



# TARMAC

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## An Event Rich in Symbolism

### Juniors Step Up, Receive School Rings

by Brendan Michaelis '11

**N**ow is the time to step up and take charge," said Bro. Joseph Bellizzi, addressing the Junior Class gathered in Darby Auditorium. "Each of you will now begin the transition into your rightful position as leaders."

The students in the audience listened intently to Bro. Joseph's words as it became clear to all of them that they were now becoming the leaders of the school.

On Tuesday, May 11, the Class of 2011 received their class rings. The ceremony began with the introduction of the principal, Bro. Joseph, by Mr. Brian Anselmo, Junior Divisional coordinator.

In his address, Bro. Joseph focused on two themes – the importance of symbols in life and the time of transition that characterizes the junior year.

The speech started out with a talk about the ring as a symbol, and the importance of other symbols in everyday life.

"Symbols express who we are and our relationships with other people," said Bro. Joseph.

He pointed to the example of a ring representing the mutual commitment of a married couple. In the same way, the Junior Class ring symbolizes the student's commitment to Chaminade and to his classmates.

Besides the symbolic value of the ring as a whole, several smaller symbols decorate the ring and have their own meaning. A Cross, for example, symbolizes the Catholic faith of each student. A torch symbolizes the light of learning, and a triangle represents the three core elements of the Chaminade Family – students, parents, and teachers. Above all three are the letters *AM*, standing for *Ave Maria*, reminding students of Chaminade's patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

All these symbols – the Cross, the torch, the triangle, and the letters *AM* – are familiar elements of the Chaminade High School seal. The seal is meant to remind the bearer that there is "Strength in Unity," or *Fortes in Unitate* – a reference to the school motto.

Also prominent on the school ring is a raised head-and-shoulders portrait of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, founder of

the Society of Mary, the Roman Catholic order of brothers and priests that runs Chaminade.

The year 2011 is also engraved on the ring, which consists of a ruby-colored stone set in the silver-colored alloy ultrium.

As Bro. Joseph described the ring and the responsibilities it symbolizes, the juniors soon realized that, with their rings, they were also receiving a new level of trust and leadership.

Bro. Joseph stressed that, with their new positions of leadership, the juniors would assume considerable responsibility. As presidents of school clubs, editors of school publications, and captains of teams, the juniors would now be expected to act as role models for the underclassmen.

Bro. Joseph concluded his speech by focusing on still another well-known Chaminade motto.

"Know what the ring means, and wear it with pride," he said, "and always remember: 'The Chaminade man does the right thing at the right time, because it is the right thing to do, regardless of who is watching.'"

Bro. Joseph next introduced school chaplain Fr. Garrett Long, who blessed the school rings.

Fr. Garrett sprinkled the rings with holy water as he recited the words of blessing. After the ritual was finished, everyone stood as Fr. Garrett led the entire Junior Division in prayer.

When Fr. Garrett left the stage, Mr. Anselmo returned. Calling each homeroom up to the stage, he read aloud the names of each junior receiving a ring as Bro. Joseph gave each student his ring, a handshake, and congratulations.

Thomas Roulis '11, Anthony Zangrillo '11, and Mark Gianfalla '11 assisted Bro. Joseph in distributing the rings.

After each student had received his ring, Mr. Anselmo ended the event by thanking the juniors for their tremendous cooperation and by congratulating the Class of 2011 on their transition into positions of leadership in the school.

"It was nice for us to receive something like this," said Thomas Roulis '11. "The ring will be a constant reminder to me of our time spent at Chaminade." ➤



**If you like it, then put a ring on it: Nick Amster '11 tries on his class ring for the first time.**