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### An Optimistic Future With Less Wildfires

Wildfires have been on the rise around the world, but this rise has been especially strong in the Western United States. In 2017, the Tubbs Fire scorched thousands of homes in Sonoma and Napa Counties and burnt down over half of Cardinal Newman's campus. This fire was sparked by a faulty system in PG&E's power lines. This was out of our control and due to the negligence of a single company. However, the real damage of this fire came due to strong winds, dry conditions, and flammable vegetation. Wildfires have been devastating to our communities, but we have the power to control some of the factors that encourage wildfires.

The Tubbs Fire was a cause for uniting, something that is rare today due to political, social, and economic issues. Community members came together and supported those who were struggling. The rapid rebuilding of burnt down homes and buildings has shown how productive and amazing society can be when we work together. Cardinal Newman recently finished the construction of a massive new classroom building which replaced the portables. This building marks a new beginning for the school. The Tubbs Fire burnt down the old classrooms, but the school came back and built buildings that are better in every way than before. The school also began construction on the Student Life Center which will act as a meeting and recreational area for future students. There is so much to be excited and optimistic about.

As California and the world begin to allocate more resources towards mitigating the effects of global warming, wildfires should decrease in number and scale. Governor Newsom has signed multiple bills that range from clearing out dry vegetation to mandating that all new cars in California sold in 2035 are electric to increasing funding for Cal Fire. Once the directions

in these bills are executed on, wildfires will be directly or indirectly fought head on. It's not always easy to be optimistic about the future, but it's worth a shot.