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WELCOME ADDRESS*

Jose Ramon T. Villarin, S.J.
President, Ateneo de Manila University

His Eminence Giuseppe Cardinal Versaldi, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education; His Excellency Honesto Ongtioco, Bishop of the Diocese of Cubao; Rev. Fr. José Quilongquilong of the Society of Jesus, President of Loyola School of Theology; my brothers and sisters in Christ, good afternoon.

On behalf of the Ateneo de Manila University, I warmly welcome Cardinal Versaldi to the campus that is shared by four Catholic education and formation institutions. We welcome his eminence as well to the Ateneo Church of the Gesù, named after the Society of Jesus' mother church in Rome.

We are deeply grateful to Cardinal Versaldi for generously sharing his time and the wealth of his experience and expertise with us in the theology symposium organized by the Loyola School of Theology.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate once again the Loyola School of Theology on its golden jubilee, and to thank them for organizing the symposium which will benefit the faculty of

*Delivered at the liturgical reception for His Eminence Giuseppe Cardinal Versaldi, D.D. (Church of the Gesù, Ateneo de Manila University: March 9, 2016).

the Ateneo de Manila, our students, and the Catholic Church in the Philippines as well.

In the spirit of Ignatius of Loyola who exhorts us in *omnibus amare et servire Domino*, to love and serve the Lord in all things, we take the Cardinal's visit and the jubilee of the Loyola School of Theology as an opportune and gracious time to revisit, deepen, and fortify our shared mission as Catholic educators and formators fifty years after the closing of the Second Vatican Council.

It is our hope and prayer that these days with Cardinal Versaldi, Cardinal Quevedo, with some of the best theologians in our communities, and with our other companions in the mission be days marked by solidarity and inspiration. May our gathering during these days serve to strengthen our vocation. May it deepen our love and service of the Lord, confirming us in our commitment to learn and teach, to form others and our very selves, to spread the joy of the Word, *ad majorem Dei gloriam.*