

"X Till I Die"

Among the many phrases commonly repeated by the students of St. Xavier, one particularly lends itself to mockery: "X till I die." This phrase chanted by the loyal students of St. Xavier comes off as hyperbolic. Many do not understand what we mean when we pridefully scream this during sporting events and after our many victories. It seems ridiculous, and it can come off as obnoxious. But there is meaning behind the phrase. It is not meant to be funny. It is meant to be truthful. We say, "X till I die" because it is something we believe. It is something we take pride in. As graduation nears and we prepare to take on alumni status, we all share the same belief that we will always be a part of St. Xavier High School.

We say, "X 'till I die" because we recognize the greatness that the X stands for. When we entered as freshmen, we looked up to the seniors with respect. We saw how much they loved their school with their active leadership and passion for serving. They embodied, for us, what it meant to be a tiger. They showed us how to love St. X through passionate cheers in the rage cage and genuine compassion with the St. Joseph of Arimathea Society. They showed us that, "X" was not just a letter representing our school. "X" stood for a genuine greatness that comes with an intense passion for serving one's community.

So as young freshmen, we strived to embody what these seniors had taught us. We began our work in the classroom, the studio, the stage, and the stadium. Over the next 4 years, we worked our way from the back of the rage cage to the front, filled the chapel during Ryken Service Club meetings, played lead rolls on the stage and flooded the Honor Roll. We followed in the footsteps of our brothers, becoming the leaders they taught us to be.

Now we stand where they stood. We are now the leaders of this great school, and our accomplishments prove it. We have been accepted into some of the most selective universities in the country, created masterpieces like Mark Vogt's "East Point", put on breath taking performances of "12 Angry Men" and "The Addam's Family" and dominated athletics with the best golf team in state of Kentucky as well as our swim team's 26th state title. But this is not where our journey ends.

When we walk down the aisle and receive our diplomas that will not be the end of our career as tigers. We say, "X till I die" because we are tigers for life. We look ahead to the success of those who preceded us. We see CEO's, producers, writers, engineers, educators, athletes, and community servants. We see an unending selflessness that is brought about by the core values instilled into us at St. Xavier. This passion to serve and succeed is something that is ingrained on our hearts forever. Not until we are 40 or 50 or 60, but until we take out last breath. We will always carry on the tradition of greatness throughout our community and beyond, we will always be St. Xavier tigers, and we will always say, "X till we die."

- Caleb Grimes