

Undergraduate Commencement 2019

- June 16, 2019
- Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J.

Here we are at last at a day which we have long looked forward to and promised. Congratulations to all of you for making it to this day, this milestone, this achievement, this celebration. You made it! Perhaps there were times when you doubted you would get here; but you made it. Congratulations!

Many of the parents here will remember a promise I made to them four or more years ago that if we lived up to the triple partnership of your students, yourselves as parents, and the university, that this partnership over a long journey—or a hike up a mountain begging for water if you remember that story—would lead us to this promised day of commencement. We could hardly imagine or believe at that time this day of fulfillment, of reaching this goal. So parents you made it too. Congratulations to you also.

My thoughts and feelings this morning looking out upon you who are graduating from Seattle University are all of thankfulness, of gratitude to you:

- Thank you for choosing Seattle U. in the first place for your important college years. You honored us by choosing us.
- Thank you for your generous service to kids in the neighborhood, to the hungry and homeless, to the poor, the elderly, the ill, to all in need. They will remember you for your generosity and you will remember them for what they gave to you and taught you.
- Thanks for standing up for justice, standing against discrimination and disrespect, for challenging Seattle U. itself in how we live out our mission for justice. You have put us on a road to greater justice and more genuine sustainability.
- Thank you for simply who you are in your commitments, your fun and humor, your spirit, your faith and spirituality, your friendship and love. Please know that you are good people and that you have given a soul to Seattle U. from who you are.

As I have expressed my feelings of gratitude for you, know that my greatest hope for you is that you will live lives of gratitude for what you have been given, for who you are, and for how you are blessed by God, and that from that gratitude that you will make life choices which fulfill your deepest desires and which serve others in their need.

My gratitude at this time continues in being able to introduce to you and to present honorary doctorates to two exceptional and widely renowned Jesuits. Your commencement is blessed and made special by these two great persons. Listen attentively to who they are and join in honoring them with degrees from the same university from which you are receiving your degrees today.