

Commencement Address by the President
Rector Magnificus
Assumption University of Thailand
at the 48th and 49th Commencement Exercises
Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Centre
on Saturday, January 8, 2022

Chairman of the University Council,
Campus Minister,
Administrators, Faculty and Staff,
Honored Guests, and
Dear Graduates & Classes of 2019 & 2020

It will not be too late for me to wish you a happy New Year. So I wish you all a

A belated Happy New Year 2022

May God bless you with good health free from all viruses, happiness, peace and prosperity

Our level best to organize this graduation ceremony for you, because we want to honor you and congratulate you on your success.

- x Your classes will be recorded in the annals of AU that you graduated during the Covid19 pandemic.
- x Nothing has been typical about this graduation ceremony. It has been postponed to comply to the Covid19 pandemic situation. The main purpose of such postponement is to keep all you safe from the virus. The limitation we are facing today is unlikely to belittle the importance about your distinctive achievements.

x Safety precautions might have caused you some inconveniences. But finally, you have made it to get to this moment.

1. May I now acknowledge the presence of some who are present here today at this ceremony.

We have Rev. Bro. Dr. Dechachai Sripicharn, The Provincial Superior of Montfort Brothers of Saint Gabriel, Province of Thailand. Legally, he is the owner of AU. And in connection to AU, he is the Chairman of the University Council.

Then, members of AU family are present. These include the administrators, faculty & staff, the president of AU alumni, AUSO & students. Unfortunately, your parents, s, and advisers will be absent.

In front of me to the ceremony.

On behalf of me, I give you my predecessor's trust you are



s to add flavor

for being to copy moments by thousands

2. Dear graduates,

With my sincere appreciation, I laid the foundation for me. It is time for you to continue to build up your life.

of you. You have

3. Where are you going from here?

It happens that your graduation comes in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. The COVID-19 crisis has disrupted the normal course of our institution. It undermines the future, the process of internationalization creates a risk for student mobility in particular. The policy of confinement or lockdown has forced AU to close our campuses, so we organize online courses and adapt to the online teaching and learning. Our faculty members have been exposed to a number of problems that need to be addressed for learning.

Those of you who graduated earlier and have started your work life have seen the New Normal. Apart from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, other challenges have created the process of changes that are the consequence of the fourth industrial revolution and its emerging technologies that make many categories of jobs obsolete while at the same time creating ongoing emergence of new ones.

All these new phenomena that have presented themselves discernibly compel us to rethink our education mission together.

4. When will the COVID-19 pandemic end?

What kind of situation will we be in when the pandemic ends? Will it be that as it is now? It is time for us to develop a strategy to deal with the situation. Malala, the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, said: "I was the youngest girl in the world to be named a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize."



appointment
to adapt to
charge of the
stand and assess
in some way.
the youngest
men in the face

*a lot in the final year of university.
It's hard not to think about all the moments we're missing.
But we didn't miss out the most important thing: our education."*

5. Education at AU

At this moment, I want all of you to reflect on your education at AU. The education provided at AU is a holistic approach to education, the formation of the whole person in four major dimensions, namely, physical, intellectual, emotional or social, and spiritual. Perceptibly but unknowingly, you have been employed to form you so that you will be transformed. AU graduates

should emerge to become new educated persons who are ready to live in this chaotic world.

You had several interests during your stay at AU. Some came to the university to comply to the attendance regulation, study the job contents to get just passing grades. Some were forced by circumstances to combine study and work to earn their living and survive. Others spent most of the time on campus enjoying the company of their friends as well as extracurricular activities. What you sow, so shall you reap.

To get the full benefit of the whole process of education, you have to have firm determination towards the goals you set. You have to be patient and well disciplined and have your own thinking, opinions of things and events. The values in life are not just your beliefs and attitudes towards the world, even with the people and things you learn as you live your life. You will mould your own measures.

In this regard, the essential is to engage and to socialize.



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 Friends is one of
 To be human
 beings are created

6. An Educated Graduate

You should not be an uneducated graduate. To be able to understand this concept, it is sometimes easier to know the positive aspect of a graduate, who is considered to be educated.

"The educated differ from the uneducated

as much as the living from the dead," says Aristotle.

When we talk about college education preparing students to meet the challenges of the 21st century, we normally emphasize competitiveness to be able to compete with other citizens in the world, to be innovative, to create new things that are beneficial to societies. The funding of education has been

driven by STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). We tend to forget that many use brilliance for destruction. The focus is on economy, personal wealth and day-to-day living which form only one aspect of a human being.

Education, in its broadest sense, is equivalent to socialization. This includes the formation of character, the acquisition of requisite linguistic competence as well as technical and vocational skills that will enable to exist and interact peacefully with others, and contribute meaningfully to the common good of society.

Therefore, an educated person is above all a cultural, moral, human, critical, broadminded, creative, tolerant and responsible person.

7. Education

Some schooling, computeracy profession.

The un-intolerant, ill-read and weak profession.

Therefore, responsible humanity. Consequently, it has led to an unprecedented increase in all sorts of irresponsible actions that are threatening the corporate existence of humanity today. As the saying goes, "A person without morals is dangerous; an intelligent person without a conscience is a disaster."

It is fashionable to believe that every institution should be run like a business. Many lecturers are customer-service representatives. Students stop educating themselves. They just want to buy their piece of paper and get a job. Many universities now design courses to the likings of students, using modern technologies to attract customers.

Humanities need the rigor of reason, the sharpening of the mind. Divorce from true humanities, STEM is ultimately in service of the machine. Thailand has



literacy, discipline or

moral, myopic, have the ability to discipline, subject or

on literacy is as a challenge to

humanity

98% literacy in basic education and high percentage of Thai have got college degrees. Yet more corruptions, violence, crimes and other social problems are still prevalent.

8. Against all odds, AU graduates should not emerge with no sense of direction.

In fact, not only does the reason of existence of AU contribute to the knowledge of subjects per se, AU also acts as a guide that leads those who come into contact with us to the true source of knowledge and engaging in their studies.

9. Dear graduates,

I call upon you to ground yourselves

You are entering a world of unknown dimensions. You have been in control of your curiosity and proactiveness



at AU, and use them

graduate into a successful career. Follow what you see in all your endeavors. Persevere and take the right path. In this regard, I encourage you to be agile and

Whatever kind of a person you are at this time, I want to emphasize that you should be well-built. As Pope John Paul II said, "Life exists where there is bonding, communion, fraternity; and life is stronger than death when it is built on true relationship and bonds of fidelity."

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“Families are the first place where values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on.”

You had continued to cherish and expand such relationships in your alma mater. Now you have to open your heart to the whole world and reach out to others.

Be grateful to everyone who has contributed to your success. As AU graduates, you have now become our ambassadors. Explore the possibilities offered by a broad variety of pathways. Pursue your dreams with care and enthusiasm.

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Thank you for the

on all you have



Bancha Sae

President t Rector magnificus

January 8, 2022