

## 2021 Graduation Speech

Dear graduating students, parents, faculty, ladies and gentlemen:

This is the most awaited moment after a long period of preparation. After experiencing the pandemic outbreak and the change in the global trend, we have learned to stay calm and to adjust our pace of life when we confront a crisis. Now it is the right time for us to set off for the future in confidence and in readiness. Have you noticed the theme for this year? It says “Let Go”?

You might think it means “Let it go”? To let go of several things you have experienced in college life, for example, your shy personality, reluctance of taking risks and tests, let go of failures in the past, and even let go of your comfort zones in various aspects.

Perhaps, some of you think “Let Go” is a game produced by the LEGO company in which you can construct your ideal world again finally in the real world after you have spent years in college in which you have tried very hard to build up your future blue prints piece by piece.

Or perhaps it is the virtual world of “Pokemon Let’s Go” that takes shape in your mind and becomes a fancy game to fight and tame the monsters, and you have finally upgraded your ability to a higher or the advanced level and have become very powerful to defeat all the enemies considered.

When you can associate your dreams to real life, turn them into interests and the source of power for learning, and generate endless creativity for your production and presentation, then you are true Wenzaorians with the 3L capabilities!

Now the theme of this year leads us to another inspirational message. “Let go” is a term of the maritime glossary for communication. When a ship is ready to sail, the captain gives the command to let go of the cables at the stern and bow of the ship and then head for the destination. It is a simile in which you are compared to a ship ready to set sail at the sea of life right at the command of a wise leader.

Then who can we trust at sea? And where can we find the navigator we need most? If you often walk around the campus, you might have seen a portrait of St. Ursula. This unusual woman of the Middle Ages led a group of girls sailing across the expansive and perilous sea, daringly putting aside the contemporary social conventions in a quest for her faith. In St. Ursula,

we see her dedication to the **service** of the humanity. **Together** with her kindred spirits, she fulfilled the **hope** of **leading a new life** in which she revered the divine **above all** others.

Based on these cores of the Ursuline education, we decided the theme for your commencement as “Let go! Build up Your Dream and Set off.” To our graduating students, I wish to give the heritage of St. Ursula and St. Angela as your navigational stars, when you set foot into the world from Wenzao.

The five key elements of the Wenzao Laurel Method--Serviam, Hope, Above all, Togetherness, Lead a new life --will be the strengths for you to realize your dreams; they enable you not only to exercise your talent to serve at every part of the globe but also to work for the vision of becoming the light of the world, in which you will find numerous Wenzaorians on your side.

May you be blessed with a new stage in life full of the supreme grace in truth, goodness and beauty and the best wishes from your teachers and the elders. Thank you.