

**USJ Congregation 2020 Speech by
Chancellor D. Stephen Lee Bun Sang, Bishop of Macau**

12th September 2020

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Dear Graduates,

Today is your great joyful day. Congratulations. It marks the end of one stage in your life and the beginning of another. Whether you have just collected your first degree or completed your doctorate, whether you have received the post-graduate diploma you need for your teaching or a post-graduate degree that tells people that you have mastered your subject, after today, to the rest of us you will seem to be someone who is very special.

You may not know how much you have changed and grown, developed and flourished in your time at USJ, but your graduation today is public proof that you are in some way different from when you began. I hope that in your time at USJ you have gained new knowledge and skills, but I expect there should be something more. It not just by what you have learned here but by how you have learned. I hope you have acquired certain important and valuable attributes, characteristics and virtues: that you have learned to become persons of high personal integrity, committed always in the light of truth, goodness and beauty, to seek to honour and serve others, especially your families, friends, and country whether it is Macao, China or some other part of the world. That determination to honour and serve others, grounded in your learning to think rigorously, critically and creatively, is the mission of a Catholic University. It is the mission of USJ.

We are so proud of you. We are living in a very special moment and we know that you will face a lot of challenges due to the pandemic. The societies urgently need your personal integrity and your knowledge, your hard work and determination. The road ahead will not be easy for you, but your time at USJ has better equipped you for the journey than you can possibly know and imagine. For the local graduates, you should be confident in playing your part in building the future of Macao, of our Motherland, China, and for our international students, you should be confident to serve your own societies knowing that you have friends here, friends in Macao, friends in China. Be sure that USJ and all of us will remain always your friends supporting and praying for you.

Finally, USJ is a Catholic University, and so I should like to end by invoking the blessing of Almighty God on you, on us all, as we bring to an end this ceremony that marks the closing of one episode and the beginning of another in your wonderful, exciting, God-given lives, which will be filled with truth, goodness and beauty.

Bishop of Macau, Dom Stephen LEE Bun Sang