



ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MALAYSIA
(TROPICANA PJ CAMPUS)



Br. Lawrence Humphrey FSC

Br. President of SJII Singapore and Governor of SJIIM

3rd SJIIM Scholarship Awards Ceremony

Guest of Honour Speech Transcript

Thank you for the invitation to be with you this afternoon, to witness the awarding of scholarships to the sixteen young women and men to be recognised today and for the opportunity to share a few thoughts with you, as well.

Mr. Tang, Dr. Brown, Mrs. Quigley, to our Honoured Guests, parents, friends, staff and students, it is an honour to be with you.

In a special way I want to recognize Ms Chew, Council Member of the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation and Tan Sri Tan Foundation, as well as to Ms Yap, CEO of the Tan Chin Tuan



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Foundation. You honour us with your presence, because it is thanks to the Foundations and to people like you that we are able to award these scholarships to our deserving students.

To our 16 Scholarship recipients, I ask . . .

Who are you? Yes, you might be AARON, or FAITH, YI YANG, or even LARRY.

But who are you? Think of all the words you could use to describe yourself?

You are a young woman or a young man. You are a teenager. You are a son or a daughter, a granddaughter or grandson, a brother or a sister. You are a friend or a neighbour. You are beautiful or handsome – or not - a musician or an athlete or an artist? You are Malaysian or Chinese or from some other land. You are a student of SJI International Malaysia. You are Lasallian. And added to all of these, you are a *Scholar*.

What does that mean to you – to be a *Scholar*? Think of all the words you have ever used to describe yourself to another person? Has *Scholar* ever been one of them?

Today, more than ever, it is a label that you should claim with pride and with distinction. But with this honour comes great responsibility. So claim the title of Scholar with Courage, as well.

A scholar is a student of MERIT – deserving of praise and reward.

A scholar is a learned person? LEARNED? A learned person is well-educated, maybe even an intellectual, a beautiful word that is almost out-of-favour today. One description is of a person who knows a great deal. But so what if you know a great deal of things? What difference will it make?



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You have many gifts and talents. If not you wouldn't be receiving one of the scholarships. With whom will you share these gifts and talents? Whose lives will you touch, who will be helped, and who will be better because you are a Scholar at SJI International?

Today we have with us some of the persons who have made these scholarship possible. Why would they invest in you? Why does your SJI International education matter to them? Well, YOU matter because they believe that they can accomplish great things THROUGH YOU. They can help to make Malaysia and the world a better place THROUGH YOU. And guess what? They are proud and happy to support you, because all of us are confident that you – YOU – are worth our very best efforts. Don't disappoint us!

Stop for a moment and ask yourself, Who do I have to thank for bringing me to this moment in my life? Who has helped make you a young woman or young man being recognised as a Scholar at SJIIM?

Perhaps it was one of your grandparents who read to you as a child? Perhaps it was a primary school teacher who early on instilled in you a love of learning? Very likely it has been one of your parents who has encouraged you along the way. And so, are you a person of gratitude? When was the last time you said THANK YOU? Hopefully it was this morning.

On your journey as a Scholar, do the smart thing and take advantage of those who stand ready to accompany you along the way, especially the teaching staff of SJI International.

They will help you learn things you didn't know that you didn't know. They will push you, challenge you, redirect you, at times they may even want to shout at you. But they will also inspire you and love you.



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And never be afraid to call upon a higher power, the power of God to help you, as well. That is the inspiration we can take from our school's motto, ORA et LABORA. The two Latin words for Pray and Work. We recognise the power of God as people of prayer – ORA – but it doesn't stop there. Ora – to pray - leads us to LABORA (work!). For you, at this point in your life, your Labora, your work, is to be a student. And not just any student, but the best student Scholar. And you want to be the best not just for yourself, but for the good of others.

Your journey as a Scholar hasn't been easy. And as an IB student, you know it doesn't get any easier. But when you are faced with the challenges that are sure to come your way, take comfort or even inspiration from the words of the Founder, St John Baptist de La Salle, who said:

“Do not spare yourself in what you can do with grace; and believe that, provided you want it,

You can do more with the grace of God than you think.”

You can do more with the grace of God than you think.”

Next year we will be observing the 300th anniversary of the passing of De LaSalle, who died in 1719. In the face of the many difficult situations he encountered, De La Salle had the courage and the faith to overcome fear and what seemed to be insurmountable obstacles – all for the sake of the mission. You, too, as a Lasallian scholar, are called to touch hearts and change lives, especially for the last, the lost, and the least, like De La Salle.

A year from now, or two, how will this school, SJI International, be a better place because of you? What talents and gifts will you have already put to good use to build up the school, the members of your House community, the young students for whom you have



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responsibility, even for our elementary school children, in service like an older brother or sister?

Will there be evidence that the committee made the right decision in awarding you this scholarship? Will there be some early signs, will you already demonstrate what it means for a student of SJI International to Enter to Learn, and Leave to Serve? Being with you today, I don't doubt it for a moment. So the question won't be, "Who are you?" But rather, "Who is the Scholar you are becoming?"

Finally, I extend to all of you the best wishes and congratulations of the SJI International Singapore community. We are proud of the how far your school has come in only three years, and we look forward to witnessing great things in the future, from the school, and especially from the Scholars honoured today.

Ora et Labora

Br Lawrence Humphrey, FSC
