

## Graduation 2020 – Mrs. Carroll

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I want to share four thoughts with you tonight.

First thought: God speaking to St. Catherine of Siena: “The soul cannot live without love. She always wants to love something because love is the stuff she is made of.” God uses a feminine pronoun, but the words apply to all souls, masculine or feminine. Listen to that last phrase again: Love is the stuff she is made of. God isn’t saying we are created by love or for love or because of love but created OF love. I find that a fascinating phrase. And it is metaphysically certain. Here’s why. As you all learned first quarter, and of course remember perfectly, we have no existence of our own nature. God shares His existence with each creature. And God’s nature is infinite, self-giving love. Therefore the existence He shares with us is love. Therefore: love is the stuff we are made of.

Second thought: Deacon Jonathan Fioramonti’s homily yesterday on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Deacon Jonathan described love as presence, everlasting, sacrifice, giving, unity, and fruitfulness. We shouldn’t ask the question “what is love,” but rather “who is love.” Love is a person and we encounter that Person in the Eucharist, in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, whose love for us is everlasting, sacrificial, self-giving, unifying, and fruitful.

Third thought: Father Vander Woude’s homily at your classmate Olivia’s baptism and confirmation and First Holy Communion today. By her baptism, Olivia became a beloved daughter of God the Father, and she will live out that relationship through the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of the Eucharist. You also have entered into that relationship through your baptism and are beloved sons of the Most High and beloved daughters of the King.

Fourth thought: Father Ed’s Corpus Christi homily yesterday. Father said that the suffering we see in our society right now, every night on the nightly news if you can stand to watch it, cannot be healed by any human means. There is no human solution to what are at bottom spiritual problems, caused by alienation from the love of which we are made. Only by restoring a relationship with God, and the Eucharist is a prime way of restoring that relationship, can we have a hope of mending the broken hearts in this broken world.

Summary: You are made of love. To review first quarter again, your material cause, your formal cause, your efficient cause, and your final cause is love. You are made of love, by Love (capital L) and the entire purpose of your existence is to love. Love is not quantifiable, but love can become ever more profound, ever purer, more and more extensive. Let Christ’s love in the Eucharist draw you ever closer to Him. What will happen as a result? You be able to share that love with others and bring healing to those you encounter who are wounded by the culture of death in all its many forms. You will help others to see that love is the stuff they are made of.

In a few minutes, I will begin reading the names of the Class of 2020, calling you forward for your diplomas. Each name will be united with love drawn from the depths of my heart. To again quote God speaking to St. Catherine: In the dignity of your existence, may you taste the immeasurable goodness and love of which you are created.