graduation Speaker. Ms. Mary Pat Donoghue of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education has noted with great enthusiasm the passing of the years and the progress of classical Catholic education across the country. Her work and that of the Institute have brought this transformative model of education to thousands of students across the nation. She knows first-hand that the timeliness of classical education is rooted in its very timelessness. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Ms. Mary Pat Donoghue!