

## VOTE OF THANKS

A very good evening to you all! It is an exciting moment for me and my fellow graduands and diplomates to have this occasion hosted for us today, and although we are excited, we also bear in mind that our celebration today has not come out of our only own efforts. It has been a long process of hard work and accompaniment shared by persons, bodies and organizations. Allow me, therefore, to convey, on behalf of myself and my fellow graduands and diplomates, a word of thanks to:

**Doctor Emmanuel Mosoeu** for installing Dr Stuart Bate as **GRAND CHANCELLOR** of St Joseph's Theological Institute. This is indeed an additional feather in the already impressive cap of our institute. Thank you Dr. Mosoeu.

**Doctor Stuart Bate**, the Chairperson of the Board. Thank you for your inspiring leadership, hard work, and vision for the academic excellence of our Institute. Thank you very much, Dr. Bate, especially for honouring us today and raising us to the status of "Graduates and Diplomats."

**Professor Edith Raidt**, the keynote speaker today. Thank you for your inspiring words. It is always good to start on a journey with a guiding inspiration, motivation and directive. Thank you for gracing our occasion

**Very Rev. Fr Sylvester David**, the President of the Institute, for your untiring efforts in leading and guiding the institute with vision, courage and determination. You have been most helpful in our achievement of the success which we are celebrating today. Thank you.

**Dr Luke Mlilo**, the Academic Dean and also the Chair person of the committee responsible for the organization and planning that made this day possible. Thank you Dr Mlilo for accommodating and encouraging each and every one of us who joined the institute from different backgrounds - and different levels. Thank you for making it clear that this is a day on which we may celebrate our success as present and future academics. Thank you for sparing time to organize this ceremony, together with your graduation team.

The **Heads of different departments:** Philosophy, Theology and Religious studies, together with the whole teaching staff of St Joseph's, we say, thank you for the work you have done. You have been very special to us; we have memories to keep about you. You are now part of our history. Thank you very much.

**Fr Pat O' Sullivan**, the Registrar: thank you very much for work done well and in a patient and orderly manner. Working with figures and queries about reports and marks, is not easy! Thank you once again for your dedication.

**The Library, administrative and secretarial staff:** Thank you for your contribution to our education and training. Your dedication and hard work are much appreciated.

In a special way, allow me too to express our deepest gratitude to **Mrs. Monica Skhakhane and Miss Philisiwe Mncube:** you did a great work in keeping our places of learning tidy and conducive for learning, and **again, your tea, coffee, juice and cold water, believe me, was a good remedy for stressful and tiring hard assignments.** Thank you for work well done.

We also wish to register our sincere thanks to the **Student Forum and all the other Groups** in the institute for their contribution to our way of life at the Institute. You gave us an opportunity to participate and show our talents. Thank you for all you have done - and keep it up!

In a very special way, thank you, **to the Institute Choir: you were not only looking attractive you're your beautiful gowns but you also did a great job in** making this ceremony a lively one. Without you, some of us would have been sleeping! If some were closing their eyes, it was because your beautiful songs sent them into meditation. Thank you.

I would like to extend a word of thanks to all **our friends, relatives, Religious Superiors and organizations** who have helped us to reach this stage - with their material, financial, moral and religious support. We say to you, this is not the end - **but the beginning of a new chapter and your continued support will help us realize to the very best, what we have achieved through this learning for the betterment of the society, for which we have been prepared.**

Last but not least, my fellow graduands and diplomates: Just as it has been said, this celebration marks an achievement not only of the graduands and diplomates, but **also point to the excellence of the work of St Joseph's Theological Institute.** It is a celebration **of a change from words to action;** taking St Joseph's contribution to the world as it stands at the moment. Today's celebration marks an important moment for us graduands and diplomates, a moment to reflect on what values, what gifts and what contributions we are going to take into our world. As the ambassadors of change, Ambassadors of St Joseph's Theological Institute, we are today taking up the challenge of making a reality of St Joseph's capacity to change society, shaping it for better; moving towards a better world for everyone, keeping justice, peace, joy and ultimately holiness in forefront and hopefully moral, political and social breakdown in check. I hope that this colourful celebration of our achievement today reflects how colourful will be our society in reflecting our colourful commitment to excellence in keeping with the standard of our achievement.....!

**Thank you all**

Michael Emmanuel Ndau (B. Th.)