



## **Saint Viator Graduation is One for the Record Book**

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Graduating seniors Brett Hower and Carolyn Hutyra prepare to walk down the aisle of the gymnasium one last time at their graduation.

The largest graduating class in recent memory matriculated on Sunday at Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights, as 286 students received their diplomas.

As a group, they gained entrance into some of the country's most prestigious colleges, including University of California at Berkeley, University of Pennsylvania and University of Notre Dame. Additionally, fifteen students were named National Merit Commended Scholars with two being named finalists and one being named a National Hispanic Scholar.

"You are a remarkable group of young men and women," said the Rev. Robert M. Egan, C.S.V., president, "You are intelligent, talented and personally gifted. You stand for what the mission of Saint Viator is all about."

Yet, senior Anthony Pensa of Arlington Heights, valedictorian, said their strengths go beyond the statistics.

"The numbers can never tell about the character of our class," Pensa said in his valedictory address.

He pointed to the silent vigil they led as students lined both sides of north Dryden Avenue when the remains of Lance Cpl. James B. Stock were driven by in a motorcade last November.

More recently, he told of the seniors wearing pink shirts as a salute to their dean of students, Deborah Scerbicke, before she underwent breast cancer surgery.

Even at the graduation ceremony itself, students quietly helped one of their classmates with Duchenne muscular dystrophy mount the steps to receive his diploma.

"It says on our Web site that Saint Viator is a community of believers," Pensa said. "It's true. We are a community, and a community united in its beliefs.

"Go live out those beliefs," he added, "that you've solidified because of this great Saint Viator community."

Pensa graduated with a weighted grade point average of 105.58 percent. But he also served as captain of the football team, and completed more than 200 hours of Christian service.

This fall, he will attend Northwestern University, where he plans to major in honors integrated science and biology, with a pre-med focus.

At Thursday's baccalaureate Mass, dual salutatorians addressed the class: Robert Moynihan of Schaumburg and Gregory Perkowski of Inverness. Each earned a grade point average of more than 104 percent.

Perkowski will keep up with Pensa as he also heads to Northwestern to pursue honors integrated science and biology, while Moynihan will study engineering at Washington University in St. Louis.

Saint Viator Principal Eileen Manno said the entire senior class looked up to these three outstanding students.

“They’re exceptional,” Manno said. “To have three such high achieving students, who set high academic standards, they inspired all of their classmates to succeed.”