

Msgr. Gerardo. O. Santos

Closing Remarks CEAP Convention 2010

September 24, 2010

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the new leadership in the CEAP. Fr. Gregg. L. Banaga, Jr., CM, congratulations on your election as the new president of the CEAP. As I pass on the baton to you (along with all the headaches ☺), allow me to also leave you with a challenge. In my opening remarks, I have talked about the kind of students we need to produce as academic institutions – men and women of character, conscience and compassionate service. Now, I take the challenge further and say: **Let us make saints out of our students.** Let the purpose of Catholic education be to make our students beatifiable and canonicable. Let us be the Blessed Newman in the lives of our students!

We have many other models of young saints in the church too: Dominic Savio, Ma. Goretti, Blessed Jacinta and Francisco of Fatima, Laura Vicunia, Theresa of the Child Jesus, Aloysius Gonzaga. Let our youth find inspiration from their lives. In the Philippines we have models of sainthood in Lorenzo Ruiz, Pedro Calungsod, and we anticipate the eventual canonization of Mo. Ignacia del Espiritu Santo, Mo Francisca del Espiritu Santo, Mother Dionisia Mitas & Mother Cecilia Rosa Talangpaz.

Let every school then, make this their goal. We can start by making missionaries out of the youth. Let us identify at an early age those called to a life of mission and nurture this sense of mission. Let every school produce priests, nuns, and consecrated lay with a sense of mission. Eventually, let us send missionaries to other countries (especially in Asia) to counter the growing Islamization in Asia. After all, we are a Catholic church called to dialogue, but we are called to PROCLAIM the distinctive uniqueness of CATHOLICITY of our church. Let us be the missionary center of Asia. Sa isang taon, tayo ay pitumpung taon na tayo bilang isang asosasyon. 70 years of grace, of communion and service. Allow me to dream big and let our vision soar.

Finally, this being the international year of the youth, let us focus on making the youth see their purpose and mission in life and give them a better understanding of how they can make contributions to society . After all, as St. Iranaeus of Lyons once wrote: “man fully alive is the glory of God!”

Let us make sure that the lives of our students glorify God!

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat at sa lahat ng tumulong para maging makasaysayan ang 2010 CEAP National Convention! (read the powerpoint of acknowledgement)