

## OPENING SPEECH

Nicolás Varela

Firstly, it is necessary to thank lots of people for their performance during this day and the hard work during the preparation of the conference, and when I mean hard work I mean really hard work.

Our MUN Directors: Ernesto, Silvana and Jorge. I can't put into word how grateful I am for the extra hours and the tough work throughout these last months. Gonza, this conference would have been impossible without your constant commitment. Isa and Cyn, thanks for being there when we needed you. Agus, Juan Cruz, Lu, Jose, and the names could go on and on, thanks for putting your heart and soul into this conference.

To all who were fundamental during this day: the student officers, floating delegates, Carolina Berruti, head of press, and the whole press team, and of course, Diego Vazquez, Head of admin, and all the admin Staff. Finally, thanks to all of you, the delegates, who engages profoundly in this conference, taking it to success.

For all of this people, a round of applause.

Now, to the serious part.

I would like to analyze the real value behind MUN and the profit someone can get from this experience, beyond how enjoyable a conference is and the social aspects it involves. This challenge has been undertaken by many in different conferences. However, I will try to make such analysis particularly from the perspective of a Seminario student.

There are three concepts Seminario provides that will help us understand the value of MUN from this point of view.

The first one is the motto of the school for this year: "Our home is the world". I found very much interesting the comparison between a home and the world. At the scenario of our home it seems logic: if you establish a good communication, understand the differences with your family, you comprehend each other, you act as

a unity, then you will be capable of having a fluent relationship and unifying as a family.

Something similar occurs when we take this into the whole world. Were we able to imagine the world as whole as our own home, our place to be, and the humanity as one unity, despite religion, race, nation, geographical limits, or any other difference, then the tolerance Gonzalo so accurately defined this morning will be a reality, or at least a real possibility. This would mean an unimaginable huge step towards peace.

In this sense, MUN certainly drives us into the path of world understanding and global community, letting us understand positions of countries really far from our reality, comprehending conflicts, and most importantly, establishing the necessary channels of communication, so we can thrive in the goal of this so wished peace.

The second and third concepts are two of the things that have marked me, and I think most of my fellow Seminario students, the most throughout these 13 years at Colegio Seminario: Magis and Ut Serviam.

Magis refers to the conception of putting the maximum of our capabilities into what we are doing, aspiring for success, looking forward to give the most in the intent of creating a better life for all of us. However, this maximum is not just limiting to do what you are capable of, but to boost the gifts you were given becoming every day a little bit better at what you do.

MUN fosters certain abilities that enable us to give our real 100% not only by our own, but with others. Team working, rhetorical arts, social abilities such as convincing, debating, accepting our mistakes, and communicating effectively are just some of the examples of the competences MUN improves on us. Therefore, it seems undeniable to claim that MUN helps us step up and put the line of our 100% even higher.

Ut serviam is a latin phrase which stands for “Live to serve”, and it is the principle our school runs on. I believe service is important for every Seminario student, whether it is at Castores, in other private institution, at the streets or even at our

homes. Ut serviam does not refer simply to the action of direct service, but to a lifestyle, being always approachable, being there for those who need you, but also for those that not.

Service, in my opinion, can be divided in three steps.

Step 1: be conscious of the problems in our society, be informed, be aware of what is happening around you, do not be indifferent.

Step 2: have empathy, put yourself in the place of the other one, understand them, feel their pain as yours, but also their happiness and their success.

Step 3: take action, work to change the reality, to create a better world. Not necessarily in the large scale, but for those who surround you. And although you may think your action will not stop a war, think that you may change drastically the situation of someone that needs you.

MUN already makes the first two steps for you, as it takes you apart from indifference, being conscious of the problems of our world, and puts you in someone's else shoes as well, by representing a position that may be far away from yours.

Of course, everything good MUN provides comes with a responsibility, the obligation to take all this gifts into a good port. Particularly today I would like to challenge you to understand the world as our home and as a unity, to give your Magis in the intent of improving the world, and to live to serve, taking a step further and taking action, for little it may seem.

I wish MUN can fill you with so many positive things as it has to me. I hope this day was as enjoyable as we expected it to be.

Thank you very much.