

May 29, 2009—7pm
St. Dominic School 8th Grade Graduation Mass
Is 60:19-22, Col 3:12-17, Mat 5:14-19
Father David Lawrence

A graduation ceremony is often called a commencement, which literally means a new beginning. You members of the class of 2009 are beginning something new tonight. And it's not simply the fact of your going to High School, that won't really start for a couple of months. But starting tonight you are graduates of St. Dominic School and as graduates you represent our school in a very powerful and special way. When people judge a school, they will usually consider its graduates as a sign of how good the education was at that school.

So you graduates represent our school in a special way from this day forward. As we heard in this evening's Gospel you are called to let your light shine. We want you to shine by your academic and athletic excellence of course, but most importantly you are called to shine spiritually and morally. We have endeavored to give you a Catholic education here at St. Dominic's and you should be noticed for that. We want people to say, wow, there's something different about St. Dominic School and its graduates. Let me give some concrete examples. Hey look at those kids from St. Dominic's they won't play sports on Sunday morning because Church is very important to them. They're not involved in drinking and drugs because they respect themselves and their bodies. They never bully anyone but rather are always caring about those in need. They say no to sex and pornography knowing that marriage is something holy. Those St. Dominic graduates really stand out because even when everybody else is doing it, they're not.

And so you can really shine like stars in the night. Tonight is a new beginning for you; you are leaving St. Dominic School and going out into a different environment that needs your light, the light that Jesus Christ has given to each of you. Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.