

# Astronaut urges students to follow crew's example

By Mike Nelson  
Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES — The pilot of the space shuttle Endeavour told students at his alma mater that the same determination and perseverance the shuttle crew showed in rescuing a satellite is needed to exceed in any endeavor, including high school.

"We failed many times, but we never gave up," Lt. Col. Kevin Chilton told a packed assembly June 1 at St. Bernard High School, which in-

cluded fellow members of his graduating class of 1972.

"We also had no idea that the whole United States of America and the rest of the world were pulling for us," Chilton added. "You hung with us all the way, and each of you, with your prayers and good wishes, made it happen."

Chilton got some idea of that support for Endeavour when he received a message by fax on the second day of the mission. It read: "St. Bernard High School Vikings — our roots have originated from all corners of the earth. Now with

you, Lt. Col. Chilton, our branches reach the sky!"

"To see that message from the students and faculty at St. Bernard High School was a pleasant surprise and a tremendous boost to our spirits," Chilton said.

His first mission in space, Chilton said, offered him several chances to offer thanks to God. "The sunrise you see in orbit is the most beautiful red, white and blue sight you can imagine," he said.

"In seeing it the first time, I remembered the Resurrection

and Transfiguration of our Lord, and how difficult it was for those gathered to gaze upon him. And I thought how our Lord must surely be brighter than the brightest sunrise."

In gazing at the Pacific Ocean and its bright blue expanse, Chilton said, "I thought of Our Lady, and how her love spreads over the Earth. It reminded me how fortunate I was to be on this mission."

Chilton, who is married with two daughters and living in Houston, carried a consecrated host on board to have

on the Sunday of the mission. He also took along a banner bearing the insignias of St. Bernard's and Endeavour — a banner he presented to the school.

He graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1976 with a mechanical engineering degree, served around the world as an Air Force test pilot, then joined the space program in 1987.

"A big part of my success was my preparation at St. Bernard's," Chilton said at a press conference before the assembly.

## PARISH GRADUATES

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### St. Paul of the Cross, Honeoye Falls

Honeoye Falls-Lima School

Jo Beth Ballanca  
Christina Connelly  
Damirae Hall  
Denise Hall  
John Hauber  
Christine Hicks  
Kathleen Hunt  
Matthew Kulp

Michael Lewis  
Jeremy McMullen  
Lisa O'Brien  
Amy Reynolds  
Hillary Seeber  
Ann Shellman  
Erin Stanwix  
Keith Stetter  
Jason Swartz  
Jonathon Whitbourne

### St. Salome's Church, Rochester

Eastridge High School

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Andrew Clarco  
Christina Cordello  
Daniel Geraci  
Rebecca Keech

Richard Lavere  
Paul Neumann  
Tim Rcsenzweig  
Colin Scantlin

### St. Stanislaus Church, Rochester

Eastridge

Gregory Ryn

Edison Tech

Michal Mrozek  
Eric Scheutzow

Marshall

Michelle Daszkiewicz

Wilson Magnet

Katarzyna Hasinska

West Irondequoit

Michelle Rivera

### St. Thomas Church, Red Creek

Red Creek High School

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Erin Dates  
Burgess Malcott  
Dana Palermo  
Charles VonHoltz  
Kristine Williams

### St. Thomas More Church, Rochester

Brighton High School

Courtney Brigham  
Jason Koris  
Kevin McIntyre  
E. Peter Prezzano

Penfield High School

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