

Lasallian Commencement Address

January 1999

Presented by: Cynthia Zalatel

Good afternoon, and welcome to the members of the Board of Trustees, distinguished guests, the Christian Brothers, President Br. James

Six years ago my husband asked me what **seemed** to be a simple question, one that sparked a **major change** in our lives. He asked me "Do you remember when we were in high school what you had said you wanted to do when you grow up?" I always dreamt of being a nurse; to be able to help others. He replied, "Why don't you do it then? Why don't you go to nursing school?" We sat down with our kids, Jake and Erin, then 12 and 10 ½, and asked them what they thought about the idea. We explained to them that things would not necessarily be the same at home- mom would not only be working, but would also have to go to school and do homework. Dishes and laundry would no longer be the priorities.

It took teamwork from all of us to get through these past few years. The kids learned to do their own laundry and to help keep the house clean. My husband took over the **privilege** of cooking and driving the kids around when I couldn't. The rest of my family was also very supportive, especially my mom and dad.

All of us here today have been so fortunate in family and so blessed by God. Finally, in the spirit of John Baptist De LaSalle, I urge you, as you leave Lewis University, whether to attend graduate school or enter a new profession, to be that person who responds to a need; who takes responsibility and who serves. Make your mark on humanity and be proud that you are a graduate of Lewis University.