

**USJ Congregation 2020 Speech by
Ms. Lam Man Ieng, PhD Graduate in Education**

12th September 2020

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Distinguished guests and my fellow colleagues and friends.

I am Stacy, a PhD graduate from FSSE in education. It is my honour to attend the ceremony and represent graduates from the postgraduate program to express our gratitude to the university and people who walk with us in the research process of self and knowledge.

We are excited and blessed to have all your presence to witness the special moment in our life, thank you very much. On behalf of the graduates from the postgraduate programs, I would like to express our gratitude to the University of Saint Joseph which provides us with the opportunity to achieve further and reach the next milestone. We extend our special thanks to our Rector, who is leading the university to reach new standards in research and teaching expertise, as well as providing pathways for graduates and current students to achieve very promising futures. Also, I would like to thank all our professors, especially those who supervised our graduation theses and dissertations. Thank you for your excellent guidance and inspiration in our studies and more importantly for your empowerment and support to us when we had hard times during our academic journey. More importantly, let's extend our deepest thanks to our parents, family members, loved ones, and all our friends for the patience, understanding, and love they have for us on our journey of study and life. Here, may I also dedicate special appreciation to all the participants contributed in our studies, the valuable thoughts and experiences you have shared enlighten our researches.

To me, the quest of this degree is like a roller coaster ride. A process filled with joy, excitement, worry, tears and relief. I have never thought of obtaining a PhD degree after I finished my Master's. I did tell myself I would never return to university to study again because I think I am content with what I have. However, one can never expect what to happen in life until I heard an advice that is – if you don't try you will not know. This began my expedition in the wonderland of wisdom, something that is very mysterious but attractive at the same time. I would say this process is really very tough and lonely and there were so many nights and weekends when our friends are spending time for gatherings but you are only dating with those journal articles, books and references. There were so many times I can't write anymore and want to give up but a few words from my supervisors keep repeating in my mind "keep writing, just keep writing", thank you so much for these kind words, they are simple but enough to keep me through the rain. I really enjoy the learning in USJ and remind me of the good to be a student and stay dynamic in life. Last but not least, heartfelt gratitude goes to Prof. Angus Kuok, my husband, who sacrificed his days and nights to offer me full support when I was in dark, you are the best!

I am so proud and grateful to be a native of Macau and an educator who can contribute and guide our next generation to achieve their goals and to live out their dreams. Chance favours only the prepared ones, I would encourage all graduates seated here today to make us always prepared and remember the intention that brings you here. Believe in yourself and it's definite that you will find your way.

Thank you.