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PRO-CHANCELLOR’S REMARKS AT THE ACADEMIC CONVOCATION ON  
25TH AUGUST 2016  
The Vice Chancellor,  
Deputy Vice Chancellors,  
Deans, Directors and Heads of Divisions,  
Staff and students,  
Invited Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen  

I wish to express my appreciation for your inviting me to grace the Academic Convocation for the year 2016-2017. The Academic Convocation is a tradition in the Catholic universities and higher institutions of learning to start together in the light of the Gospel the “joy of searching for, discovering and communicating truth in every field of knowledge” (St. Augustine). In this case, truth refers to the light of salvation, who is God. Therefore, as a University, you stand in a privileged position dedicated to research, teaching and offering transformative contribution to the Church and Society.
For many years I was deeply involved in teaching and forming young people to learn to think rigorously so as to act rightly and serve humanity better. Therefore, I desire to share with you my experiences and to encourage you to remain strong in the context of our changing times, which certainly are challenging but which, also bear so much promise under the action of the spirit of truth and love.

To begin with, I express my pleasure and gratitude to the staff of the University. Your roles lived in the light of Christian faith is very precious for the University. Your presence should always remain a continuous stimulus for the selfless search for wisdom that comes from above. Teach by experience, and model out what you need the students to become. As Pope Paul VI (1965) put it, be at the forefront “to explore the mysteries of humanity and of the world, clarify them in the light of revelation”. There needs to be a connection between the knowledge offered at the university and improvement on the people’s quality of life in the society.

The university staff, particularly the academic staff, needs to re-dedicate themselves to research and teach all aspects of truth in their essential connection with the Supreme Truth who is God.
There is no division between faith and reason, in either case, the endeavor to reason leads us to a full measure of realization of the unfathomable richness of the salvific message of the Gospel. The scientific and technological discoveries as well as an industrial growth should be for the authentic good of humanity. As a University, I call upon you to ensure that moral and spiritual dimensions are included in these advancements for the good of the human person.

2. I recall with gratitude the development of the university since its establishment in 1984 and the official inauguration by His Holiness Pope John Paul II (now St. John Paul). The growth has been momentous in facilities, personnel and students. I am glad to note that the Vice Chancellor has announced plans to develop and diversify the needs of the University to respond to our times. I wish to challenge you to make CUEA the University of choice in Kenya, the AMECEA region and beyond. Make the university a living Union of individual persons dedicated to excellence and higher synthesis of knowledge. Be the manifestation of the faith lived, a center of integrated knowledge and a beacon of positive transformation.

3. The third point, I wish to underscore the important role played by the faculty of Theology.
As you are aware, the declaration of the Vatican II council puts it clearly that every Catholic University should have a faculty of Theology or at least a chair of Theology. I am glad that at CUEA we have a faculty of Theology, Institute of Cannon Law and soon the Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy. The theologians need to serve all other disciplines and help them to investigate how their discoveries will affect society. They need to raise and give a specific perspective and orientation not contained in the civil academic pursuits and also use modern skills to enrich Theology. A graduate from a Catholic University must be different and the impact in the society must be noticeable.

4. I cannot complete my remarks without mentioning something about the students. In a Catholic University, students are challenged to pursue an education that combines excellence in humanistic and cultural development with specialized professional training. Particularly, they are challenged to search for the meaning of their lives. Apart from gaining professional skills, their human spirit needs to be cultivated in such a way to wonder, understand, contemplate, make judgments as well as acquire a religious, moral and social sense.
Throughout their stay at the University, they need to realize the responsibility of the professional training, be enthusiastic as leaders of tomorrow and particular witness of Christ in whatever place.

5. As I conclude, I need to point out that many Catholic Universities were formed by religious Congregations and continue to depend on their support. CUEA is a product of the Episcopal Conferences of nine regional countries. Thus, I appeal to people of goodwill to continue supporting the University. The needs of the University cannot be left to external support. It is a high time we joined hands and offer support both in material and in kind.

Finally, I thank you for the invitation and I assure you of my prayers and support. Have a blessed and fruitful Academic Year 2016 – 2017.

May the Lord bless you abundantly.

H. E. John Cardinal Njue