

Thank you, Fr. Tom.

My warmest congratulations to you, the class of 2009, on your graduation day! Everyone is here today to celebrate with you and recognize your achievements.

Today is also a special day for another group of graduates; it is the 50<sup>th</sup> or Golden Anniversary of Santa Barbara Catholic High's Class of 1959. The Class of 1959 is the last graduating class of Santa Barbara Catholic High School. Members of this class are here today seated on the stage to be recognized and celebrated. Congratulations to all of you and welcome!



To those of you graduating today, do you remember back to September 2005? It seems like only yesterday you were just starting out as freshmen coming to a new school, starting a new part of your life. You were excited, nervous, scared and probably a little intimidated, especially by those "big" seniors, who were so cool and knew so much. Every day it got better and better. Each year went faster and faster. In the blink of an eye, September 2008 happens and now there are freshmen looking up at you, YOU are now the "big" seniors on campus and YOU are the ones who are so cool and know so much.

Guess what? These graduates from the Class of 1959 had the very same experiences, the same nervousness as a freshman, and the same confidence as a senior. They learned the same core values in high school that you have

as high school students: to work hard, to play hard, to love and respect others and to learn to work with your peers towards a common goal. The cycle goes on and on.

Now you are about to start a new part of your life. Where will "life" take you? With the values you have learned and practiced every day while at Bishop, "life" will take you farther than you have ever dreamed possible. There will be struggles, to be sure, but there will be many more successes, because these values you have will guide you and make you stronger.

As each of you looks over the past years of high school, you will notice how much you have grown and changed. The class of 1959 has also struggled and grown and succeeded in life. This class has come back today to celebrate with you. They are also here to celebrate with their classmates fifty years of friendships, fifty years of living, fifty years since they wore their caps and gowns and were wondering just where "life" would take them.

"Life" has brought the Class of 1959 back to Bishop High today out of love for their classmates and for their school. They too, are Cardinals, and they are proud to share in the tradition of faith and love that has made this school great. As alumni, we all have the ability to honor our school by giving back in some way, and you, the graduating class of 2009, as the newest group of alumni, need to remember Bishop Garcia Diego High School: the place where your "life" really began.

Now, go out into this world, live your life and remember this: "Once a Cardinal, always a Cardinal".

Congratulations to all of you and thank you!