



Reflection

1 message

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Reflection

Thirty-Four years ago, when Sr. Ingrid was interviewing me for my first teaching job she asked me to promise that I would love my students. I have always honored that promise even when a few of the more than 4,000 students I have taught over the years tried their best to be difficult to love. Anyone who has taught for a number of years however also always has favorite classes that they look back very fondly at.

My first class back in 1990 should be anything but one of my favorites. I was a young yes young teacher from Brooklyn, the only male teacher, at the school, and bouncing off the walls with energy. That first day I was confronted with a petition from parents anything but happy over the school hiring a man from Brooklyn to teach their children. The challenges only increased from there. Yet the bonds and relationships I slowly established with the kids and even with some of those parents has lasted. Those kids are now nearing 50, much older than I was as their teacher but their class has remained one of my favorites.

A second was the class of 2002 at DLS. I taught many of these guys in Sophomore English, when we did Julius Caesar in togas, and their senior year was the first time DLS let me teach Seniors and Econ no less. Lots of great guys in that class and DLS was at its prime then, unbeatable in sports.

Then last year, I came to St Mary's. because I discerned a strong call to return to Catholic education, and of all places I ended up in Stockton, CA. Last year was a great year for me, so great I worried about pushing my luck and trying for a 2nd year here. Halfway thru the year, around the time we beat DLS, possibly even at that game, I realized that more than just God calling me back to teach he was calling me to give me a gift Always trust God, he will surprise you more often than you might think.

Well, what about this year. I do not have the energy I have had in earlier years, I no longer play survivor with my classes or have monopoly tournaments in Econ. The importance of relationships and the ability to witness to life and God's greatness and love persists. Which is the purpose of what I try to do. This year's seniors are incredible. A true gift and I have looked forward to every day. So many great memories. Adam Taylor trying to teach me to do something around the block. George's PG13 fortune cookie, Adam and Amanda Private Idaho, and Mike's wild pitches that I made seen slightly more numerous than they were.

The waterpolo, basketball, and volleyball games. La Crosse and Football and watching drill and cheer. The pleasure of watching Hockey and the connection I felt with the guys on the team. It gave me such pleasure seeing each of you on campus. Last Sunday at mass I felt such a feeling of gratitude for this past year. It might not sound like much but without a doubt the Class of 2024 at St Mary's has become one of my favorite if not my favorite class to date.

I love being a senior teacher, finishing after 12 years what your KG teacher started and just trying to polish you a little more before you go out in the world. After more than two decades doing this, its never easy to say good-bye but knowing that your faith in God will never fail you I know you are in good hands to meet the challenges that will come. Just remember that for every time you are touched by sadness God will bless you with multiple blessings along the way. Feel free to reach out to me if I can ever help you and know that I will keep you in my prayers. In gratitude I wish you each only the best.

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<https://youtu.be/8VzYAJeryQ?t=6>

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