

**UNIVERSITY PRO-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH DURING THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA'S 39TH GRADUATION ON 27TH
NOVEMBER, 2020**

- i. Your Excellency Most Rev. Bert van Megen, Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and South Sudan*
- ii. Your Lordship Rt. Rev. Maurice Muhatia Makumba, Chairman, University Council of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa*
- iii. Very Rev. Prof. Stephen Mbugua Ngari, Vice Chancellor of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa*
- iv. Your Lordships, Bishop Members of the University Council*
- v. Distinguished Members of the University Council,*
- vi. Distinguished Guests,*
- vii. Parents, Guardians, Sponsors and Graduands,*
- viii. Faculty and Students of CUEA,*
- ix. Ladies and Gentlemen*

1. To all of you who are following this ceremony through the internet, and to the few guests who are here with us in the University's main campus, I bid you welcome to The Catholic University of Eastern Africa's 39th Graduation ceremony, which is being held virtually in accordance with the COVID-19 preventive measures put out by Kenya's Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.
2. To our graduands, congratulations on your achievement, you have made the CUEA family truly proud. CUEA is truly honoured to have partnered with our graduands' parents, guardians and sponsors in this journey that is coming to a joyful conclusion today.

3. I welcome Your Excellency Most Rev. Bert van Megen, to CUEA's Main Campus today. Unfortunately, you have not been able to enjoy our full hospitality due to the pandemic, but I have been authoritatively informed that Your Excellency is a good friend of CUEA and you visit the University many times.
4. I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency, Rt. Rev. Charles Kasonde, the Chancellor of CUEA, for inviting me to preside over the Graduation Mass which was held virtually earlier today, and to preside over this our 39th Graduation Ceremony. Due to travelling challenges brought about as a result of COVID-19 preventive measures, the Chancellor, who is also Bishop of the Diocese of Solwezi in Zambia, was not able to join us today.
5. Your excellencies, graduands, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to tell you little bit about CUEA. The Catholic University of Eastern Africa was founded by AMECEA Bishops who included H.E. Adam Cardinal Kozłowiecki of Zambia, H.E. Emmanuel Cardinal Nzumbuga of Uganda, H.E Laurean Cardinal Rugambwa of Tanzania, H.E. Paulos Cardinal Tzadua of Ethiopia, and Servant of God Maurice Cardinal Otunga of Kenya to name but a few. That is why Lecture Halls located at CUEA's Main Campus in Nairobi are named after these Cardinals and the area where these Lecture Halls are located is called Founders' Corner. That is also why the green park next to the Lecture Halls is called AMECEA Grounds.

6. AMECEA founded CUEA because the Church in Eastern Africa believed that through education, we can evangelize, and produce ethical leaders for the Church and society. This evangelization is carried out by inculcating CUEA students in the culture of Catholic Identity. Through the actions and everyday life of CUEA graduates, it can be attested to society that, continuously and consistently aspiring to live a righteous life, as our Lord Jesus taught us, is how one ought to live their daily lives

7. To emphasize this, allow me to share with you our Lord Jesus' parable of talents. You may know it, but listen so that you can remind yourself.

Jesus told his disciples about a man, who before going on a journey, called his servants and entrusted his possessions to them.

To one he gave five talents; to another, two; and to a third, one – to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

Immediately, the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one, went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's talent.

After a long time the master returned and settled accounts with his three servants.

The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five.

Then the one who had received two talents also came forward bringing the additional two.

These two servants were promised great responsibilities and were invited to share in their master's joy.

Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said that, because he knew his master is a demanding person, out of fear he went off and buried the talent in the ground. He gave the talent back to the master.

His master, who was livid, called him a wicked and lazy servant. He asked the third servant why he didn't at least put his talent in the bank so that he, the master, could have got it back with interest.

The one talent was taken from the third servant and given to the one with ten. The third servant was thrown out into the darkness.

8. Graduands, in your studies in CUEA, you have been inculcated in the values of the Catholic Church, which have prepared you to be ethical leaders. Emulate what the first and second servants in this parable did. Do not burry the values you have absorbed while at CUEA. Rather, showcase these values to the world, become ethical leaders in your respective professions and when you doing so, I believe that many will learn from you and aspire to be ethical leaders just like you.

9. In conclusion, I would like our Graduands to know that you are always in our prayers. I bid you God's blessings in your future endeavors.

May God bless you all and may He bless CUEA.

**HIS EMINENCE JOHN CARDINAL NJUE
ARCHBISHOP, THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NAIROB
PRO-CHANCELLOR OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA**