Class of 2020, **WE are limitless.** As we all head down our different paths, I encourage all of you to never let your fears prevent you from following your aspirations and dreams. My Spanish teacher Ms. Castello, or “Mi profesora de español, Señorita Castello,” once told me that whenever I doubt myself or question my abilities, I should ask myself, “¿Por que no?” or “Why not?”. She said that I possess all I need to turn my biggest obstacles into my biggest opportunities by asking myself “¿Por que no?”

Sure, life is filled with risks, and it can be scary to take them. Atychiphobia, or fear of failure, is very common in our society today. However, there have been many great things that have come from failure. Walt Disney was once fired from his job at the Kansas City Star because according to his boss he “lacked imagination and had no good ideas.” Oprah Winfrey was once told she was “unfit for television” and lost her job as a journalist. 6x NBA Champion and nicknamed the GOAT, Michael Jordan didn’t make the varsity basketball team his first two years of high school. The point is, failure does not define you. Rather, the way you respond to the failures you face sets you apart from the rest. Nelson Mandela once said, “Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.”

Graduates, as we begin this new stage of our lives, I ask all of you to not give up when failure approaches. Put your faith in God and let him guide you through the challenges you face. Remember that the only limits in life are the ones you put upon yourselves, so out and do great things in this world. Have no regrets, and live your life to the very fullest because quite frankly, “¿Por que no?”

Thank you, and congratulations to the Central Catholic High School Class of 2020.