

# The End of High School Is The Beginning of Changing The World

▲ by Father Ralph Edel

I've graduated four different times in my life, and to be honest, outside the part where they read my name out loud and I walked on stage to receive my diplomas, I can't remember a single thing that was said.



Father Edel

I'm sure the graduation speakers at all of the ceremonies were well prepared and well intentioned, but in that moment, what they were saying was going in one ear and out the other.

There is something about that moment sitting among your peers at the end that is so profound there really are no words.

## Thinking About the End

I've been thinking a lot about the end lately. I'm a big fan of "Game of Thrones" and the "Avengers." Both of those franchises that have entertained me for over a decade are also coming to an end. I've been reading countless articles about whether either franchise has "stuck the landing," and it has been a really fun exercise to debate back and forth with other fans about whether the endings of these sprawling stories have lived up to the hype.

I think the same sort of debate can be raging in the heart of any of our students who are apart of the high school graduating class of 2019 here in the Diocese of Brooklyn. This June is the end. The end of your high school journey.

Inevitably, when we get to the end of any journey as human beings, we start to look back; for me that meant rewatching

as many episodes of "Game of Thrones" as I could and rewatching my favorite Marvel films. On your graduation as a high school student, I can only imagine what memories you've replayed in anticipation of the end.

Perhaps it's a favorite sports moment of beating your rival school, mastering a subject you once thought impossible as a freshman, being the lead in your school's musical, or maybe it's something as simple as making the friend group you can't imagine living without.

All of these memories are awesome, and when we come to an end like graduation, they always seem to play in our minds like a movie – our success, our fail-

ures and everything in between. Memory is such a big part of who we are as



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▲ Father Ralph Edel, chaplain at St. Francis Prep, Fresh Meadows, pens a letter to the Class of 2019 and reminds them to take time to appreciate all the growth they experienced while in high school.

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