

**“Ethics and Society”
Book Signing
Feb. 23, 2007**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome all of you at Notre Dame University on this particular occasion of signing the volume entitled “Ethics and Society”. Once again, you join us to affirm the value of research and the importance of its implications on society.

With gratitude, I welcome as well for the second time at NDU, Mr. Olivier Mongin, who did not accepted but be with us today and share with us more of his enriching insights.

“Ethics and Society” is a compendium of diverse efforts of prestigious authors and researchers. It is the fruit of a two-day conference held at this University almost a year ago. It is what is more than ever needed and sought not only by our Lebanese society but also by any society in this world. For ethics shape our societies!

I would like here to refer to the core question that has been always put forward and that is: Would a society stand without ethics? And to the other associated question that has been as well always posed: Is it possible to talk about ethics without society? In other words, are there ethics outside society? If ethics disappeared, what society would exist!

Indeed, ethics and society are in vital correlation. The development of one goes along the development of the other. Nevertheless, at the heart of both, there is the human being, the main and only constituent of ethics and society. As a matter of fact, the value of ethics persists when they are lived out!

We, at Notre Dame University, believe our relationship with society to be prolific and constructive. As well, we understand our role in this country, Lebanon, to be significant and shaping. We moreover see ourselves initiators and contributors to the development of Lebanon and reformers of its unacceptable facets.

At NDU, this belief leads us to unveil the weaknesses and deficiencies of our Lebanese society and to explore the possibilities of their reduction finding ways for enhancement.

Our goal has been achievable and our endeavor has been successful through the Lebanese Center for Societal Research, under the direction of Dr. Abdo Kai and the Supervision of Dr. Ameen Rihani, Vice-president for Sponsored Research and Development. My sincere thankfulness goes to the hard work they have been engaging in their undertakings, and to all the staff operating at the Center.

As well, I cannot but extend my appreciation to all those who support our mission, particularly, all those who made our last-year conference valuable and our "Ethics and Society" tangible.

Again, thank you all for being here today and welcome.

Fr. Walid Moussa
President