



ACADEMY OF THE HOLY NAMES

Joan Lipscomb Arthurton '87 Speech to Parents – Fall 2024 Open House

I was good for Holy Names and Holy Names was good for me.

If someone asked me which set of years of my school career I would relive again and again, it would not be my tenure at Georgetown University at the height of their basketball domination, but it would be, I mean, you already know...I would choose over and over again my time at Holy Names, my four high school years.

There's a mystique about this campus and these hallowed halls that seeps into your soul as your time here accumulates. For me, it was easy. When people ask me about attending school here, I always say "it's not for everyone" but Holy Names was good for me. Catholic born and bred, I experienced a high level of comfort in continuing my theology and adopting an education steeped in service. When you attend Holy Names, your middle name becomes service and service becomes your life force.

Holy Names is about fulfilling dreams. I dreamed of going to the school where I was a flower girl for my cousin who graduated in 1975. I dreamed of being on a track team and having a real coach for the first time in my life. I dreamed of being someone who was liked, respected and admired. I dreamed of graduating and moving on to a great college. Holy Names brought all my dreams to fruition. But my best dream come true is the lifelong friendships I have with former classmates and teachers. Anyone who knows me will attest to my friendship and respect for Carlo Cherubino. His sense of humor, his attention to hard work, his respect for me and my teammates is emblazoned on my heart. I was good for Holy Names and Holy Names was good for me.

Holy Names is about a girl becoming her best self while becoming a young, well-educated woman. Holy Names is about acceptance, tolerance and coming of age surrounded by a dedicated, nurturing community that instills confidence and that belief that you can truly be a force, rather than just seeming to exist. ESSE QUAM VIDERI FOR LIFE. A girl can excel in the classroom or science lab; she can meet with success in the sports arena, or on the stage. She could become a great debater. At Holy Names, a girl can be all these things. I was good for Holy Names and Holy Names was good for me.

Holy Names was formative for me. My friendships, running career and academic tenacity shaped my life. I gained a sense of myself that led me to Washington D.C. and the mighty campus on the Hilltop. But Georgetown is just a cog in the wheel that was formed at my beloved AHN. I started my teaching career here and learned how to be a true professional. Without Holy Names I would be a different person. Without Holy Names, I wouldn't be here speaking to you.

Being able to attend Holy Names is a blessing for which I will be eternally grateful.

So, march with a song as the days roll along; grateful hearts to you we bring, your praises ever sing.