

Speech for Installation  
Bishop Dom Stephen Lee Bun-sang  
Chancellor  
University of Saint Joseph, Macao  
23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

Today is a day of some significance in the history of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ). Today we are gathered here to witness the installation of the Reverend Professor Stephen Morgan as the fourth Rector of USJ.

Professor Morgan came to Macao a little under two years ago to become Dean of our Faculty of Religious Studies. He is a Permanent Deacon of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth in England. He has been insisting to us, as he never loses an opportunity to remind us, that he is not English but Welsh! He previously worked in Hong Kong and London before spending fifteen years as the Oeconomus of the Diocese of Portsmouth and as an academic in the University of Oxford and at the Maryvale Institute. He is a gifted-theologian, a natural teacher, an able administrator, an inspiring leader and a dedicated servant of the Church. This combination of talents quickly became obvious to me and many others as he settled into his life here. When we began looking for a new rector for USJ, Deacon Stephen's name quickly emerged as the preferred candidate. I am grateful to him, to his Bishop and, most of all, to his wife, Caroline, for consenting to this appointment.

The years ahead are filled with promise for USJ. It is an institution which uniquely expresses a key aspect of Macao as a place of cultural, intellectual and religious encounter. In its genuinely international and intercultural character, USJ is a place of witness to a genuine Christian humanism which is an importance out of all proportion to its size. As part of the family of Catholic educational establishments – alongside the Catholic nurseries, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools – USJ is committed to the service of the people of Macao, of China, of the wider-world, grounded in the firm conviction of the dignity and sacredness of the human person, loved, sustained and redeemed. I know that Deacon Stephen is acutely aware of the responsibility for this vision that is being placed upon him as he becomes Rector of USJ. I know that he can rely upon the support of the grace of God, all of us here today and the organisations we represent. I promise him too that he will be always in my prayers and the prayers of the whole Diocese of Macao.

I want, finally, to speak about the retiring-Rector. Over the last four years, it has been my privilege and pleasure to work with a man who is a priest, a scholar and a teacher to his fingertips. In his eight years as Rector, first with my predecessor, Bishop José Lai and then with me, Fr. Peter Stilwell has guided USJ with a gentle determination that cannot fail to impress anyone who has witnessed it. When he became Rector, the University had been experiencing a very troubled few years. It has been the lasting achievement of Fr. Peter that those times now seem only a distant memory. In some ways, it is possible to see Fr. Peter as the second founding Rector of USJ.

But his influence in Macao extends beyond the University. The Portuguese community (and, indeed, the wider Portuguese-speaking community) has also felt the presence of a kind, wise and devoted priest and intellectual figure. They will particularly feel a sense of loss, when – pandemic measures permitting – he returns to Lisbon this summer.

Fr. Peter, both as Chancellor of the University and as Bishop of the Diocese of Macao, I want to thank you for all that you have done – seen and, I know, unseen – as Rector of the University and as a valued co-worker in this corner of the Lord’s Vineyard. Please assure that you have a special place always in the heart of all at USJ and in the Diocese of Macao.