

1. In addition to not only welcoming all of you to our beautiful Cathedral this evening for the Baccalaureate Mass for Newman University, as the Bishop of the Diocese of Wichita, I want to join my voice to that of the many, President Carrocci, Newman's Board of Directors, the Faculty, staff, and the parents and family members of the graduating class of 2017 to express to you our profound admiration for your significant accomplishment in graduating from Newman. Being with you tonight, we promise our prayerful support as you enter into the next phase of your lives, whether that be to pursue an advanced degree or to take your place in the workforce. We are very proud to call you a graduate of an educational institution that is near and dear to the heart of our local Catholic Community. May God bless every step of your life as you now go forth for whatever life has in store for you.

The famous American poet Maya Angelou once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but

2people will never forget how you made them feel.” When we consider the most lasting human impact a human being can have on others, it isn’t building buildings or developing new inventions or making great amounts of money or having great amounts of power and influence. No, the greatest human contribution takes place when one person helps to improve the life of another; when because of who you are or how you live your life, you help people to feel wanted, needed, honored, and loved. When any of us make another feel in such a way, they not only will remember that for the rest of their lives, but their lives have been transformed in a lasting way.

As erudite and academic as the patron of our University was, a truly brilliant man, Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman had the motto that offers us a similar message: *Cor Ad Cor loquitor*. Heart speaks to the heart. The heart is the center, the core of the human person; from it emanates our values, our passions, our deepest convictions and feelings. When one heart speaks to another, life is changed, our human nature is enriched and life

It takes on a whole new meaning. It is what happens when two people fall in love; when a person forgives from the heart, when someone helps another, not because of obligation but freely and happily. *Cor ad Cor loquitor*; heart speaks heart.

My friends, my hope is that at Newman you have not only been given an education of the mind but also and dare I say more importantly of the heart, forming your heart with a passion for your chosen field of study, but also a passion of service to the greater community, a heart that is moved by compassion, justice and integrity. We hope you will enter the world with hearts enflamed for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, ready to take your place and to do what God has destined you to do to build up, inspire and enrich our culture and society.

In tonight's Gospel, Jesus proclaimed some of his most immortal words when he said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Whether or not you embrace the Christian faith, as a student of Newman University

4you have been formed in the Way, The Truth and the Life; as such, you have received from the Church one of her greatest treasures and blessings, a solid, authentic and integral formation of the mind, the heart, the soul, indeed of the whole person, so that you can succeed in this life and receive from that success, a deep happiness, joy and satisfaction because yours will be a life well lived, in harmony with God's will and plan for you.

And so we thank you, graduates of Newman University's class of 2017 for welcoming this holistic and challenging education; we look forward to how you will use it as a blessing for yourselves and for others, for the many whom you will encounter on the path of your life, when by God's design heart speaks to heart and perhaps you will recall these words: People will forget what you did; people will forget what you said, but people will always remember how you made them feel. God bless you and God bless Newman University. Amen.

***the Most Rev. Carl A. Kemme, bishop of the Diocese of Wichita,***

