

# The end and the beginning

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This weekend, more than 700 students will cross the stage at the Alice P. McDermott Convocation Center and receive their degrees, signifying the completion of many years of hard work. Not only does each degree represent mastery of the field of study, it also marks the end of an era. It is the end of four years (or maybe a few more) of dedication and study, of late night dorm room chats and early morning athletics practices. Volunteer service hours have been completed and are no longer required of these concerned and enlightened citizens that we at the University of the Incarnate Word present to the world.



But there cannot be an end without a beginning. These graduates leave this campus eager to continue learning and make a difference in the community. We pray that they will continue in the spirit of service and social justice, a spirit the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word have instilled in this university since it was established in 1881.

We wish our graduates much success as they move on to their next challenge. We will welcome them back with open arms to alumni events, football games or further education. But today and tomorrow, we celebrate their victory as the end becomes real, as they take hold of what they've been working so diligently to achieve.

Congratulations, graduates. Good luck in all you take on in this new beginning.

I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes. I hope it will inspire you.

"Come to the edge," he said.

They said: "We are afraid."

"Come to the edge," he said.

They came.

He pushed them . . . and they flew.