

**ADZU GRADE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION 2015  
(92<sup>nd</sup> Commencement Exercises for the Grade School, 19 March  
2015; 79<sup>th</sup> Commencement Exercises for the High School, 20 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.

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

Secondly, our teachers, administrators, staff, led by Principal Fr Stephen Abuan, and Assistant Principal Ms Rosie Hong. This graduation is a testimony of your achievement as educators, as formators, of our youth. Congratulations and thank you. Let us give them a round of applause.

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

Now let me address you, our dear graduates. For four years we have taught you the Ateneo way. Remember the Ateneo way.

The Ateneo way is love of God and love of country. This is written on our Ateneo de Zamboanga University seal: *pro Deo et patria*, for God and country. By love of God we mean, we are obedient to God. We follow God. We pray to God, we worship God. We do great things for God *ad majorem Dei gloriam!* Since God is goodness, we strive, we do our best to be good young men and young women. Be good children of God!

By love of country, we mean we love Zamboanga City, and we work hard to make it a better place. We love our country, we obey the law, we respect our leaders, work hard for peace, for a better life for all of us. We work for justice. We care for everyone, especially the poor. We use our

talents, our gifts, to serve others. We are not selfish, we share ourselves to others. Be good Filipino citizens!

The Ateneo way is peace. We want you to be young men and women of peace. The Ateneo has taught you how to be good friends, how to make friends, how to be friends with different types of people. Take care of your friends in and outside Ateneo. These friendships will last a long long time, till you have grown up to be adults. Ateneo friendships last forever! If you are friends, differences and conflicts are settled peacefully. Through friendships, we build the foundations of peace.

The Ateneo way is the way of the blue eagle. The blue eagle flies high, it soars. As Ateneans, dear graduates, you will do good things, great things, more things, you will do the *magis*, the more. You will achieve many things. Many people will admire you. Many people will be proud of you. You will be leaders! But, dear graduates, do not be proud eagles. Be humble eagles. The blue eagle flies, but the blue eagle goes down, glides down, to see what is happening on the ground. Be humble. Do not just stay high above, but go down. Do not forget the people you serve. Do not forget who you really are. Be humble eagles, be humble Ateneans. To be proud, arrogant, and selfish – is not to be an Atenean.

Finally, the Ateneo way is to know that you still need to learn more. That you still need to grow. Therefore, you, our graduates, will continue learning, making yourself the best person you can possibly be. The best person you can be for God, for country. Be excited. Be joyful. Look forward to the next step. Your college education. Your college life. Prepare yourself. Be strong. Have faith, deep faith. Believe in yourself, in your God.

This is the Ateneo way. The Ateneo way is love and service of God and country. The Ateneo way is peace. The Ateneo way is to do great things, to be a leader, but a humble, servant leader. The Ateneo way is to continue learning more. And to be excellent college students! Live out the Ateneo way, young Ateneans! Fight for the Ateneo way! Congratulations! I hope to see you, most of you, in the Ateneo de Zamboanga University College!! Muchas gracias a todos!