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We welcome all to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Dear Friends of St. John's,

Nate's reflection for his graduates, most especially his daughter Aréta:

Board of Governors, Mrs. Principal, Distinguished Professors, Admin, Staff, Families, Friends, and Most Distinguished Graduates, a joy to have arrived at this moment. I bid you welcome and congratulations in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a place in the heart that I most hope to encourage—I'm obsessed with it. If you weren't careful, you would think it to be sentiment. I will sit and stay a bit too long in certain situations in hopes that it is awakened. It awakens, for example, after a long day has passed and the hand of my wife reaches for me. Or it will awaken when Ian James leans his thick head of wiry hair up against my face while reading a book without pulling away. Or, as I said at Schola Cantorum, when the four-part polyphonic Kyrie of Mozart's Requiem is sung and then culminates in a unison note with tympany such that the mercy about which we sing is experienced as a plausible reality. One is convinced in those moments that mercy is sung over us every moment vs. a vision of God transferring mercy from the great vault in the sky to some kind of mercy-account with my name on it. This same part of the heart is awakened anytime I sing the hymn we're about to sing, for it takes me to a place of sweetness amidst desperation exactly ten years ago last week. I experienced it when Aréta defended her thesis a few weeks back, and I live it in moments like this.

You see, I also experience it, weirdly enough, when I'm sad, or grieving, or experiencing someone else's pain in a rather direct way (I'm an incurable empath with defense mechanisms everywhere just to maintain energy for the day, ha), or it sometimes results in me (as Aréta would say), getting clingy. It would seem that both the exuberance of joy and the soul-nakedness of that brush of sadness that says a chapter of life is done, have the same center—the same lucidity of God's presence, and when I feel it, I resent the distractions that immediately surround it. It's that moment when the gloria returns to the liturgy on Easter Sunday, and you suddenly want the resurrection to happen NOW. I want my Nana to suddenly stand aside me

(as if she's not), and join me in the *Gloria* and I don't want to walk out into the hot parking lot quite yet. I don't want it to end. It's some kind of love that makes the present moment completely comprehend the past, enact the promises of the future, and shut up old man Chronos for five whole seconds.

Our hands are being pried open right now, dear graduates. You are everything to us. You are loved by all of us. This is a spiritual community whose bonds are as deep as the first utterings of Creation itself, and that bond of Spirit cannot be broken. Of course I'm speaking to Aréta right now, but in doing so, I speak to all of you, for whatever is true for the one more fully known is true for those who share the same head or taproot.

The church has long thought that there is a way of life worth spending our every waking moment defending and preserving and living. There is a good way of life that is 1st) actually knowable 2nd) brings joy, and 3rd) worthy of being perpetuated because it is worthy of immortality.

1. Carry with you, dear graduates, greatness of heart. Fatness of soul. Sloppy joy. Grandeur in all that you do, especially menial work. Do your laundry in college with style and poetic flair. Laundry belongs to Christ.
2. Find the broken people in this world and have them over for dinner as much as possible. My sweet Ian does not need a check in the mail, nor does he really need a diaper drive. He needs my wife. He needs me. He needs my other children to surround him with kisses. You will find that the forgotten of this world are able to contemplate Greatness with the best of them.
3. Don't sweat the derision associated with the faith. Joy in persecution. Derision is cause for laughter.
4. In a culture of "Total Work" (Pieper), chilllllll. Throw off you shoes, find a front porch, and cultivate the life of reflection. You have all the time in the world to be the church of Jesus Christ who sits long enough to think the highest possible thoughts about God and all that he has made.

