

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS | Thursday 13 February 2025

Deputy Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, staff, fellow graduates, family and friends - it's a pleasure to be here. Let me start by saying that I have loved my time at the university and sincerely appreciate everyone who has helped me along this journey.

A few months ago, everyone discovered I was doing my last semester of study for the Bachelor of Theology. As a result, everyone kept asking me the same question,

“What are you going to do now that you’re finished?”

And to be honest, I hadn't thought about it that much. Now that I am here at graduation, I realise this isn't the end. Or the start. It's not even the right race we're meant to run. It feels odd to say that, especially at graduation, but remember that even if we understand all mysteries and have all knowledge but have no love, we are nothing. After all, the purpose of studying Theology is to know God better so that we can love him more.

Loving God and each other is what we were made for. The only question is, how? So the question for me became, how will I use all I've learnt here to love the Lord more? And I realised this isn't a case of “What Jesus Would Do”, for how could we know, and how could anyone imitate him? This is a case of what does Jesus want me to do. Every day, we must ask God, “Lord, how do you want me to love you?” That's the goal, the race we're called to run. That's the answer to the question.

What am I going to do now that I finished my studies?

Well, hopefully, through the grace of God and the merits of your prayers, we can love Our Lord Jesus Christ even more. I desire that we all strive to do the same. And be whoever God wants us to be. Do whatever he tells you, and you will set the world on fire with his Divine love.

Daniel Trevino Hernandez, BTheol 2025

