

Student Lasallian Commencement Address
December 2011
Presented by: Karen Joy Dizon

Good afternoon, members of the Board of Trustees, Brother James, honored guests, faculty, staff, fellow graduates, parents, family and friends.

Mary Oliver, an American poet concludes one of her poems with this line. "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" I think it is safe to assume that most of us gathered here today experienced times in which we were apprehensive of the unknown future. This probing question invites all of us to recall the times in our lives in which we stood at a crossroads di e ommunity college. As a junior double major intellectually,

as well as encouraged to implement their knowledge outside the traditional classroom setting. This past June I had an experience that helped me integrate my learning through the Mission Value of Wisdom. I participated in The Diocesan Mission Trip to Sucre, Bolivia.

on the trip who felt comfortable drawing, I naturally took on the role of creating the designs. This commitment soon progressed as I encouraged and assisted other students to participate in the process.

Creativity fuels me, however I never imagined that my efforts in Sucre would revolve around art. To my surprise, one mural quickly became four. But because of the workload, I missed opportunities to distribute new clothes to the children and assist them with their lessons. I was envious of the other students because they substantially shared more quality time with the children in comparison to me. I wrestled with this idea of what service should look like. It was not until the last day that I truly realized the impact my art had on others. When it was time for goodbyes, one of the workers thanked me for all my efforts on the murals. She told me that everyday at work when she walks by them, she will think of me. She took my hand, gave me a bracelet she h b

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So as we obtain our diplomas and say goodbye to homework and exams, how will we proceed? For some of us, the next step in the journey might take us to a new internship, job, or graduate school. And some of us here today, might still be discerning carefully just what to do next. Regardless of what we do after graduation, there is one question we should all be thinking about... How will we integrate what we have learned at Lewis into both our professional and our personal lives? The decision is in our hands. Recognize the opportunities that present themselves, and most importantly, enjoy your one wild and precious life. Best wishes to you all, Class of December, 2011.