

A deep feeling and a sincere emotion toward you have accompanied me, still accompany me, and will remain with me throughout my life.

First and foremost, my gratitude is directed to God, who guided our journey and walked with us every step of the way, and to Saint Joseph, the guardian of our path, our hospital, and our university.

Pope Francis once said of Saint Joseph that he is “a dreamer saint,” a man of vision and hope.

I firmly believe that our journey, despite the difficult circumstances we have faced, has been driven by a dream in which we believed, a dream we lived day by day and achieved in large measure, thanks to each and every one of you.

A community becomes truly strong and wise when it knows how to unite the intelligence of its members, when everyone shares in thinking and acting together, in order to reach what is best, most beautiful, most solid, and most far-reaching, in the service of an institution as distinguished as ours.

Institutions are inseparably linked to the people who work within them, whether in leadership and decision-making roles or in daily operational positions. History shows us that institutions which failed to assume collective responsibility and to preserve a spirit of unity and solidarity stumbled and fell along the way. Conversely, those that believed in shared effort endured, grew, and illuminated their path, despite all challenges.

Working for one’s personal interest is legitimate, but it finds its true meaning only when it is coupled with working for the good of others. When we think of one another and work together, we become stronger, and everyone benefits.

Those who seek success alone ultimately lose themselves, lose others, and weaken their institution.

Thank you for this gathering and for all that you have done.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Hand in hand, we continue this journey with the President of the institution and with the new President, with confidence, hope, and a strong sense of responsibility.