

Congratulations Graduates!

As is our custom, we invite all the graduating high school seniors to this Sunday's 11:00 Mass to thank God for all He has accomplished in them , not only in high school, but for the past 18 years of their young lives.

The Apostle Peter's words taken from our first reading today are so appropriate for that Mass. St. Peter says "I see that God knows no partiality. Rather, in every nation and whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him." God doesn't play favorites.

As we all well know, part of high school culture is that students often receive their support and their identity through the members of a like-minded group, distinguished by sports or other activities; clothing, or particular interests, even similar personalities. It's a challenge for all high schoolers to discover their own unique path and personality, yet at the same time, appreciate how their group identity forms and shapes them.

However, we know God shows no partiality to any one of our graduates. Some may have received many awards and honors; others, very few. However, it is the same God who knows that heart of each individual who marches down the aisle in white or blue cap and gown today. We are confident that He will help each one of them achieve their full potential in this world as he created them. For this we pray.

So, as we celebrate our young people's graduation during this month of May, let us remind them, and ourselves, too, of the following truths.

1. If we seek God and practice our religion, it does not necessarily mean that life will be easier, but we will always have the assurance that God is with us and sustains us in every moment; nothing is impossible for us in Him.
2. Attitude is everything. If we humbly follow Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we will learn from both our mistakes and successes.
3. Forgiveness is essential. Holding grudges is like drinking a cup of poison, while waiting for our enemies to die.
4. Finally, everything is a gift from God, and how blessed are we for all he has given us!

We send our best wishes and prayers to the Class of 2024!

Fr. Thomas Merrill, OFM Conv.
Pastor and Rector