

**Prayer for Artists**

Lord, remember your artists. Have mercy upon them and remember with compassion all those that reflect the good, the ill, the strengths and the weaknesses of the human spirit.

Remember those who raise their voices in unending song, those who pour their souls into music loud and soft.

Remember those who put pigment to surface, carve wood, stone, and marble, who work base metals into beauty, and those building upwards from the earth toward heaven.

Remember those who put thought to paper by computer and by pen; the poets who delve, the playwrights who analyse and proclaim, the dreamers of narrative, all those who work with the light and shadows of film.

Remember the actors moved by Spirit and dancers moving through space.

Remember all these artists whom you have placed among us, for are they not, O Lord, the fellows of your inspiration? Do they not, Lord God, bring to your people great proof of your divinity and our part in it?

Remember your artists and show them mercy and compassion that they may do the same and so uplift all your people. That they may cry forth your praises, as we do here.

**Amen**

That prayer is for each and every one of you here today, as deep down there is an artist in all of us.

For those who do not know me, my name is Finn Pol-Bodetto and I am the 2017 Villanova College Cultural Captain.

Now I would be lying if I did not say the arts have influenced my life in some way shape or form. It is a bit surreal for me to stand here and talk to you about my Villanova journey in the arts when it feels like only yesterday that I was merely sitting where you are now listening to past seniors talk about their journey and not really knowing what path to take.

However, witnessing their performances in music and drama sparked an interest that has led me here today.

Art is all around us. In fact, it is in everything we do. From how we dress ourselves to how we socialize with others to how we see the world.

Just the other day, in class my teacher said, "Art lets us make sense of the world around us." This quote really resonated with me.

With all that is happening in our world today Art is a medium used to protest, educate and entertain in a time of uncertainty.

Art. Creates. Greatness.

Take Albert Einstein for example, who admired Mozart. When Einstein would brainstorm on of his complex theories, he would often play one of Mozart's compositions on his violin. He saw him as a kind of musical physicist. Someone who seemed to find his distinctive genius in the most cosmic essence of melody.

Art surrounds us.

Just look around... I will bet you are wearing, sitting on, or otherwise experiencing art. A creation of one's imagination and self-expression. Without art, society would be culturally void.

In life, we all fear ridicule and judgement, often preventing us from being our true selves... We forget we are our own person. However, we can easily conquer these fears. Art allows us to dive out of our comfort zone and try something we never thought we would like.

You might not realize it, but you are the artists of our generation. You are the artist of your life. Do you want your "painting" to look exactly like everyone else's OR do you want your painting to be abstract and different enough to depict who you really are?

You see, Art frees the soul to be expressive. It can be the path to emotional freedom, to having a voice, to changing the course of history. It exists in every facet of life: being science, writing, painting, gardening, architecture, decorating, even cooking ... it is life's greatest gift ...

Therefore, I urge each and every one of you here today, to be different. Be yourself, be confident and let your imagination paint your future.