

## ***Year-End Speech***

A very wise person once asked me: “If the whole world was listening to you, what would you say?” As I sit here and reflect on my past year as a Niagara Catholic Student Trustee, I understand that this was my opportunity to say something. Something impactful, something that will be a positive impact for students. I am a firm believer in ‘Everything happens for a reason’, and I have no doubt that being a Niagara Catholic Student Trustee falls perfectly under this mantra.

In the turbulent times of today, being in politics and education is always at the forefront of any conversation. Now more than ever, we need strong leaders who speak on behalf of all equally and impartially, with passion. My time as a Student Trustee has allowed me to do so, and do so with a smile every day.

To my co-chair and frankly my sister, Jade, I am so very blessed to have worked with you and become best friends. We have grown so close over the past year and made memories I will never forget. Whether it was hosting a senate meeting, going on our usual coffee and work dates, flying to Ottawa for BCC’s and getting stuck at the airport, going on a mini road trip around Niagara to film our senate video, or just hanging out talking about life, I cherish every single moment with you. You are truly brilliant and have made this year one of the best of my life; know that if I could, I would pack you in my suitcase and bring you to Ottawa to live with me! I cannot wait to see you thrive in your new role as Catholic Board Council President, OSTA and Student across Ontario truly are in the best of hands. I have no doubt in my mind that I have made a friend for life, and that we will still be reminiscing on these days and making memories as we grow old. As for you and Luca, I am so thrilled for what’s to come for you both next year as Student Trustees, and wish you the best of luck in all that you take on.

To Mr. Crocco, Anna Pisano, the entire board of Trustees, and all executive administration, I am so incredibly grateful to have learned from you, been mentored by you, and empowered by you. Being able to act as a voice for students all across Niagara at the board level has been so incredibly rewarding and I thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for everything you have done for me and for all students. The direction you have provided me with will serve me well as I move on to post-secondary in a vast amount of ways to which I cannot begin to describe. I have met some of the most impactful and brilliant people during my time as a Student Trustee, and each one of you will always hold a special place in my heart.

To Miss Wood, thank you for being the most wonderful senate aunt, and most importantly, all the guidance in my faith journey you have given me over the past year. God and my faith continues to be a prevalent and incredibly important part of my life, and you have helped me grow and learn so much in that area.

To Mrs. Cristelli and Mr Griepsma, I cannot thank you enough for all of the time and effort you have put into overseeing senate, helping guide Jade and I with our plans and initiatives, and really for ensuring that our success was superlative.

This role is a great amount of responsibility and work and I would not have been able to do it without all of the guidance and support from each person here at Niagara Catholic. seeing our plans and goals for students come to fruition.

To quote the famous Winnie the Pooh phrase, "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard?" I know that this is not a goodbye, nor is it the end, but simply a 'see you soon'. Because after all, once a Niagara Catholic family, always a Niagara Catholic family, and I thank you all once again for truly an educational and remarkable year.