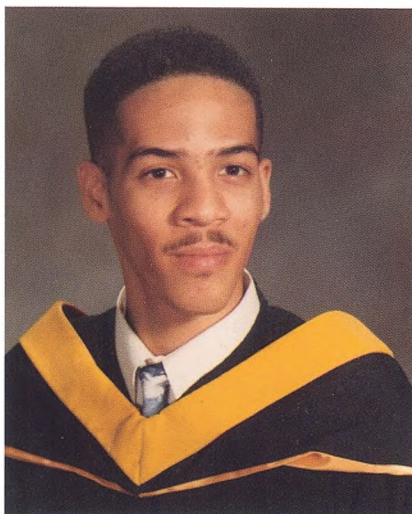


Seniors

"Home is where one starts from. As we grow older
The world becomes stranger, the pattern more complicated
Of dead and living. Not the intense moment
Isolated, with no before and after.
But a lifetime burning in every moment
And not the lifetime of one man only
But of old stones that cannot be deciphered.
There is a time for the evening under lamplight
(The evening with the photograph album).
Love is most nearly itself
When here and now cease to matter.
Old men ought to be explorers
Here and there does not matter
We must be still and still moving
Into another intensity
For a further union, a deeper communion
Through the dark cold and empty desolation.
The wave cry, the wind cry, the vast waters
Of the petrel and the porpoise.
In my end is my beginning."

T.S. Eliot
"East Coker"

President, Student Government Association



Justin Barry Jerome
Biology

For many of us this journey has come to an end all too quickly. Thus it is with saddened heart and reluctant spirit that we venture out into the world beyond that of SFC. For others, this may not be so, instead this ending has been greeted with a hefty sigh of relief. One thing is sure, however, we have all benefitted from our experiences here at St. Francis and we move forward strengthened and enriched in that knowledge and worldly wisdom gained here at SFC.

We've met our share of friends and associates during our time here no matter how long or short that may have been. It has ended, even though it seems that it had only just begun. However, these are friendships and associations that we ought to carry on long after we've finished our SFC career and begun to advance in this ever changing world. But as we graduate, as we come to the conclusion of this chapter in our lives, as we come to this ending, we have a beginning, a beginning that leads to greater, better things for which four years of course work has prepared us, for beginning a new chapter in our lives and in fashioning the beginning of the rest of our lives.

The rest of our lives is just beginning and we can make it as happy as we want to. As we leave we go out in style and begin that next phase with class. We leave with happy memories and with new friendships and acquaintances. We depart with new ideas to test in a wonderful world of experiences that are ours to discover. Years from now when we reunite, we can share tales of greatness, glory, good times, old times and new but the common bond would be that which we got from our experiences here.

Our college courses and our professors have added an extra dimension to our lives and have done so by triggering thought, strong feelings and either changing, weakening or strengthening certain views of the world and on life that we might have held and we have changed for the better. As we walk down the aisle at commencement it is not so much a departure as it is an entrance into the world with which we are now entrusted.

As we move on, reminiscing yet firmly rooted in the present, keep the words of our patron saint, Francis of Assisi, firmly in our minds:

Let me sow, faith, hope and joy...

May we seek not so much to be understood, as to understand...

For it is in giving that we receive...

And we have received much, so now it is our turn to give to the bigger world that we are now entering.

Good luck and God Bless.

Bonne chance!

¡Buena suerte! y espero que Dios los bendiga.

Buona fortuna e congratulazioni!

Class of '97

Justin-Barry Jérôme