

SETON HALL LAW SCHOOL
COMMENCEMENT
NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
JUNE 4, 2024, 10:00 A.M.

INVOCATION

Next fall, Queen’s University Law School in Canada will offer a course with the title: “Law (Taylor’s Version).” I don’t have tenure in the “Tortured Poets Department”—I’m not qualified to call myself a “Swiftie”—but I do *admire* Taylor Swift for a quality of hers that sustains all the others: *resilience*.

Resilience is the capacity to withstand and recover from hardship or difficulty. It has to do with the ability to spring back into shape after being knocked down or bent by a fierce wind. Taylor has navigated professional challenges so successfully that Queen’s Associate Dean Prof. Mohamed Khimji was inspired to develop a *substantive entertainment law course* based on Swift’s numerous interactions with the legal system. Taylor Swift has relied on the law in withstanding the onslaught of profiteers in a music industry notorious for *exploiting* countless other artists before her.

Class of 2024 graduates, during the last three or four years, you too have demonstrated *radical resilience*. You have dug deep and mined your intellectual and emotional resources, to meet the demands of a rigorous legal education in a sometimes challenging societal context, and you have done this successfully!

The Prophet Isaiah writes:

28 Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is God from of old,
creator of the ends of the earth....

29 He gives power to the faint,
abundant strength to the weak.

....

31 They that hope in the LORD will renew their strength,
they will soar on eagles' wings;
They will run and not grow weary,
walk and not grow faint (Is 40).

Let us pray...

Lord, bless these graduates. Inspire them to *hope* in you. Through dedication and discipline, they have acquired the knowledge and skills to serve our nation as *agents* and *guardians* of the rule of law.

Continuously renew their strength that they may run and not grow weary, may *soar* like the eagle. Grant them their high destiny as your daughters and sons who will be effective *advocates* amidst a gathering chaos.

We are mindful of individuals who began law school with the Class of 2024, but who for various reasons cannot be present at today's celebration.

Bless the families and friends who have been *resilient* in providing support during their graduate's years of study and let them know and believe they are *appreciated*.

Bless in his life and work, our commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient, the Honorable Michael Schipp, Class of 1994.

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 Dr. Katia Passerini, Provost Erik Lillquist, and Dean Kip Cornwell, the University Regents and Trustees, and law school Board of Visitors and Alumni Council, we ask your unfailing guidance in their institutional leadership.

Inspire our wonderful *faculty*, sustain our *administration* and *staff*.

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

Rev. Nicholas S. Gengaro
Chaplain