

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MS DANIELA CAMILLERI SACCO, HEAD OF SAC PRIMARY SCHOOL, TO FR ARTURO SOSA, S.J.

Dear Fr General Arturo Sosa,

It is an honour for us to have you with us here today.

The last time I met you was on the 1st July, 2017, in Rome when the Euro-Mediterranean province was born.

I remember my deep desire, that one day the happiness I felt on the day, that of being surrounded by so many colleagues from around the world and of being in your presence, would some day be shared by my colleagues. The news that you were going to visit Malta, and especially our school, was received with great joy by all the staff members.

In Ignatian terms, our primary school is the youngest of the three schools of St Aloysius College. Our primary school was previously run by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, and it was only in 2008 that it was handed over to the Society of Jesus. From that day, just like St Ignatius had instructed – *Go and set the world on fire!* – it is exactly what we have been doing!

We have embraced the Ignatian philosophy. Together with our chaplains, educators and Jesuits, we have made it our mission to become more and more Ignatian. Thanks to professional development days, special Ignatian days and a variety of workshops we are becoming more in tune with Ignatian teachings and Ignatian spirituality in our everyday lives, with each other, with parents and mostly with our students. We constantly keep our motto in mind - Being Men and Women for Others and With Others. Throughout the day it fills my heart with joy when visitors come to the school for the first time, and notice that the *cura personalis* spirit can be felt around the school. It is for this reason that, although limited, the Jesuit presence in our school is much appreciated.

We are blessed to be living in a community where we give priority to the growth of the whole person. We emphasise basic needs - especially the safety of each student, we emphasise academic needs, but we emphasise mostly the spiritual growth of all our school community. It is thanks to all the educators – teachers and learning support educators, senior management team members, administrative and domestic staff under the guidance of Fr Jimmy, our rector that we can accompany each student in a way that no other school does, *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*.

Fr Sosa, thank you for your presence amongst us today. Your visit here today is and will certainly remain a cherished memory for all.

I now invite our students who have prepared some questions for you.

10/05/2024