

**Honourable Chief Guest, First Lady Mrs. Shiranthi Rajapakse.
Honourable Members of Parliament
Reverend Members of the Clergy
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta once said *'we don't do great things here, only little things with great love'*

With sentiments of kindness to the underprivileged children and youth, I Thank God for his kindness to me as I receive this honorable award which I shall accept, NOT as a personal triumph but as a tribute to the 350 years of educational services rendered by the worldwide society of De La Salle Brothers, of which I am a member.

We must praise God for the many talents and gifts he has given us. May this award be an inspiration to the many young people to think of social responsibility towards our underprivileged children. Let us touch the hearts of those children who seek our care.

Jesus said, - ' let the little children come to me because the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs'.

Due to various reasons children are denied the experience of love and care of parents. Some children in our care have never lived in a 'home'. Let us give these children a hand to live a life free from the basics of life. Let us also give them the same love and a helping hand as they grow to full maturity.

St. John Baptist De La Salle, the founder of the De La Salle Brothers, in his time responded to the cry of neglected children. The educational movement he started continues after 3 centuries all over the world.

I stand here on behalf of all the Religious of the Catholic faith. We have NOT done great things, but little things with great LOVE.

Diyagala Boys' Town welcomes all those who wish to collaborate in our efforts to empower the youth.

Thank You and God Bless You All.