



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI15
A.Y. 2021-2022

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY
FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
RE : FEAST OF ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA
DATE : 19 NOVEMBER 2021



The precious handwritten volume of the works of Aristotle called *Libro de los piques*¹, which was used for the examination of candidates for the Licentiate and Master of Arts degree, can attest that **St. Catherine of Alexandria** is the patroness of the University of Santo Tomás (UST) since the 17th century. The book, preserved in the UST Archives, has a “cover mounted in silver, the front and back adorned with the symbols of **St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Catherine of Alexandria**, patrons of Theology and Philosophy, and **of the University**.”²

St. Catherine originated from Alexandria, the academic center of 3rd century Egypt. According to the *Legenda Aurea*, she debated 50 pagan philosophers of the Roman Emperor. Consequently, they lost the intellectual battle but she lost her head. She was sentenced to die on a spiked wheel, but when she was fastened to the wheel, her bonds were miraculously loosened and the wheel itself broke, its spikes flying off and killing some of the onlookers. Eventually, she was beheaded.³

The *Faculty of Philosophy Students' Forum* (FPSF) celebrates the feast of their patroness, St. Catherine of Alexandria, on **25 November 2021** (Thursday), with the theme: **“Philosophers Behind the Screen: Philosophy Engaging in the Present Reality”**.

¹ *Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomás* (AUST), libros 104.

² Villaroel, Fidel O.P., *A History of the University of Santo Tomás: Four Centuries of Higher Education in the Philippines* (1611-2011), Vol. I, p. 69.

³ Voragine, Jacobus (1275), and Caxton, William (1483; trans.), *Legenda Aurea*, Ch. 172.

The *Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy* extends its online invitation to the students and University staff of the administrative, academic and research units of the University. See attached programme.

ALEXANDRIA DAY (25 November 2021)

"Philosophers Behind the Screen: Philosophy Engaging in the Present Reality".

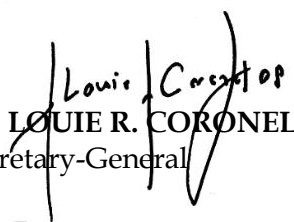
8:00-8:45 am	Eucharistic Celebration in honor of St. Catherine of Alexandria <i>Presider and Homilist:</i> Rev. Fr. Napoleón B. Sipalay, Jr, OP Blessing of the Image of St. Catherine of Alexandria <i>Presider:</i> Rev. Fr. Roland D. Mactal, OP
8:45-9:00 am	Opening Rites
9:00-10:00 am	TALK: "Owls under the Sun and a Broken Wheel: The Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy through the Years Rev. Fr. Hilario V. Sicat, Jr., OP
10:00-10:15 am	Open Forum
10:15-11:15 am	TALK: "The Impact of Philosophy to a Self-Integrated Education in the Virtual Community" Rev. Fr. Jesús M. Miranda, Jr., OP
11:15-11:30 am	Open Forum
11:30 am-12:00 nn	Closing Rites

NOTE: The symposia will be live-streamed via the official Facebook page of the University (www.facebook.com/ust1611official).

St. Catherine's practice of Philosophy became an occasion for conversion, the motive for martyrdom, and represents the depths of charity and wisdom of God. She triumphed by closing the mouths of sophists, and her intercession was implored by theologians, apologists, pulpit orators, and philosophers. Before studying, writing, or preaching, they besought her to illumine their minds, guide their pens, and impart eloquence to their speech.

May the aforementioned activities enrich our love for wisdom as we embrace the *Veritas* (Truth) of the Christian faith.

St. Catherine of Alexandria, pray for us!


FR. LOUIE R. CORONEL, O.P., EHL
Secretary-General