



Saint Viator Holds Area's First High School Graduation

May 17, 2010



The graduates listen to the advice given by their classmate and Valedictorian, Clare Burke.

The Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V, president of Saint Viator High School, described the Class of 2010 as intelligent, talented and personally gifted. However, he added an important caveat: "They are all genuinely good people."

A total of 265 graduates matriculated on Sunday during the school's 47th commencement exercises, held in its Cahill gymnasium.

Valedictorian Clare Burke of Lake Barrington encouraged her classmates to overcome their fears of the unknown, and instead, "let go and go forward."

"We are a people of intelligence, character and compassion," Burke said, "and we will do great things, but first we have to *will* it. We have to close our eyes --- and leap."

Burke graduated with a weighted average of 103.96 percent, after a high school career that included more than 200 hours of service with the campus ministry team, as well as playing varsity tennis and clarinet in the school band.

This fall, she heads to the University of Notre Dame to study biology or pre-medicine, with the hopes of becoming a psychologist.

Near the end of the one-hour ceremony, Egan announced two of the school's most valued awards.

Richard Hutyra of Arlington Heights won the Andrew Johnstone Leadership Award, for his ability to "build community while exhibiting humility, humor and courage" among his classmates.

Johnstone died in an auto accident in 1991 before the start of his senior year. His parents, Frank and Charlene Johnstone of Lake Zurich were on hand to present the award to Hutyra, who also was named Salutatorian of the class. At their honors assembly, Hutyra accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, to become a midshipman.

"The world is in need of people who are not afraid to make their mark on history," he told classmates last week at their Baccalaureate Mass, "as you have all made your mark on Saint Viator."

The last award of the day, the Erdman Award, was given to Lauren Drolet of Inverness. The award was established in 1968 in the name of Christopher Erdman, who succumbed to leukemia during the fall of his senior year, in 1967.

Recipient's names are etched each year in the base of the cup, and it remains on display in the school's main office.

Drolet was nominated for both awards, after serving this year as co-president of the school's Interclass Council. She now heads to Marquette University this fall to pursue a degree in nursing.

"The recipient," Egan said, "best exemplifies the spirit of Saint Viator."