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CovCath grad masters mic

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THE SCHOOL: Covington Catholic High School, Park Hills

WHERE: Thomas More College, Crestview Hills

THE SCENE: As the school band played in one corner of Connor Convocation Center, graduates began to gather in the opposite corner trying to talk over the music. Dressed in their robes, the men were tying their ties and fitting their caps.

ADVERTISEMENT One tall, lanky graduate held up his tassel and asked, "Mrs. Roscoe, which side does this go on?"

GRADUATES: 118 dressed in royal blue robes and blue and white tassels.

THE SPEAKERS: Class valedictorian Aaron R. Noll and Joseph W. Gross, president and CEO of St. Elizabeth Health Systems

WHAT NOLL SAID: No one was sure what he said at first. A few minutes into his address, the polite audience finally spoke up. "Turn your mike on," "can't hear you," and "speak up" were shouted from the audience.

After regrouping Noll said that over the last four years, they had "grown stronger as a class" and "stronger in our relationship with God." Also, "We'll always be connected by an inexplicable bond - Covington Catholic High School."

WHAT GROSS SAID: He gave a speech focusing on hard work, results and success.

He asked the rhetorical question, "Did CovCath prepare the students for success?" He told the students they received an education "based on Catholic faith with emphasis not only on education but service to others - not all schools are like Covington Catholic."

A HELPING YANK: Before the ceremony, one graduate held up his cap and mouthed to his mother in the bleachers, "Too small." "You've had it a week!" she said. He tried to put it on, but it was obviously too small. A friend gave it a good yank down and it fit. "It's supposed to be tight," mom assured. Maybe not that tight.

OBSERVATION FROM THE MEZZANINE: It didn't take long after putting on their caps for the graduates to learn that with a quick snap, the neck converts the tassel from an emblem of graduation into a weapon to smack classmates' faces.

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