

The 13th day of December 2014.

ALPS - PRESIDENT'S SPEECH FOR THE CLOSING OF 20TH ANIVERSY CELEBRATION

Your Grace Arch Bishop Cremona, Fr. William, dear members, wives, families and friends in A.L.P.S.,

Thank you for joining us today for this happy occasion.

I wish to begin by asking you, **WHAT** do we take away at the conclusion of this event that marks the **20th ANNIVERSARY from foundation date of The Association of Lyceum Past Students!** I should think that it is the realization that we have succeeded to achieve what we have aimed and have worked for during the past twelve months. In ALPS... the year 2014 is being talked about as a special event that has truly marked big achievements.

It is really great to see so many people here to celebrate a 20th anniversary celebration. We seem to all have one thing in common. **Our admiration, of a man** who could not have had a better dream than the formation of ALPS. That man of course was Dr. Guido Saliba. He worked ever so hard when the ALPS association was still in its infancy. Had Guido done nothing in 1994, the rest of us would have never been here today to mark such a great milestone in the history of ALPS., I would like to say "**THANK YOU GUIDO** " You were a man of action and not just words. You have got us started rallying many ex-LYCEUM students to work together and to make The Association of Lyceum Past Students such a great success to this year that is about to come to an end

As the ALPS President, I am committed to making our association a "FIRST CHOICE" every day. This means, that I have to dedicate much of my time supporting you our members and at the same time keeping a close watch over the day to day running of the association needs.

Very briefly, I would like to recall some of the best items we have done together over this past year.

- 1) We started in March 2014 with a Grand Reunion celebration at the Mdina Cathedral.
- 2) In May the ALPS group went to Manresa in Gozo for the annual spiritual retreat.
- 3) A very well attended **GET TOGETHER** was organized in June at Hal Farrug. Our dear friend Milo Vassallo from Canada was celebrating **his 80th Birthday with us in Malta**. Ad multos annos Milo...We wish you were here with us today together with our other friend Oreste Aquilina from Australia. These two gentlemen look after the interests of ALPS, far away from the Maltese shores.
- 4) A wonderful barbeque in beautiful summer surroundings was held at The Radisson Resort. In spite of the world cup football fever, we still had a very good attendance.

- 5) In October, we had the opportunity to celebrate Sunday Mass at The Russian Chapel inside the President's private gardens at San Anton Palace Attard.
- 6) In October also the ALPS group went to Gozo for the opera NABUCCO at the Astra Theatre.
- 7) And still in October, we had a very interesting cultural tour of BIRGU visiting the Inquisitor's Palace and the Maritime Museum.
- 8) Remembrance mass this year, was celebrated with the attendance of Her Excellency the President of Malta who very kindly accepted our invitation to come and meet the ALPS members and the people from the Pwales hamlet & fields.
- 9) We had an interesting cultural tour in November visiting St. John's Co Cathedral and the Grand Master's Palace. As always, we had a very encouraging number participating for this guided tour .
- 10) Of course, **the CHERRY ON THE CAKE for this year 2014 marking the 20th Anniversary of ALPS**, was the tremendous success of a pilgrimage to The Vatican City where, we wanted to be very close to the Holy Father. The number of participants was 109. ***Such number is proof enough of the success.*** We shall continue to reminisce from that short trip with vivid pictures of Papa Francesco who seemed to slow down in his Pope mobile right in front of the ALPS group. We captured a magnificent photo that has been printed in the last edition of our newsletter. Our Archbishop Emeritus who is our guest of honor tonight, was with us in Rome and he could deliver a gift of €1000 that was fully made up with donations collected from the ALPS group who travelled with us. We have now published a copy of the letter received from the Pope's Almoner thanking the ALPS group for the very generous donation and also extending the **APOSTOLIC BLESSINGS on ALL THE MEMBERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS of the Association of Lyceum Past Students.**

And today, we are here gathered all very smartly dressed together with our wives and families .

We have come to celebrate the closing of the **20th Anniversary Celebrations 1994-2014**. May I take this opportunity to **thank you dear wives** for all the assistance you have given to the association with your continued best support to your husbands.....throughout the year.

I wish to thank The LICEO SCOUTS who always make us proud when attending for some special function to salute our distinguished guests.

I must not forget our sponsors who, year in year out, keep sponsoring the ALPS web-site and the bi-monthly publication of our most attractive and colorful ALPS News letter.

I want to thank the management and staff of The Radisson Golden Sands Resort for the service and the food that they have prepared for this special event today.

Worth mentioning also, is the contribution through **The ALPS Choir** and the **Dance to Health** participants, who have over the recent years, added to the meaning of A.L.P.S. Although their existence may now be in abeyance, I wanted to mention them for the prestige they have added to our association.

Now, we look to the future as we must continue to work very closely with you members and friends to attract new members into the association. I do hope that you have appreciated the program of activities, prepared for you in 2014. We just have to look forward with eager **anticipation to the next twenty years of ALPS**. Considering our age, I suppose that many of us will not be around by the year 2034**BUT**, what we may be planting today will thrive and will put down deep roots just as we have done over the past 20 years since our foundation day. Thank you very much for sharing this important event today with myself and with my colleagues in council of administration of ALPS. Our hard working Secretary General has been working ever so hard to ensure that throughout the year, all our events are run smoothly and make a success.. Thanks Alex, we need you for many more years because the association is so very proud of you. Incidentally, I would like to mention also, that Alex Borg and George Grech have served for 20 years on Council of ALPS, from the first year 1994. Thanks Alex and thanks George Grech. A.L.P.S. is dedicated to making the Maltese Community better. Your membership and continued support is essential. We play an important role by renewing our childhood memories of an education at one of the best schools in Malta. The purpose, goals and methods are left up to you members to determine if we are doing it to your entire satisfaction.

A small memento to each one of you here tonight, is being distributed at your table to help you remember this great celebration. **Our Master of Ceremonies** will soon ask you to raise your port glasses to toast this memorable occasion.

I wish to see many of you again for the next event that is in the pipelinenamely the Valentine's week-end in February 2015...More details with dates and location for the holding of such function shall be announced in our next edition of ALPS news .

I end by thanking you and I extend to you members and to your families and to our Friends in A.L.P.S.,

***Sincere best wishes for a most Peaceful and Happy Christmas
and a Bright... Healthy and Very Prosperous New Year 2015.***

Please continue to enjoy this gala evening with some dancing.

George Stagno Navarra

President A.L.P.S.