

SIGNING OFF

Isn't it remarkable that after 13 years of our stay here in Stella Maris seemed just like yesterday? After spending more than a decade in this institution, goodbye won't even wholly explain how I truly feel.

Leaving for the summer vacation before was just an ordinary phase. It used to be a time for relaxing from school work, a break time from all the pressures as well as from things that would remind us of school. But now, as vacation is fast approaching, I know it will never be the same again, and it can never be called just an "ordinary phase" in our life. Instead of mere night life and endless escapades, we will now be facing the "real world" – the anonymous, our college life. This will be another step to the fulfillment of our dreams as well as the dreams of our families for us. We'll have to deal with a new setting, a new set of people, and obviously, a new school. That part of the future is yet a mystery to us; all we have now are the pleasant and dreadful memories as we face the unknown.

To our dear teachers, we want to thank you for doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well for us. You gave us lessons that we know will make life simpler as well as college life much lighter. Now, as we bid farewell, always remember that if you see us in the future as successful businessmen, doctors, nurses, and the like, these success were made possible through your help. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you very much.

To our mom and dad, words will never be enough to show how grateful we are to have parents like you. Thank you for supporting us, and for striving hard for our future. For being patient all throughout these years, from the very moment we entered this institution as sobbing nursery students until we grew up as fine, and sometimes, rebellious teenagers. For all the hard work, tears, patience and pain, we want to present to you our diploma as a sign of gratitude and love that we sometimes fail to show you.

To the seniors, to the most amazing batch I've ever met, congratulations! I know graduation brings the kind of bittersweet joy we cannot quite express. Saying goodbye is the hardest part for it feels like I'm saying goodbye to a part of me. But what we are all

today are made possible by our school, our families, and our circle of friends. We have brought out the best talents from each other which made this batch stronger.

We know this graduation is inevitable. No matter how we try to be together, we know we'll be facing the world as independent and outstanding individuals who will soon be soaring high. Believe in yourselves for we have gained enough wisdom, and confidence to face the challenges beyond the portals of this institution. Always recognize God in everything you do, because He will always be with us guiding us in our journey. Always listen to our parents because all they ever wanted are the best things in life for us. Lastly, always be responsible and love what you are doing because there is no better than something done from the heart.

I'll be missing all of you, and believe me, nothing could ever replace the friendship and the bond this batch has for we were made to fit perfectly despite our differences. We may not be the most excellent, and the most disciplined, but no one could ever replace the 200 people that would forever be the best in our hearts.

So to our dear parents, teachers, and friends, goodbye for now, see you soon. These are the seniors 2005, signing off!