

2026 Law School Graduation – Monsignor Joseph Reilly

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

11 a.m.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Newark, New Jersey

Greetings and congratulations to the Seton Hall Law Class of 2026!

I want to begin by telling you how very proud we are of you. I know the same is true for your family and friends.

Now, after years of study, your law school journey has reached a successful conclusion.

The fruits borne of great sacrifices and long hours are yours to savor.

As you enjoy these well-earned fruits, you have reached an inflection point. Today, you are faced with another question – not a question of law, but a question of purpose: What kind of fruit will you bear for others? This is a significant and telling question as you begin your legal careers. It is also an ancient question, intimately connected with what gives life meaning.

In Matthew's Gospel (7:16), Christ tells His disciples that good trees bear good fruit. And likewise, bad trees bear bad fruit. People – like trees – are known for the fruits they bear.

Jesus says: *“By their fruits you will know them.” This is so important that He says it a*

second time. “By their fruits you will know them.”

Also, in John’s Gospel (15:16), Jesus instructs His disciples to “Go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.”

As graduates of Seton Hall Law, you have been trained to be the bearers of good fruit – fruit that nourishes the human family. The fruit of justice, fairness, and truth. This is the fruit that truly endures.

I believe this is the highest aim of your calling as practitioners of jurisprudence. And I would dare say it is the very reason our law school exists.

By now, you understand Seton Hall lawyers are bound by a mission to serve:

- To love the law and uphold it with wisdom and virtue.
- To use their position of privilege to advance the common good.

Because of this, in the coming years, you will be known not for your worldly achievements or material possessions, but by the fruit you have borne as servants of others and of the law.

When you turn the blessings you have been given into blessings for other people, then you will have achieved your Greater Purpose.

As you leave Seton Hall Law, you go with our prayers and our utmost confidence that our nation and world will be better because you are about to take the reins.

Be well. Stay safe. And come back home when you can.

May God bless you throughout your lives and in everything you do.

Congratulations!