So in conclusion, in view of the fact that these graduates have taken the road less traveled; in view of the fact that these graduates have embraced virtue as the fruit of all learning; in view of the fact that these graduates have proven themselves willing to chase the *logos* wherever He might lead; in view of the fact that you allowed teachers and parents to show you the great and brightest star of Truth that you might gaze a while. In view of these things, let us congratulate these dear graduates. Fortunatus was right when he wrote, "Heaven her gates unbars, flinging her increase of light." Heaven's gates do not exist merely to let you in; they are also a portal through which unsurpassed beauty spills forth into our realm. As you've prayed all year, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," and heaven is nothing if not Beauty Proper—the Great Geometer's finest work.

I will miss you so much, dear friends. Please come and visit. And let me end as any good preacher would end: Jesus says the following, "All that the Father has is mine." Everything belongs to Christ by whom and through whom and for whom everything exists. America is his. Organ music is his. My daughter's spider infested

room is his (don't ever order organic pesticide). Rapid inflation is his. Jupiter is his. Above all else, the Church is his. And to guide us through it all is the Holy Spirit, who proceedeth from the Father (and the Son), who together with the Father and Son is worshipped and glorified. The Spirit-filled life is not merely one that causes you to utter prophecies; it is none other than the life you already live! You have been given the Spirit, he takes up residence in the image of God that you are, and he walks with you through your dirty dishes, your checkbook entries, your broken family situations, your university education and your worship of Almighty God on Sunday morning. And in each and every situation, he gives you the glory of Christ.

Congratulations, and God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nate+" with a small plus sign at the end.

Nate+

Summer Evening Services

Sunday, June 12 - 4:30 p.m. Evensong and Wine and Cheese Reception

to honor Dana Orwig on her 30th Anniversary of her Ordination as Deacon

Thursday, June 24 - 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral -

Ordination of David Thomas - All are welcome!

Wednesday, June 29 - 6:00 p.m. - Dedication of Outdoor Chapel

with Guest, Father David Stock, to be honored

Friday, July 22 - 5:30 p.m. - Feast of St. Mary Magdelene in Mary Chapel

Wednesday, July 27 - 5:30 p.m. - Evening Eucharist in Mary Chapel

Friday, August 15 - 5:30 p.m. - Feast of Saint Mary the Virgin in Mary Chapel

Wednesday, August 31 - 5:30 p.m. - Evening Eucharist in Mary Chapel

Recurring Events - Summer Schedule

Second Sunday of Month - following service - Daughters of the King

Healing Service with Holy Unction - Nave

Second Sunday of Month - 11:30 am Daughters of the King Meeting - Parlor

Fourth Sunday of Month - 11:30 am Bishop's Committee Meeting - Parlor

Mondays - 11:00 to 4:00 CAIR Refugee Resource Center Open - School Annex

Wednesdays - 11:00 to 4:00 CAIR Refugee Resource Center Open - School Annex

Wednesday Evenings - 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday Evenings - 6:30 pm Tai Chi

Second Saturday of Month - 8:00 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew - Parlor

Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00

(or by appointment)

(If you have a recurring event that you would like added to this posting, please contact Nancy at

stjohnsokc@yahoo.com or 405-943-8548.)

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

13 – Emily Mooney
4- Pat Riden
6 – Jim Bellingham
10 – Daphne Greenley
12 – Gary Lee
13 – Dana Orwig
14 – Adrienne Robertson
15 – Sir Patton
17 – Quentin Wilhite
21 – Pat Greaves
24 – Alaina Chai
25 – Janice Nepveux
29 – Dana Billingsley
29 – Andrew Fuller
30- William Fuller

Anniversaries

14 – Pat & Terrie Greaves
22 – David & Miranda Faircloth

New COVID Protocols Announced

The Bishop's Committee, in keeping with the recommendations of the CDC, reduced caseloads, and the Diocese of Oklahoma, has returned all services and activities to pre-COVID status. We will continue live-streaming for those still viewing at home, will return coffee hour to Wade-Dalton Hall, and will begin **serving wine through intinction only**. We heartily welcome those who wish to continue wearing masks inside the church, but we will leave that choice to each individual/family.

Bishop's Committee

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Bishop's Committee

(Continued)

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