



(FROM LEFT) SALUTORIAN NATHANIEL TORRES (UCLA) OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, VALEDICTORIAN RACHEL KIM (STANFORD) OF LAGUNA NIGUEL AND CARITAS AWARD RECIPIENT ANDY CONCIALDI (HOPE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY) OF TRABUCO CANYON. THE CARITAS AWARD IS GIVEN TO THE STUDENT WHO BEST EMBODIES THE SCHOOL'S CHARISM OF CARITAS CHRISTI, THE LOVE OF CHRIST.

SANTA MARGARITA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE CLASS OF 2018 AT THE SCHOOL'S 28TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

BY AMANDA CORONADO

More than 3,600 friends and family members gathered at the UCI Bren Events Center on Friday, June 1, as Santa Margarita Catholic High School's 449-member Class of 2018 received their diplomas during the school's 28th commencement ceremony. Bishop Timothy E. Freyer, auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Orange, presided

over the ceremony. Freyer was joined by Interim Superintendent Sally Todd of the Diocese of Orange, who reflected on the faith and spiritual development, academic excellence and character formation Santa Margarita provided.

"You are definitely not the person graduating today that you were when you walked onto the campus of Santa Margarita," Todd said. "You have grown up in learning, wisdom and faith – yes, but

also as a result, integrity as a person."

Principal Raymond Dunne and President Andy Sulick '91 offered their personal reflections before Assistant Principals Sean Basford and John Hayek assisted Bishop Freyer with the conferral of diplomas.

Select members from the Class of 2018 joined school and diocesan leadership on the dais. Niko Mancera of Laguna Niguel brought chills to the crowd with his rendition of the national anthem; ASB President Garrett Domier of Coto de Caza led the traditional tassel ceremony; and Andy Concialdi of Trabuco Canyon was recognized as the school's Caritas Award recipient, which is given to the student that best embodies the school charism of Caritas Christi, the love of Christ.

At the top of their class academically,

CLASS OF 2018 BY THE NUMBERS

- \$57.8 million in scholarship offers
- 2,375 college acceptances
- \$175,000 average combined scholarship offers per graduate
- 449 students
- 148 colleges graduates will attend
- 73% of the class received a scholarship offer
- 100% acceptance rate at 208 schools
- 99% percent attending college
- 60 student-athletes to compete at the collegiate level
- 44 students studying the arts in college
- 41 schools accepted to of *U.S. News and World Report's* Top 50 National Best Colleges
- 18 CIF team championships (2014-2018)

valedictorian Rachel Kim of Laguna Niguel and salutarian Nathaniel Torres addressed their classmates. Kim, an immigrant from Korea, will attend Stanford University while Torres of Rancho Santa Margarita plans to study at UCLA.

Kim shared with her classmates that she was confident they would go on to change the world in their own unique ways. Quoting Nelson Mandela she said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

She went on to say, "We've been incredibly blessed to receive an SM education ... All 450 of us will have a positive impact on society in 450 or more different ways-- some of us want to be doctors, nurses, lawyers, engineers, actors, politicians, entrepreneurs, journalists, athletes, and for some of us, in this age of rapid technological change, our future jobs probably don't even exist yet. And that is the most exciting part. The number of ways in which we can go out into the 'real world' and use our SM education to spread Caritas Christi, the love of Christ, is truly infinite." ❖