

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR PETER DONKOR, PRO VICE-  
CHANCELLOR OF KNUST AT THE 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADUATION CEREMONY  
OF SPIRITAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, EJISU – KUMASI ON  
SATURDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2012 AT 10.00AM**

Chancellor and Archbishop Emeritus of the Kumasi  
Archdiocese

Chairman and Members of the Board of Governors

My Lord Bishops

Rector

Registrar

Prof Thomas Mba Akabzaa, Guest Speaker

Mr. Gimmy Aglar, our Keynote Speaker

Lecturers

Reverend Ministers

Distinguished Invited Guests

Relieved Graduands

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to commence my short address by first conveying the apologies of my Vice-Chancellor, Professor William Otoo Ellis who should have presided over this ceremony in person but as a result of other official University assignments, he has had to delegate me to stand in for him. He, however, sends his

sincere apologies and best wishes for a successful graduation ceremony.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I have been told of how the Institute started almost two decades ago for the training of Priests of the Roman Catholic Church and the various institutional and structural changes that have taken place since then in an attempt to broaden the College's scope in a bid to positively impact our Ghanaian society. As a Catholic myself, I would like to first congratulate the Catholic Church for nurturing a vision in establishing this University to provide a platform for the training of the manpower of this country. This comes on the heels of several other schools; spanning Primary, Secondary, Technical, Vocational, and Colleges of Education which have helped in providing a unique Christian environment for the training of several manpower for Ghana's economy.

The several high profile personalities that span the length and breadth of the country's productive sector who received rich catholic education are all living testimonies to the Church's

avowed commitment to education. I am particularly happy that, the Catholic Church has once again been able to transform this institution into a tertiary institution and we have all gathered here this morning to witness another graduation ceremony of the College during which ceremony students would be presented with their certificates from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) as a result of Spiritan's affiliate status with the KNUST.

Let me also congratulate all graduands being presented for 3<sup>rd</sup> Graduation Ceremony this morning. It is, indeed, a joyous occasion for you and your acquaintances and we all join in the celebration of your achievements today. We are fully aware of the level of sacrifices such as sleepless nights, community/industrial trips, difficult class assignments, and several presentations you had to endure in order to reach this stage of your career. Your dedication and sacrifice has paid off today and we have all gathered here this morning, for the sole purpose of celebrating your achievements. With your indulgence, would all the graduating students be upstanding for

a round of applause .....Thank you and please resume your seats.

As we have drummed home on several occasions, I would want to use this platform to once again inform the general public that the KNUST as part of our obligation to the Spiritan University College, has been fully involved in all its internal mechanisms and processes such as the appointment of Moderators for its programmes, vetting of its examinations, vetting its entry requirements and admissions; among others, in our attempt to ensure that, the standards of KNUST are achieved and its traditions maintained. Therefore, we at KNUST have fully satisfied ourselves that these students being presented for graduation this morning have fully satisfied all other requirements for the award of joint degrees of Spiritan and KNUST. It is on the premise of the satisfaction of this obligation that we are involved in this morning's ceremony.

I would want to use this platform to say a word or two to my proud graduates. You have been equipped for every good work. Therefore, please use the knowledge you have acquired here in this University College to help in the better planning,

designing, development, administration and monitoring of systems that work in our peculiar Ghanaian society. Your critical challenge is to help systems work better through the use of appropriate social methods. Do not be afraid to fail for perseverance surely pays. Make the best of every opportunity and situation and in so doing, contribute your quota towards the building of a better society for all.

I thank all stakeholders who in one way or the other helped in your achievement today. In this respect, I would want to thank your parents, guardians, friends, relatives and lecturers for their effort in your achievement today.

On this note, I wish you all the best of God's blessings and thank you all.