

Ring Mass Reflection – Thursday, August 20, 2015

Hope, is a good thing. The movie “Shawshank Redemption” is based in a short novel by Stephen King. Most of you guys have probably seen it. In it, the character Andy Dufresne, who has been wrongly convicted of murder, tells his fellow inmate and new friend Red, “Hope, is a good thing.”

Guys, as you start your senior year, looking forward to being ‘sprung’ next May, your world should be full of hope. Hope for a successful year, college acceptance, good times with friends and family... all of that. But have you stopped yet and taken just a minute to consider that for which you are really hoping? I’m not talking about a new car or the right date for the Homecoming Dance or even academic success this year. Think about your hopes for life. Just who and what do you want to be? Something to talk about in the car on the way to dinner later?

We have great hopes for each of you. We have since the first day you walked onto campus. We share them with your parents. In a sentence from the document “Hopes for Our Graduates” we proclaim: *We are confident that based on their experiences as students in a Brothers of the Sacred Heart school, our graduates are becoming well-rounded, faith-filled, self-disciplined, compassionate, and academically prepared men who respond to God’s love.* When I ask you who and what do you want to be? And for what do you hope? I pray that you think of some of these things. For if you are becoming compassionate and faith-filled and self-disciplined, you really will leave us and go out and change the world for the better.

Starting right here in our city. This old church is surrounded by brand new signs of hope as the buildings of the University Medical Center of New Orleans stretch up and down Tulane Avenue. You’ll hear a lot in the news in the coming weeks about the tenth anniversary of Katrina and the progress the city has made rebuilding and improving. All based in part on hope. But all the buildings in the world mean nothing without young people like you guys filling them and giving others real hope in their lives. As Crusaders, we know you can do that. You’re doing it already – at school and beyond.

In his letter to the Christian community in Rome we just heard, St. Paul wrote: “For in hope we are saved.” Whatever your deepest hopes and dreams, with the Holy Spirit interceding on your behalf with God, you can reach them. So in prayer, instead of telling God YOUR plans for your future, ask for guidance and courage and the wisdom to see His plans for you through to completion. I think you’ll be pleasantly surprised at how fulfilling His response will be.

Congratulations on starting your year and receiving your rings. We hope you have an incredible year. And hope, is a good thing.