

Baccalaureate Chapel Remarks
Mike Hyde
May 26, 2013

Luke 2:42-52

This morning we continue our celebration of the class of 2013 and all of their many accomplishments. Commencement weekend provides a sense of closure to the senior class's remarkable journey. As the Class of 2013 reflects back on the trials and tribulations of their precious time at St. Andrew's, many will remember the friendships and relationships you have formed, crazy times on dorm, memorable athletic contests, the musical, Senior retrospective, the academic challenges you faced and conquered, all surrounded by the ups and downs of boarding school life. As you have navigated your way through this roller coaster ride called high school, it is important to remember the love and support you have received from your parents. Parents have been recognized as their children's first teachers and role models. Yet, there are no golden parent textbooks or parent apps on your smartphone explaining how to be a parent – so parents learn through experience.

While you made the choice to attend boarding school – thereby saying goodbye to your parents for extended periods of time – your parents supported you in that big decision. They still have played a vital role in your growth and development from a teenager to a young adult.

After listening to Luke's story about Jesus and his family's journey to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, one is amazed by Jesus's motivation to stay in the temple, separating himself from his parents. As worried and concerned parents, Mary and Joseph are forced to turn around and head back to find Jesus in the temple. Jesus, on the other hand, had no worries as he was in the house of the Lord. He was quite content to learn and share with his elders – not worrying about his parent's whereabouts.

Now your parents are expected to worry about you – **their child** - making sure you are safe and in good hands. As with Mary and Joseph, your parent's love and concern are authentic and absolute.

It is important to remember that your parents have made sacrifices for you –some just to enable you to attend a school like St. Andrew's. They have sacrificed their time and money, and most

importantly themselves, to make sure you are in a safe, positive, and rewarding environment. While St. Andrew's has allowed you to grow and mature on your own, your parents still have played a valuable role in your young life.

When Jesus returned home with his mother and father, he reverently played the role of the obedient son. I encourage the class of 2013 to make a sincere and concerted effort to thank your parents for all they have done to help you reach this point in your life. While they may not be a daily visible entity in your respective lives, your parents have made sacrifices in order for you to become a more educated, responsible, considerate, and thoughtful individual. Be sure to appreciate your parent's efforts today – on **your graduation day** – as it is a joyous day of celebration for everyone. I strongly encourage you to say thank you to your parents – again and again - for all they have done for you.