

Welcome speech at the Inauguration ceremony, May 10, 2019

H.E. Stephen Lee, Bishop of Macau

## Summary of the speech

Honorable guests and friends,

1. First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the guests who have come to our new campus and attended this opening ceremony.
2. We would like to give thanks and gratitude to those who have supported us along the way. Thanks to the Vice President Edmund Ho, who supported this project throughout the beginning and laid the foundation stone with us 10 years ago; the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, DSEJ and DSES for your trust in our education service; the funding and donation of the Macao Foundation and all the honorable donors. We shall never forget, and we have already contributed back into our hardware and software facilities to provide quality-teaching conditions for students and society. Recalling that while the campus was just completed, it immediately experienced the super typhoon Hato together with the Macao society. That caused the massive damage of the Campus and the delay of the inauguration ceremony. Here I would like to give a special thanks to the Macao Foundation, the FDE of DSEJ, and other institutions for their support for the campus recovery after the disaster.
3. The Macao Diocese was established in 1576. Based in Macao for more than 440 years, the Diocese has always been bridging the cultural exchanges between the East and the West, and carried out various education and social charity works in Macao in light of the Gospel. As a

Catholic university, we were rooted in the long tradition of the St. Paul's College, the first higher institution founded by the Jesuits in East Asia in 1594. From the contributions and foundations of the outstanding missionaries and our bishops in the past ages, it has inspired our Diocese's views on higher education and continued to promote creative dialogue between China and Europe on cultural, scientific, ethical and philosophical traditions. Our close relationship with the Catholic University of Portugal is also based on the ideal pursuit of academic institutions.

4. We have been deeply cultivating Macao's education, cultivating talents, and pillars of our society. This is a campus belonging to Macao and a milestone in our Catholic Education. Illa Verde used to be a small island in Macao. After reclamation, it has now become integrated with the Macao Peninsula and is inseparable from China.
5. Today, we are based on the border and are just a river away from the Mainland China. We are ready to meet the new challenges on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, as well as the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macau SAR. We will continue to work for the society in the context of the China-Portugal platform, cultural dialogue, academic development and so on. I welcome everyone to come and visit our campus more often.

May the peace of the Lord be with you always.