FOUNDATION DAY SPEECH

FOR

ANGELITO CADIENTE

Hello everyone!! I am so happy to be here and so proud to be able to share in the celebration of the very First Annual Foundation Day here at JARS Academy (**Please confirm this is correct- I did some research. If not please fix with correct name**). This day is a tremendous acknowledgement for all who had the dream, shared the vision, and invested the time, effort and funds needed to complete this school, and of course it’s an incredible recognition of what the power of trust and belief can achieve when the strength of our faith inspires us. It is also thanks to our mutual love of our community, its people, and the promise of its future that this means so much to all of us. The publisher Malcolm Forbes said, “The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one.” Thanks to the tireless dedication of so many of you here today, our children have a real chance to make a difference in the world of the future.

The first year of JARS Academy saw many milestones and successful events and everyone learned from each experience as the school celebrated Pilipino Month Celebration, Family Day, and United Nations Day among others. Monthly Special Fellowship Day was held at the church and that was a real success as well. We owe tremendous gratitude and appreciation to the people that really demonstrate a passion for education and a devotion to the mission and vision of the school. To Dr. Angelica Danguilan (**Would you prefer to call her Dr. rather than have the PhD?),** your dedication to the success of this school and the well being of its students is an inspiration. To Ma. Grace Bulatao, our school administrator, your support of the school and its ability to function and succeed are evident. To Engr. Jyrus Cadiente, you took an abstract vision and worked to build it into a physical, viable structure. You have been instrumental in the realization of the actual compound- a place that provides a context for our children to learn and to feel the importance of their worth in the world and that is priceless. Your attention to detail is unparalleled and is a metaphor for all who come here to teach and learn and grow. All of you have inspired us with your professionalism and focus. To Dr. Baldemor, the Chairman of the School’s Board of Trustees, I want to extend a tremendous note of thanks for your wisdom and expertise in guiding the board and in turn assuring effective and beneficial functioning of this school.

This is a special time for to be here in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Name the town- is it Nueva Vizcaya?).** So manymemories and recollectionsof my youth come back to me in waves. I think of what it was like growing up here in the Philippines, treasuring all of the lessons I learned, and I wanted to give back as I made my way in the world. My life has been blessed on so many levels and to be able to have the resources to support the foundation of this school and this community is one of the great gifts of my life.

**(If you want to use a quote from the bible you can say**) In Ecclesiastes 7:12, we learn, “For wisdom [is] a defence and money [is] a defence: but the excellency of knowledge [is, that] wisdom giveth life to them that have it.”

Today is about acknowledgement as we glance over our collective shoulders and recount our journey so far. But the true purpose of today’s festivities is to throw down the gauntlet once again. Today is about celebration and acknowledgement but it certainly is **NOT** the time to sit on our laurels. As each day passes, new and tougher challenges arise and we must be vigilant in meeting and exceeding our mission and goals. Education and the encouragement of a thirst for knowledge into eager and willing young minds are fluid and continual processes. Learning never stops. Life is perpetually advancing and our children must be prepared to know how to learn and to want to advance their knowledge. There is endless potential in the youth of this community and in turn the community must support and encourage its youth as well. It is up to all of you: parents and families, church leaders, as well as our professionals- our teachers, school staff, and Dr. Danguilan and Ma. Grace Bulatao to continually raise the bar to promote excellence in our student body. They **WANT** to learn and they **WANT** to grow.

Benjamin Franklin said, “An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.” I also believe and investment in the future is priceless, and I believe that when we hopefully meet again next near for our SECOND Annual Foundation Day festivities, that more goals will be shattered and new heights of excellence will be achieved. Thank you all!!!