



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI14
A.Y. 2021-2022

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

The University is one with the Conservatory of Music in celebrating the feast of their patroness, **St. Cecilia**, virgin and martyr, on 22 November 2021. According to the *Legenda Aurea*, Cecilia lived during the Christian persecution of the third century. Upon her arrest, the Roman prefect attempted to persuade her to renounce her faith, but she refused. After a failed attempt to suffocate her in an extremely heated bath in her own home, an executioner was sent to behead her. Three blows mortally wounded Cecilia leaving her almost decapitated, yet she persisted for three days, offering the witness of vibrant faith, hope and charity that can never die.¹

The following activities are lined up to commemorate the Feast of St. Cecilia:

A. Virtual Concert: "Agapay"

- The USTCM Alumni Association Inc., in cooperation with the UST Conservatory of Music, will stage a *virtual concert* titled "**Agapay**", which will be presented on **21 November 2021 (Sunday), 8:00 p.m.**, the eve of the feast day.
- The concert, which features the academic staff and alumni, will be livestreamed through the UST Conservatory of Music (USTCM) official FB page.
- www.facebook.com/University-of-Santo-Tomas-Conservatory-of-Music-413742148671152/

B. Eucharistic Celebration in honor of St. Cecilia

- A **Holy Mass** will be offered on **22 November 2021 (Monday), 10:00 a.m.**, the feast day itself, at the **Santisimo Rosario Parish Church-UST**, and will be livestreamed via the official Facebook (FB) page of the University and the Parish
- www.facebook.com/ust1611official and www.facebook.com/SantisimoRosarioUST
- The *Mass Presider* and *Homilist* is **Rev. Fr. José Ma. B. Tinoko, OP, JCD**, the Regent of the UST Conservatory of Music.

C. Virtual Concert: Tribute to St. Cecilia

¹ cf. Voragine, Jacobus, *Legenda Aurea* (1275), Chapter 169, translated by William Caxton, 1483.

- Further, the Conservatory of Music Student Council will also present their **Tribute to St. Cecilia** on **26 November 2021 (Friday)**.
- The details of the virtual concert will be posted on the FB Page of the Student Council and the USTCM official FB page.
- www.facebook.com/University-of-Santo-Tomas-Conservatory-of-Music-413742148671152/ and www.facebook.com/USTCMSC/

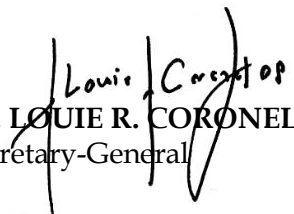
As we commemorate the martyrdom of St. Cecilia, who “sang in her heart, only to God, saying: O Lord, I beseech You that my heart and body be cleansed so that I may not be confounded,”² let us also be gently reminded to offer to the Lord our gift of music.



Figure 1: Stefano Maderno's *Martyrdom of Saint Cecilia*³, Church of St. Cecilia, Rome

St. Cecilia's music is the eternal heavenly call, which resonates in the soul despite the noise and pressures of the world, inspiring the faithful to an enduring vow of love even unto death.

St. Cecilia, pray for us!


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

² *ibid.*

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