

Theme: **Attitudes For Greater Heights**

I welcome you all to Holy Child College, South West, Ikoyi, Lagos, and to this Graduation ceremony of our dear **Class of 2021 - The Elites!**

I am indeed, grateful to God that this event, to conclude your long six years' stay in this prestigious college is finally happening. As you know, it would have happened in July, if things were normal. We (students, staff and parents) simply cannot thank God enough for having seen us through these years.

Dear graduands, I see that your theme is "Attitudes For Greater Heights" - what a beautiful theme for brilliant ladies! I wondered what your thoughts were when you chose the theme. Thinking of your theme, what I can say is that to attain greater heights in life, one needs to have the fear of God. **What does that mean?**

In **Proverbs chapter 9 verse 10**, we read "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding (better put, **spiritual insight**)."

You have been in this college for over six years and I am certain that great learning has taken place or has it not? If learning has actually taken place, then we are sure that you have been **found worthy in character and learning**. And that is why your teachers are presenting you today as graduands of this great college - they have found you worthy in character and in learning.

I congratulate you because you have just finished a race. However, know that more races are lined up because as you complete one, another begins and that is the same with **this journey called life** in which we all are.

I love your theme because one needs to develop an attitude with which to run these races, in order to attain greater heights at any point in the races.

According to Martin Luther King Jr. "Not everyone can be famous but everyone can be great **because greatness is determined by SERVICE**." You have been taught how to serve during your time here and I am aware that you know how to serve. I also know that you can truly serve if you choose to. So if you want to be great - **serve!**

The American pastor, John Hagee, noted that "The measure of a man's greatness is not in the number of servants he has, but in the number of people he serves."

And in **Matthew chapter 23 verse 11**, our Lord Jesus Christ said that "The greatest among you shall be your servant."

With these in mind, I tell you with utmost conviction that the road to greatness is in giving yourself in loving **service to God and to humanity** - ensuring that whatever you do is done with love and for service, knowing that what makes us great is doing what God wants us to do with joy and simplicity of heart. It is therefore, in doing so that you discover your true purpose in life. **You discover real happiness.**

The 42-year-old Chinese-Filipino **protomartyr**, Saint Lorenzo Ruiz De Manila (whose feast was on 28 September) said, **“If I have a thousand lives, I will still give them all to God.”** He was executed in Japan during the persecution of Christians in the 17th century (1637).

Just like him, in whatever you do in life, let your song always be:

My lifetime, I will give God my lifetime. If I give God my lifetime, he will take care of me. He will never never let me down. I will give God my lifetime.

And so I pray for you today as you courageously and elegantly move fully into the world: May God continue to guide your footsteps as you embrace the future with - the right attitudes to attain greater heights - the attitude of love, hope, patience, determination and service; service to humanity for God’s sake.

God bless you and congratulations, **The Elites - Class of 2021!**