THE PRO CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH DURING CUEA'S 40TH GRADUATION CEREMONY ON 29TH OCTOBER 2021

i. *CPA Nancy Gathungu, CBS, The Auditor-General of Kenya*
ii. *Rt. Rev. Maurice Muhatia Makumba, Chairman of the University Council of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA).*
iii. *Your Lordships, Bishop Members of the University Council*
iv. *Very Rev. Prof. Stephen Mbugua Ngari, Rector and Vice Chancellor of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA).*
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. On behalf of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA), I welcome you all to CUEA's 40th Graduation Ceremony. Graduands, congratulations for your accomplishment today and congratulations to the parents, guardians and sponsors

of our graduands for supporting them in this life-defining journey.

2. 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 40th 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.
3. Our Chief Guest, our graduands ladies and gentlemen, CUEA was formed by AMECEA to be a regional University that evangelizes the Good News through education. The purpose of this University is to form our students into ethical leaders who go out and work for Church and the society all over world. Through their ethical and academic empowerment, they are able to positively impact on the society and ignite growth through transformation.

4. Today, we the AMECEA Bishops consortium are happy with CUEA's progress. The University Council, which as constituted, is concluding its second term of service, has done a good job in guiding the University as we looked within ourselves, re-discovered who we are and came up with strategies of how to ensure that we are self-sustainable in the long run.
5. In a speech made in the Pontifical Lateran University on 31 October 2019, His Holiness Pope Francis said that universities need to consider what contribution they can and must make to the integral health of the person and to an inclusive ecology. In this spirit, and in an effort to secure a self-sustaining culture, CUEA, through the guidance of the University Council, has re-invented herself and gone on to affirm her position as one of the best universities in Kenya, and the AMECEA region as a whole.
6. Our graduands, you joined CUEA because you all had a common purpose to grow yourselves as professionals or as scholars. CUEA went a step further and formed you

by inculcating values into your character. This was purposefully done to make you champions of ethical character among your peers and thus, make you ethical leaders in your personal and professional lives.

7. Exodus 35:35 tells us that, "(God) has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer." God, through CUEA's teaching, research and community service, has filled you with skills to do the work you have been trained for in any part of the world.
8. And as you move into fulfilling your individual purpose in life, do so using the core values CUEA has inculcated you in. When you do so, you will become a beacon of ethical culture, and by reaching this pinnacle, we in CUEA will have fulfilled our purpose.
9. Today go and celebrate your big day for tomorrow is the dawn of new possibilities for you in life. You will face challenges trying to figure out what is the best path to

follow from today hence forth. Seek guidance form those who have successfully worked the path you follow before you, and pray for God's guidance as you journey towards fulfilling your individual purpose, one step at a time. As martin Luther King stated; take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

God be with you in all that you do. God bless us all, and God bless The Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

H.E. John Cardinal NJUE
PRO CHANCELLOR
THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA