

SPEECH BY THE ALPS PRESIDENT ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The 19th March 2019

Your Eminence, Your Grace, Members of the Clergy who have concelebrated Holy Mass, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.... I feel deeply honored standing here today, as well as very nostalgic at getting the privilege of welcoming you all here.

It gives me immense pleasure to address you all on this auspicious occasion of a **25th Anniversary from foundation date of ALPS**. A day like today is very important for us, as it provides us the opportunity to meet with many other past students after a long time. It provides to each one of us, the chance to meet each other and to reminisce from the good Lyceum days of our youth. It also enables us all, to notice the changes and development since the foundation date of **The Association of Lyceum Past Students** . Many of you here present, were there in the very early stages, when **Ghaqda Ex-Studenti Liceo** was founded in 1994 by our founder President Dr. Guido Saliba..... *God Rest his Soul*.....I can just imagine the joy that Guido would have felt today, on seeing the Association of Lyceum Past Students come a long way and to be liked and well accepted by everyone. I am pleased to mention, that we are honored with the presence of Mrs. Irene Saliba wife of our founder president who has accepted our invitation to come and share from this joy of a 25th anniversary , to something, that her dear departed husband had initiated and bequeathed to us in 1994.

ALPS, has an ongoing tradition to stay in touch with all its members and friends..... And to continue with this tradition, we have today organized this get together here **inside the old LICEO building**, where many of you may still vividly remember the years..... they have spent in their Lyceum classes.

Kindly allow me to express my gratitude towards each and every one of you here present, for sparing some time to be with all of us tonight. We realize that some of you do have a busy schedule, but you still wanted to come over. I believe, that the experiences of this evening which you will take home, will be worth the time you have spent to come and join us on this grand occasion, **Twentyfive years ago**, ALPS was a very small and struggling organization, that was still finding its feet to start a long walk that today.....brings it to its first 25th anniversary celebration. Lyceum boys have graduated from their secondary school benches and have widely spread throughout the globe. Many have continued to search for growth, learning, knowledge and I am convinced, that their performances have made a difference everywhere they went. All this, could only come about, after having taken their first sound teachings at the Liceo.

Allow me to say, that our association has today become recognized as one of the great NGO's in Malta and Gozo , that has achieved its greatness all through the continued best support, that it receives from its large membership. We struggle all the time to recruit new members and if any of you here present wish to take this opportunity and enroll, I am sure, that my fellow council members may all be carrying

in their pockets some application forms to help you to give us your details and you shall be privileged to have joined ALPS exactly on its 25th anniversary celebration. This is the first of a series of activities that are planned for this year and we certainly wish to see you all participating at other future events in 2019

Before I close, I must praise you all dear members and friends of **The Association of Lyceum Past Students**, for having held key positions of major influence in Society. I would like to appreciate your efforts done for the development of our Maltese society and justifying the years spent by you at any one of the Lyceum buildings, with very dedicated and experienced teachers during our school years.

I wish to say a big thank you to my fellow council members who work with me all year round in order to ensure that our activities are all to your liking.

May I just say another thank you to our Spiritual Director Fr. William Bartolo for his continued best support, by celebrating Holy Mass at Kappella Pwales , nearly every month of the year .

You may have noticed at the bottom of the adverts that have appeared in the Sunday Papers over the past weeks, that such adverts have been partly sponsored by ‘ *The Ministry for Education and Employment* ’ With much pleasure, I wish to inform you that ALPS has this year qualified for some much needed funding, to lessen the expense for this anniversary year, whilst preparing many activities for you members and friends of ALPS. I wish to thank the Minister for Education and the nice ladies and other heads of department, who helped us all along and processed our application for such funding.

I would like to thank you all for your keen participation earlier on this evening at St John's Co Cathedral with concelebrated Holy Mass **His Eminence Cardinal Prospero Grech** has travelled to Malta specifically for this occasion. He was a Liceo Past student himself and has given to us a very warm message, that is represented on the back of that church booklet that we would like you to keep as a souvenir of this special occasion. Another Lyceum Past Student who concelebrated Holy Mass, was His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Mons. Pawl Cremona and, together with other Liceo past students who have chosen priesthood, we had such a grand commemorative occasion that shall be remembered by all of us for the rest of our lives. We thank you your Eminence and Your Grace and we humbly ask for your blessing. **Mill-LICEO hargu hafna ‘mhuh kbar li ghamlu unur kbir ghal Malta Taghna. Dawn jinkludu l-Eminenza tieghu, isqfijiet Maltin li jervu gewwa l-Gzejjer Maltin u anki ohrajn mxerda mad-dinja. Dan Barra professjonisti ta kull xorta li dejjem okkupaw postijiet mill-ghola ghal gid tas-socjeta.**

Last but not least, a very big thank you to all our ALPS members for the enormous support that you are extending to The Association of Lyceum Past Students on this unique occasion. I assure you, that it is greatly appreciated. May I take this opportunity and ask you dear Ladies....wives of ALPS members, to keep encouraging your husbands to stay active in life and to participate in all that ALPS prepares for its members during the year. Your presence when you accompany your husbands gives to me much pleasure at seeing the ALPS family truly united and staying together.

I sincerely hope that you like the arrangements for this get together and I wish you a wonderful evening and memorable moments....Have a good time ahead.. **Thank you .**

George Stagno Navarra

President - ALPS

GIFT TO CARDINAL - PROSPERO GRECH