

**SETON HALL LAW SCHOOL
COMMENCEMENT
NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
MAY 25, 2023, 3:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION

Law school graduation is a threshold crossing. Graduates, you are stepping out of the structured experience of classroom learning into the lived experience of law practice. You move from predictability to variety...and even, maybe at times, chaos. The psalms are the journey songs of a people who made the passage from the predictable to the incalculable. Here is one for days of joy like today.

- ¹ It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to the Most High.
² It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning,
your faithfulness in the evening,
³ accompanied by a ten-stringed instrument, a harp,
and the melody of a lyre.
⁴ You thrill me, Lord, with all you have done for me!
I sing for joy because of what you have done.
⁵ O Lord, what great works you do!
And how deep are your thoughts.¹

Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, who embraced God's surprises, the poet Daniel Ladinsky writes in *Love Poems from God*,

No one lives outside the walls of this sacred place, existence.

....

You cannot wander anywhere that will not aid you,
Anything you can touch—God brought it into
the classroom of your mind.²

I wish for you adventure, fulfillment, prosperity and most of all...love.

Let us pray...

Lord, bless these graduates. Inspire them to be sensitive to your presence in the daily routines of their lives. Through dedication and discipline, they have acquired the knowledge and skills to serve civil society as agents and guardians of the rule of law. Grant them their high destiny as your daughters and sons who will be effective advocates amidst the chaos of the present.

¹ Psalm 92:1-5, New Living Translation, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+92&version=NLT>

² "The Holy Water," in *Love Poems from God: Twelve Sacred Voices from the East and West*, Penguin Compass: 2002, p.35, found at <https://www.poetseers.org/spiritual-and-devotional-poets/contemp/love-poems-from-god/rabia/the-holy-water/>

Bless our honorary degree recipient, The Honorable Evelyn Padin, in her life and work.

Bless the families and friends of the graduates, who have supported them in so many ways during their years of study and let them know and believe they are appreciated.

Continue to sustain the 50th anniversary alumni in attendance and their classmates celebrating at a distance.

Lord, accompany Seton Hall Law School and Seton Hall University in the mission to educate and enlighten, using the gifts of our Catholic heritage.

For President Joseph Nyre, Provost Katia Passerini and Dean Kip Cornwell, the University Regents and Trustees, and law school Board of Visitors, we ask your unfailing guidance in their institutional leadership.

Inspire our wonderful faculty, support our administration and staff.

In all the holy Names of God we pray, and together say...AMEN