

**ADZU HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATION 2015  
(62<sup>nd</sup> Commencement Exercises, 21 March 2015)**

**MESSAGE OF FR KAREL S SAN JUAN SJ  
President of Ateneo de Zamboanga University**

First of all I would like to salute all those who have made this graduation possible, memorable, and successful.

The parents, guardians, families and relatives. This graduation is your graduation. Congratulations and thank you. Let us give them a round of applause.

Secondly, the teachers/professors, administrators, staff. This graduation is a testimony of your achievement as educators, as formators, as mentors of our students. Congratulations and thank you. Let us give them a round of applause.

We also thank the people who helped us in many ways. The security guards, the physical plant and maintenance personnel, the people behind the scenes. You also made this possible. Thank you. Let us give them a round of applause.

This year is special. We are graduating our pioneering batch of the College of Law. All 15 of you in 2015. As you prepare to be our first Ateneo de Zamboanga lawyers, be assured of our support and prayers!

Now let me address you, our dear graduates.

Remember this moment, this unforgettable event. This is the culmination, the peak, the climax of all your hard work, your sacrifice, your loves, your friendships, your joys and struggles.

Remember the high energy, the spirit, the exaltation. Let it be ingrained in your memory. Let it be embedded in your soul. Let it be sealed and branded in your heart.

This spirit, this energy will remain in you beyond the walls of this campus when you leave the Ateneo. Nurture it, protect it. Fight for the Ateneo spirit! This spirit spells forever. You will forever be an Atenean.

The world outside can be difficult, it can be terrible and dark, confusing, deceiving, lonely – this we have tried hard for you to see – yet this same world is suffused and embraced with light, with joy, with possibilities for good, with redemption, with fulfillment – if you take part in making it so.

With a confidence that is deepened by self-knowledge and humility,  
knowing who you are;  
With a restlessness that is energized by competence and excellence,  
knowing what you do best;  
With a passion to love and serve God and country;  
With a love for people, leading to joyful friendships that last a lifetime;  
With a special, intimate connection with your God, such that prayer and  
worship becomes your only, ultimate source of power; not yourself nor  
your achievements; not your talents, your knowledge, your wealth, and  
connections; but solely and only the power of God driving you.

Let this spirit, this Ateneo spirit, soar high and proud like the mighty  
Ateneo blue eagle, enjoying the freedom of flight, bold and unburdened.  
But let this eagle glide down and see and touch the ground; get hold of  
chaos, the mess, the complexity, the pain, of what is real.  
The Ateneo eagle knows how to fly high and ascend.  
Yet it knows how to glide down and descend. Grounded, rooted in who  
you really are. Comfortable with the ordinary. Humble. The Atenean in  
the world cannot be great without humility. Ascend and descend, the  
elements of greatness. The true test of leadership and power.  
*May paglapag ang paglipad.*

And finally, let this Ateneo eagle find its nest. Its home.  
To be nourished, and strengthened, again and again. With new wings,  
with new vision. With your dear fellow eagles. Tonight you move  
forward in work and in life. Do know, and you know, that you have a  
home here. Come home to the Ateneo, your Ateneo.

To the Class of 2015, we are proud of you. Congratulations!