



WELCOME BOYS:

I believe I am the oldest, or one of the oldest, Old Lyceum Boys, and as such I invite you all to rally round on March 19th for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of our Association.

I joined the Lyceum at the age of eleven in 1937 (as Stanley Grech) and spent two years in Hamrun, with Mr. Brennan, and later, with Mr. J.P. Vassallo as Headmasters. One peaceful year in Valletta and then the trouble started. In June 1940 Italy declared war, and after a few hours, bombs rained down on Malta. This meant that it sometimes happened that we went to school in the morning to find only a heap of rubble where the school had been. That meant that we had to go on with school by correspondence for two or three weeks, till another building was found ... and then bombed again. It was obviously worse when someone of us went back home after school to find no home at all. We sat our matriculation exam in St. Dominic's Priory in Rabat, also during an air-raid. How can I ever forget such an experience?

Times change of course. New schools were built, curricula evolved, new subjects introduced and education adapted to the needs of a rapidly changing world. But the Lyceum always remained the Lyceum in spirit, and in spite of all changes we all, from the oldest to the youngest, always feel some kinship when we meet an old student and say with pride: "I, too, am an old Lyceum boy!"

It was a brilliant idea of Founder President Dr. Guido Saliba LL.D., to found ALPS twenty-five years ago. His successor George Stagno Navarra has taken over the running of the association that invites us to discover what we have in common, in spite of our social, racial and religious differences. The 19th of March is the feast of St. Joseph, Jesus' foster father. We invite him to foster the ALPS family as well.