



Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you.

Jeremiah 1:5

For I know the plans I have for you, says the
Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give
you a future and hope. Then you will call upon
me and come and pray to me, and I will hear
you.

Jeremiah 29: 11-12

How humbling is it to think that the Lord had in store for you a Caritas graduation?graduating with exactly those brothers and sisters sitting next to you now.

Caritas has been a place where each of you has grown under the guidance of teachers and staff that care deeply for not only your education, but also your heart and living a life in Christ.

Caritas is a unique place where students come together, blind to grade level distinctions, working together to carve out an education that is better, more substantial and more importantly from a Christian worldview. I hope that you will look back on your time at Caritas with fondness and appreciation, love and respect, gratitude and understanding for all that was offered to you by your parents and your teachers. A private education is a tremendous gift that your parents have bestowed upon you. They all have made sacrifices so that each of you was provided with a classical education that reflects and practices core Christian values; an education that prepares you not only for this world but also for the Kingdom that lies beyond.

Your teachers and the staff are among the finest professionals I have known: Mrs. Beers, Dr. Bleecker, Mr. Bobe, Mr. and Mrs. Burk, Mrs. Goulding, Mrs. Holgate, Mrs. Kehoe, Ms. Lefferts, Mrs. Mesher, Rev. Mulligan, Mrs. Peters, Mrs. Schultz, Ms. Sneiderman, Mrs. Wheeler, and Mr. Withee. I hope you remember each one for the passion they brought to Caritas. Teaching is an amazing journey that weaves a little bit of each student into the heart of the teacher.....forever placing a mark which is a gift easily equal to that which we try to give our students.

I would like to share a few words about each of our graduates:

Carrie – friends describe you as amazing, caring, understanding and effervescent. I have seen you grow so much over the past several years and I admire your drive and focus. I love your organizational skills and your attention to detail. Carrie, you are a very special young woman and I pray that you flourish as you learn to help people feel good about themselves in the work you have chosen for next year. May the Lord continue to bless others through the grace and love you share with them.

John – you have been described as talented, mellow, gregarious, and deep. Whether you are donned in a kilt or your jeans and boots, you have always reached out to others. I admire your fortitude as you have faced obstacles and still find a way to put others before yourself. You left us for a short time, but we were blessed upon your return bringing back the aroma of herbal tea, the rumble of a motorcycle and keen daily insight. I pray that God leads you on a clear and faith-filled path.

Rachel – I have heard friends say you are soft-spoken, accepting, innovative and a good listener. I remember your first day at Caritas, a decision to join the small Caritas family instead of joining the ranks of a large public high school. I marveled as I watched you gain confidence and light the room with a smile that came with familiarity. I am thrilled to be able to share this graduation day with you and I pray that you trust in the Lord and the plans he has for you.

Andrew – friends describe you as easygoing, hilarious, artistic and athletic. I remember our first class together, Environmental Science, and am still in awe that you had kept one experiment for several years beyond that. It was something you had built and designed, perhaps a glimpse into what your future holds. I have witnessed you grow into a fine young man – someone who is always willing to help and whom I have often counted on. Andrew, you are a true gentleman and may God bless your path that He has designed and crafted for you.

Jason – you have been described by friends as wise, complex, astute and funny. You are a renaissance man, one who garners many talents. I have truly appreciated your wit and intellect. It is always a privilege to work with a student who can apply newly gained knowledge so easily, and in a framework of good humor. You have delighted us all with your theatrical

performances and intrigued me with your human observations. I admire your heart and pray that God blesses you with continued grace.

Megan – friends describe you as artistic, creative, vivacious and warm hearted. Megan, you are a dear young lady who is destined to make a difference in people's lives. You will touch people with your gift of understanding and your gentle and good heart. The lilt of Liam's laughter and his devoted response to you while you watched him as his mother taught was a continued reminder of these gifts that God has blessed you with. May you continue your journey with great faith and trust in the Lord's plans for you.

Molly – I have heard friends say you are giving, caring, jovial and convicted. I admire your motivation to make things happen and to help others. In your classes, you excelled academically, challenging yourself daily, but your tenacity reached beyond the classroom. Whether it was organizing trips to Washington to participate in the March for Life or coordinating our first dance, you have approached your endeavors with passion. I pray that you continue to give glory to God in all you do.

Emma – friends often say you are perpetually cheerful, determined, well read and a true bibliophile. I finally had the pleasure of having you in class this year after years of seeing your permanent, radiant smile light the halls of Caritas. I admire your bravery as you have endured challenges unknown to most young people and through it all it is your joy that comes through most clearly. You have been passionate about your studies, particularly history and English, and I pray the Lord blesses you as you shine brightly in your new academic environment.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have had each and every one of you in class. You are our largest class that has graduated from Caritas Academythe Class of 2009 and I pray that you surrender to God and His mighty plan for each of you and with that receive all the grace you need to embrace that life. God Bless!