



REGINA DOMINICAN

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR WOMEN

(06.09.05)

Regina Dominican send 114 graduates off to the world

With prayer and song, words of praise and inspiration, much applause, and mixed emotions, the Regina Dominican community sent the 114 members of the Class of 2005 off to their new lives as college students. The seniors graduated during a special Baccalaureate and Commencement Ceremony held in the school auditorium on the morning of June 4.

Reverend Daniel McCarthy, principal celebrant of the Mass, addressed the new graduates during his homily. He reminded them of the knowledge, wisdom, strength of character, and value system they had gained, first from their years in Catholic elementary schools and most recently at Regina Dominican. Who they are now has been shaped by their many experiences at Regina Dominican in the past four years: involvement in school organizations or sports, community service projects, the challenge of a teacher to do better, and even a casual conversation in the hallway with a staff member.

"Share with the world who you are, what you have become: balanced, gifted, and generous young women," Father McCarthy challenged. "...You can touch lives. You can change the world. You are capable of greatness." But, he reminded them, they cannot do it all alone; they must walk each day with Jesus Christ and take with them – to college and beyond – the values they learned at Regina Dominican.

Presiding with Father McCarthy was Reverend William Flaherty, uncle of senior Elisabeth Flaherty.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Sister Adrienne Piennette, O.P., President, bestowed the Alumna Medal on Carol Ross Barney, award-winning architect and member of Regina Dominican's Class of 1966. The founder of her own architectural firm, Ross Barney & Jankowski, Mrs. Barney's recent commissions have included a science lab for the University of Minnesota-Duluth and, most notably, a new federal building for Oklahoma City. Mrs. Barney's building replaces the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, which was destroyed by a bomb on April 19, 1995.

In her address to the Class of 2005, Mrs. Barney recalled her own days at Regina Dominican and her struggles to establish herself in a field that, in the 1960s, included very few women. After graduating from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign – one of only 3 women out of a class of 100 architecture graduates – Mrs. Barney joined the Peace Corps and served in Costa Rica. She then landed a job at the established Chicago architectural firm Holabird and Root, which this year marks its 125th anniversary. She ultimately struck out on her own and, after years of struggle, now oversees a successful and award-winning firm.

Throughout her talk, Mrs. Barney had words of wisdom and advice for the Class of 2005. She encouraged them to attend their 10-year class reunion, find a mentor who could help them in their careers, and finally, to "be an eagle."

Mrs. Kathy Rzany, Principal, also addressed the Class of 2005 before presenting them, one by one, to receive their diplomas. "In the three years that I've known you, you have made me very proud," not only of their academic achievements but "more so of your generosity of heart. You are terrific young women."

After receiving their diplomas, the new graduates heard from one of their own, Hilary Bouxsein. "We've lived through four years of high school together," Hilary told



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her classmates. "That's saying a lot!" She noted the class's many accomplishments, such as the varsity basketball, Worldwide Youth In Science and Engineering (WYSE) and Poms teams all playing in state competition during the Class's years at Regina, as well as the many awards that individual seniors had won in academics, sports, community service and the fine arts.

"Of course, it isn't awards that we'll remember most when we think about high school," Hilary noted. "It's things like Kairos (a retreat program), or Prom, or the musical senior year or the last game of the season." She challenged her classmates to remember not just those high points, but everything about their time at Regina Dominican, "the good times, the bad times, and the blah times in between. If you don't remember everything, none of the stuff you do remember will mean as much." Finally, she challenged her Class to learn from all that they remember.

"We've had a great opportunity – one of the best – to learn about ourselves and to have fun while we learn," Hilary concluded. "By taking advantage of it, we not only give credit to ourselves, but to all these people who have helped us learn." [Click here for the full text of Hilary's graduation speech.]

The Class of 2005 – along with their family and friends and faculty and staff members – continued the celebration with a reception in the cafeteria.