BUILDING DEDICATION SPEECH

FOR

ANGELITO CADIENTE

Hello everyone! To all of you distinguished guests in attendance today, from supportive family and cherished friends to respected educators, honored community leaders, dedicated health professionals, devoted clergy and inspired as well as inspiring administrative staff and students, although it is not possible for me to actually physically be with you today, please know that I am with all of you in mind, heart and spirit as we inaugurate this wonderful new building for JARS Academy. The legendary businessman Malcolm Forbes once said, “Presence is more than just being there.” With the dedication of this much-anticipated building, I want you to know that this structure, one that is a fulfillment of a lifelong dream of two very dedicated people, represents my faith in our country, my love of its people, and my belief in a strong and successful future for our community. It is also, in some incredible way, a monument to the power of the human spirit. It is the culmination and acknowledgement of two different yet parallel paths through life, and it is the affirmation of the strength of human connection and friendship.

Many years ago, as a young man, I had dreams, and I had friends that shared some of those dreams. As high school students we may have been sincere but naïve-we didn’t have a clue as to what might lie ahead for either one of us, but we believed in a time in the future-we didn’t know how far in the future it would happen, but we had a vision of doing something magnificent for the people of the Philippines. As life has a habit of doing, it tends to sometimes get in the way of realizing those special, hard to imagine plans. When I was a young man I hadn’t yet heard the words of Mark Twain who stated, “Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed in the things that you didn’t do than the ones you DID do.” I have to say Mr. Twain, it took a little more than twenty years, but I was determined to be true to this plan and I am as elated as can be that those early thoughts have matured into actual **CONCRETE** reality.

As a concerned citizen of the world-one whose path has taken him from the Philippines to halfway around the world and so many places in between, whether I was aware of it at any given time or not, there have been several credos that I have chosen to live by and I use them to guide me through life:

* Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare.
* There are two primary choices in life: to accept conditions as they exist, or accept the responsibility for changing them.
* If you worry about your yesterday’s failures, then today’s success will be few.
* Learn that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life goes on, and it will be better tomorrow.
* There is no education like adversity.

I want to share them with you today because all of them came into play and guided me, and brought us all to this place in time-a time where we come together, celebrate our culture and our faith, and find the strength to continue to learn, to grow, and to give back to our neighbors and our children. I mention all of this because I want each and every one of you to look at this building and remember this day as the moment when you realized that anything is possible. We have built this school as a reminder of just how strong our drive and determination can be. I want you to never forget that if you can imagine it, it can become real. I want you to know that with hard work, faith, and belief in yourself, each one of you is capable of achieving your goals-no matter how impossible they may seem, and this school is the living, breathing proof of that. It’s been said that the human body has limitations but the human spirit is boundless. Believe me, I know.

As I said, my path in life took me many places. I saw many sites and experienced more than my share of “challenges.” I had my adventures and I did my best to learn from every experience. Along the way I met people and I made sure I learned from each one and as I became more aware of my potential impact on the people and the world around me, I found myself remaining in touch with the dreams and visions I had as a young, Idealistic student. As I learned from each adventure and challenge, I grew more and more appreciative of the gifts that life provides if we work hard, respect our partners, neighbors and coworkers, and I realized that the dreams of so long ago could be a reality. I worked and planned and through the support and shared vision of those who know me best, that boyhood dream is now about to be open for business as a temple to knowledge and acknowledgement of the strength of vision of two idealistic students. I am grateful to have the means to have fully supported this project and as a monument to the power of the dream, I have found the way to fund the construction of the entire facility, including the amenities. I am so proud and humbled to have been able to do this that I am sure you can feel me bursting with joy from over 11,000 kilometers away!!

What can make this moment even better? I’ll tell you. Remember I said that this was the dream of two young people from many, many years ago? Well, as luck…. no-**more** than luck… fate, and faith, and indefatigable spirit has shown us, the person who shared that dream with me is our incredible, knowledgeable and dedicated incoming School Director and Administrator, Dr. Angelica Dangullan, PhD!! (**If you want to make a joke you can say**) Who knew forty years ago when we were both kids, that one of us would be a respected educator while the other had a talent for business? I told you all…. Believe in yourselves-**ANYTHING** is **POSSIBLE**!! (**And wait for the laugh**)

When I met Dr. Dangullan as a teenager, we were friends for all of the right reasons. We had wonderful communication, mutual respect, and belief in the other’s talents and capabilities. Over the years, life took us on different paths, but destiny played its part and here we are today, forty-odd years later and our mutual mission is in the process of being fulfilled. While I went through my trials and challenges, so did Dr. Dangullan, and as she found her way in life she dedicated herself to her education and to that of others as well. She has lived her life devoted to enriching the human spirit and through it all; she has maintained her incredible and positive “can do” attitude towards life. Her impact on our community has been monumental. As she teaches and inspires her students and those who work with her, her influence grows geometrically. As JARS Academy Director, her outreach and inspiration will be unprecedented! As a young woman, her empathy for others and her enthusiasm for life were boundless. As a respected educator, her essence and core really haven’t changed much. She continues to inspire with her insights, passion for life, and her devotion to the educational fulfillment of others. Her integrity, values, and beliefs contribute to her effectiveness in all that she does. Just ask her two wonderful sons, Jyrus Jyles and Emmanuel. I cannot imagine a more worthy leader for this academy.

Along with Dr. Dangullan, all of you are helping all of us to change the world. We will do it with this school, and its students and we will spread the word of the importance of faith, education and belief in oneself in the spirit of making this world a better place in which to live.

Remember the words of President Theodore Roosevelt: ““In any situation, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing you can do is the wrong thing; the worst thing you can do is nothing.” Be encouraged by the wisdom of Dr. Martin Luther King: “Take the first step in faith. You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.” Heed the words of Booker T. Washington: “Success is not to be measured by the position someone has reached in life, but the obstacles he has overcome while trying to succeed.” But most of all, be inspired by Dr. Dangullan and myself. Remember your dreams. Work hard. Believe in yourself. Learn from every situation in which you find yourself. Every lesson in adversity is **golden**.

Thank you all for your support and I look forward to hearing great things about the students of JARS Academy and the entire community!