

Dana MacIntosh

### Ring Liturgy Reflection

“I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may all be one.”

Tonight, we celebrate our oneness with God and with each other and the relationships that have grown out of this oneness. Throughout our past three years at Mount St. Joseph Academy we have had the opportunity to create lasting bonds with classmates, teammates, and teachers, people who have nurtured and supported us as we have grown. We have formed groups of friends and have figured out what it means to be a Mountie. But as leaders of the school now we are called to more. We are called to choose to live what we have come to know.

As young women attending the Mount we have the singular opportunity of being united into a class of the future leaders of society. But what kind of future leaders will we be? Compassionate ones, honest ones, innovative ones? Look around you... The future, our future will be built upon the growth of choices that take place now. Tonight, we celebrate this opportunity to become young women who will lead the world to change.

The rings we receive tonight remind us of all we can be as individuals but also who we can be together as a class. Now as students and later as alumnae, we have and will have a community offering us a strong circle of support. There are only 147 copies of this ring and they all belong to people in this room. All the

same yet personalized with that special something that makes us all unique. We could get gold with a sunburst cut or silver with Quadra cut and initials. Our class has such varied people as our choices for rings. We are funny, serious, outgoing, shy, stressed, relaxed. As the class of 2011 we come together like pieces of a mosaic: Each piece distinct and beautiful yet even more extraordinary in totality. As we heard in the Gospel, we are called to be “completely one.”

Our class rings also symbolize God’s love that is never-ending. We have come to learn to respect each person, especially our classmates. We are set apart from other the Mount classes because only we have had the same experiences, but we are connected by the mission. The Mount has instilled in us a sense that the future of society rests in our hands. Just as all those who have gone before us, we too are called to strive for unity and reconciliation with God and all people. We achieve this unity by joining together at class retreats every year. These retreats are a break from the stress of our Mount life where we can reconnect with God and with each other to mend relationships –to create stronger bonds. It is important to remember the times we have come together for shared experiences. No longer new, Founder’s Day is a long awaited moment to share. Sitting in the chapel, we look up at the stars on the ceiling and we know we are in a familiar place called home. The walk back invites us to be the first to kick off our loafers and join in the all-girls dance party.

We are a part of something bigger than ourselves. We are a part of a faith community that, along with God, the eternal unifier, has shaped the path of our lives. Someday when we look down at our rings on our fingers, we will think about all the lives we have touched, changed. We remember all those whose lives touched us. During high school remember God's enduring love that has no beginning and no end. Let us remember the challenging times that made us strong and the laughs along the way. Let us wear our rings proudly because they unite us as a class and represent the circle of relationships that will continue to support us in the future.