



Sister Clara Garcia-Rocha, MC Undergraduate, Major in Spanish, Modern Languages and Minor in Liberal Studies

Sister Clara García was born in Mexico. At twenty years of age, while studying law at the University of Guanajuato, she discovered the calling of God and decided to devote her life to Him as a religious sister. As a missionary sister, she has served her community in various countries, is fluent in four languages, and has earned degrees at a Catholic University in Italy. She has completed a major in Spanish and a minor in Liberal Studies, and has graduated on May 23rd. With much gratitude to all the excellent professors and classmates of CSUF for their support with her academic goals, Sister Clara would like to use both her knowledge and experience to help others.

Commencement Speech

Dear Teachers, classmates, relatives and friends who accompany us on this very special day.

First of all, I would like to thank all the personal of Cal State Fullerton, and in particular the faculty of the Spanish and Portuguese program for allowing me the privilege of addressing these words to you.

The Book of Ecclesiastes quotes: “There is a time for everything,” and this is the moment for us; for our graduation. It is the time for us to end a phase in our life, and begin a new one. The diploma and the honors will pass, as life goes on. But what will remain in each one of us is the richness of personal experience that Teachers and Students have enjoyed working and being together at Cal-State Fullerton. How could we forget: The study-groups and the many sleepless nights to prepare for exams?, sharing the joy felt when getting an “A” or the support from one another when getting a “D”? The research for Term-Papers and loooooong Essays? The endless search for a parking space..? and the rush to go from one class to another...? All these and more, we shared with one another, as classmates and friends. Thank you to one and all for being who you are. Each of you made of these two years of study, a marvelous experience to me..!

I want to take advantage of this moment, to encourage each and every one of you fellow graduates, to remember always, that each one of us was created to carry out a unique mission in life: ***Do good to others, giving the best of yourself.*** "May you always have the courage and strength to defend the values and principles that lead you to become responsible, diligent, and kind to others." The greater your effort, the greater the benefits of the good that you do..! If we do this, humanity will be enriched by our contribution. It needs responsible and conscientious professionals that participate and impact today's society. The tiny grain of dust that we are putting into our midst is very valuable, and we are glad indeed..! Yet, out there in the world, in every day's struggle, do not faint though you may feel weak. Don't let yourself become paralyzed though everybody else seems to be. Be not afraid, though everything looks dark. Moreover, do not despair if you do not see immediate fruits from your efforts, because when you have a goal in mind, you would receive the enlightenment, and the fruits will arrive in due time.

My profound gratitude goes to God for giving me the capability and talents to face the challenge of studies. I sincerely recognize that the merit is not mine alone. I have simply done what I should. To tell you all the truth, my secret was the total confidence in the Most Holy Virgin Mary. She has always been my greatest support in all things.

My sincere thanks to my Superiors and Religious Sisters, since they constantly supported me, and gave me the necessary time to do all the work needed for my studies, without neglecting the observance to my religious duties. A very special recognition and gratitude to my Dad for his academic example...! And, my deepest thanks to my Mom, the rest of my family, and friends who supported me not only with their encouragement, but with their prayers.

Last but not least, I want to share the merits I have gained with all of ***my Professors***, both present and absent. You sowed the seeds of knowledge in my mind, and trusted me for the fruits that I would render. Thank you for leading me ---unconditionally--- with your guidance and counsels.

My prayers will always be with and for you all.

May God bless each and every one of you and lead you to higher goals that are so much needed by humankind.

Sister Clara García-Rocha, M. C.