

A REFLECTION ON THE GRADUATE AT GRADUATION

We are at St. Xavier because God has given us the capacity to become ***INTELLECTUALLY COMPETENT***. We have not earned that gift. Whether or not we turn our capacity into competence depends on our work and commitment!

Yet our character is defined not just by our minds but also by our hearts. We must be ***LOVING PEOPLE***, able to share our selves with others, able to show understanding, sympathy, and compassion.

We aspire to be ***RELIGIOUS***, a community of believers and questioners and doubters, a community called to find God in all of our experiences.

Yet we must act! We must be ***COMMITTED TO DOING JUSTICE***. We must do what is right, respect the rights of others, and empower others -- even our fellow students -- to lead the lives to which God calls us, even when that involves some sacrifice and suffering. We are called to be men and women for and with others.

Human lives are never complete. We must always be ***OPEN TO GROWTH*** -- growth in knowledge of self, in relationship to others, in love of God.

Lord, teach us to be generous!