

Good morning everyone. Thank you, Sister Marcella, for that kind introduction. Thank you, Sister Francesca, President; Sister Celine. With a grateful heart, I receive this honor, Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa. I share this recognition with my parents who are enjoying this moment from heaven, with my brothers and sisters (some of whom are here present), with all teachers and co-workers who have touched my life, in particular each and every Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth. We, as a Congregation strive to create a spirit of community every day of our lives through prayer, consecrated life and service. Today, we celebrate some of the fruits of our life begun in 1875 by our dear Foundress, Blessed Mary of Jesus the Good Shepherd, nurtured by Sister Neomisias who founded Holy Family and continued in every one of our missions throughout the world.

It is a wonderful experience to be present today and to have the opportunity to congratulate everyone, particularly the 2007 graduates of Holy Family University, receiving a Masters Education, Business Administration, Human Resources Management, Counseling, Nursing, Psychology and Management Information Systems. My congratulations to each and every one of you for your very significant achievements! I applaud you for dedicating your time and efforts to your studies as well as to the ideals that Holy Family represents.

It is equally wonderful to share this moment with so many distinguished professors who have made us who we are today and who prepared us with love and dedication for our mission in the Church. *We are Holy Family*; and we have the tools necessary to permeate all those we meet with the love, dedication and prayerfulness of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. I invite you to do that every day of your life! Let our contributions as Holy Family graduates lead to greater peace and unity in our nation and in the whole world. With this point in mind, I quote a song we sing in Puerto Rico that reminds me, and at the same time, challenges me to live my Teneor Votis.

*“Llévame donde los hombres necesiten tus palabras, necesiten mis ganas de vivir. Donde falte la esperanza, donde falte la alegría simplemente por no saber de Ti.”* (Take me, Lord to a place where others need your Words and where they need my desire to live fully. Take me...where hope and joy are lacking... simply because they, your people do not know you.)

*Señor, tengo alma misionera, condúceme a la tierra que tenga sed de Ti.* (Lord, I have a missionary's soul; lead me to the land that is thirsting for you.)

Yes, graduates of Holy Family University, I have a missionary soul and a missionary heart whose seeds of love were planted at home, at St. Kieran School, Heckscherville, (PA) at Nativity BVM High School, Pottsville, (PA) and nurtured in community, at Holy Family, in my work in Puerto Rico and at Phoenix University. You, also, have that soul. Strive to discover it, cultivate it, examine cherished moments marked by its spirit and stretch its power to touch many lives. Along with your inner strength, you have my daily prayers and those of every Sister of the Holy Family of Nazareth as you begin a new phase of your lives.

Think about how far you have come, and think about where you can go by looking beyond the current headlines of a world, regrettably, the setting for constant conflicts. Think about fulfilling your deepest dreams, whatever they may be despite the obstacles and because of the obstacles! I can tell you that it is personally gratifying to serve the Church every day knowing that my collaborators and I, along with all people from every corner of the world are defining the future for generations to come. May that thought compel you to continue to pursue your dreams in your professional careers. Again, I thank you for an honor that far exceeds my dreams, and I wish the best for the Class of 2007. ¡Que Dios les bendiga siempre! God bless you.