

COMMENCEMENT BENEDICTION

Almighty ever-living and ever-present God; God of justice and wonder; God of mercy and love; God who is Love: we give thanks to you today, and we praise you.

We are grateful for those on whose shoulders we stand—our parents, significant others, siblings, and all our family and friends. They have sustained us throughout law school. And we remember our loved ones who have departed from this life, who nevertheless remain inseparably a part of us.

Safeguard our great country marking its 250th anniversary, and Seton Hall Law School marking 75 years. Lord, bless the deans, faculty, and staff whose hard work helps make this school such a special and unique place.

And, Lord, we pray for the Class of 2026. Thank you for the manifold talents of this class, and thank you also for the profound kindness, integrity, and strength of character represented here before You. Ours is a community that truly looks out for one another.

In the story of the first crime ever committed, Cain's murder of his brother Abel, in response to Your questioning, Cain asks "Am I my brother's keeper?" In all you have revealed, Lord, in all we have learned, the answer to Cain's question is clearly "yes." My prayer is for us always to recognize that every single one of us, no matter our life circumstances, is made in Your image and likeness and possesses immeasurable dignity. We acknowledge we do not exist in isolation from each other but belong to a profoundly interconnected community.

And that community needs *us*. We accept the mantle of a profession dedicated to upholding the rule of law in our communities and respecting the dignity of the individuals in them. We pray for You to guide us on this professional journey. At times we may feel small and inadequate, and we will not get everything right, but we trust through earnestly serving one another and You, we will promote justice which is ultimately Your Will for Creation.

And so, Lord, our prayer is that we go forth today with servants' hearts and faith in Your plan. Lead us to where you need us to be and help us to do what You are calling us to do. We pray that we will practice our profession skillfully. But let us remember and apply the words of St. Thomas More to ourselves: we are indeed the King's good servants—but we are Yours first.

Christian E Henniger, '26
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