

**THE CHIEF GUEST'S SPEECH DURING CUEA'S 2021/2022
ACADEMIC CONVOCATION ON 23RD SEPTEMBER 2021**

- i. Very Rev. Prof. Stephen Mbugua Ngari, Rector and Vice Chancellor of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa*
- ii. Mrs. Prof. Rachel Gesami, Deputy Vice Chancellor - Academic Affairs and Research*
- iii. Mr. James Theuri, Special Advisor to the Vice Chancellor, In Charge - Administration, Finance and Planning*
- iv. Vice Chancellor and Principals of CUEA's Constituent and Affiliate Colleges*
- v. Rev. Prof. Fabien Lonema, Academic Registrar of the University*
- vi. Deans, Directors, Heads of Department and Academic Coordinators*
- vii. University Faculty*
- viii. University Staff and Students*
- ix. Ladies and gentlemen*

Good afternoon.

1. I would like to thank the University Senate, the University Management and the CUEA family for the honour of choosing me to be the Main Celebrant of the 2021/2022 Academic Convocation Mass, and the Chief Guest of the Academic Convocation.
2. I am glad to be with you today for the first time as the newest member of the CUEA's Council.

3. May I also take this opportunity to welcome our first years on board; May the years ahead of you be full of blessings and God's guidance as you prepare for professional life.
4. This convocation is being carried out at an unprecedented time due to covid19 pandemic. This pandemic has changed the way we carry out our business. We have learned about the importance of online learning as well as appreciating the mediation of ICT in such situations that has ensured student progression during the pandemic. Let us continue to embrace this domain as we move on with our studies and research. I am happy to learn that the CUEA transitioned immediately to online learning after the close down of in-person or face to face learning.
5. Please receive a message of condolences from the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops and my personal condolences for the passing on of members of the CUEA family especially in the last few months. We are praying for their Souls and for our beloved University.
6. The Catholic University of Eastern Africa was started by the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA), on the philosophy of the Catholic Higher Education which stresses free search for the whole truth about nature, humanity and God. That is why CUEA's moto is "Consecrate them in the Truth" John 17:17.
7. Our conviction as the Church is that the Spirit of the Lord enables human beings - through the development of their intelligence and talent - to find meaning in life. That is the reason why CUEA is dedicated to research and the dissemination of truth. And in this spirit, the University

goes ahead to form her students into ethical leaders for Church and Society.

8. The philosophy of why CUEA was began, which I have highlighted above, shows us why CUEA is so passionate about offering quality education to all, so passionate about becoming a pillar of research in the Eastern Africa region, and so passionate about consistently and continuously entrenching the University's Core Values in all that we do. In a nutshell, CUEA aims to produce ethical leaders for Church and Society.
9. The world today requires ethical leadership in terms of learning and governance. I call on the CUEA family to embrace ethical and spiritual pillars in teaching and learning.
10. I believe that teaching is a relationship based on mutual trust, loyalty that drives mentorship and modelling. Let our staff subscribe to these tenets in order to have meaningful learning as we develop our national and global capacity in good leadership, governance, as well as entrepreneurship and community service.
11. The values that drive our business and relationship at CUEA are great assets for making our University distinctive and stand out as a true faith-based institution. Such values like prayer, honesty, transparency and charity among others give true meaning to service and standing out among the league of universities globally. Quality assurance when such values are embraced will be upheld. We shall have a satisfied customer and fulfilled members of staff because these values are at the core of service to humanity.

12. I believe that if our students and staff own the policies and procedures the University has developed and is implementing today, it will be very easy to have the highest quality of education offered in CUEA, to have the most impactful research studies carried out in our university, and to have our alumni as the lighthouse of ethical leadership and professionalism for all to see and emulate.
13. Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to encourage us all to get vaccinated from COVID 19. This will enable us to protect ourselves and our loved ones as a result of the exposure we experience every day especially during our interactions in public.
14. I commend you to God in the coming year and pray that all of you shall be safe and that we shall have no more losses of our staff and students. I wish you all well as we commence with the new Academic year.

My God bless the work of your hands and may He bless The Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

**Rt. Rev. Paul Kariuki NJIRU
BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF EMBU
BISHOP CHAIRMAN, THE KENYA CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC BISHOPS COMMISSION FOR EDUCATION AND
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
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