



# UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

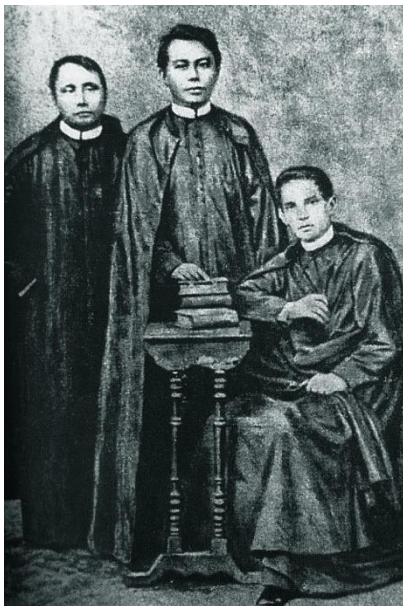
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**TO :** THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

**FROM :** OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**RE :** 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARTYRDOM OF THE THOMASIAN PRIESTS COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS GOMBURZA

**DATE :** 17 FEBRUARY 2022

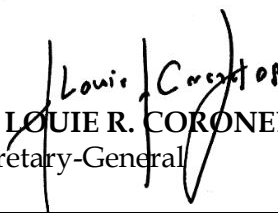


The University of Santo Tomas commemorates today the **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Martyrdom** of the three Thomasian priests, collectively known as **GOMBURZA**, whose prophetic stance led to the dawn of Filipino Nationalism in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The three priests, namely, **Mariano Gómez** (1799-1872)<sup>1</sup>, **José Burgos** (1837-1872)<sup>2</sup>, and **Jacinto Zamora** (1835-1872)<sup>3</sup>, completed their studies at the Colegio de San Juan de Letrán and the UST Ecclesiastical Faculties in Intramuros.

They were known for leading the campaign on the secularization of parishes, which led to their public execution on 17 February 1872. Such a pivotal event ignited the notions of equality, meritocracy and human dignity among the Filipinos, that shaped the course of our history as a nation. They then were acknowledged as secular martyrs of a nascent national identity. José Rizal (1861-1896), another illustrious Thomasian, dedicated his second novel, *El Filibusterismo*, to

the memory of GomBurZa, to what they stood for, and to the symbolic weight their deaths would henceforth hold.<sup>4</sup>

As we commemorate the martyrdom of the GomBurZa, may our love for country be an authentic expression of our discipleship in Christ. Thank you.

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

<sup>1</sup> P. Mariano Gómez earned the following degrees from UST: JCB (1818) and STB (1823).

<sup>2</sup> P. José Burgos earned the following degrees from UST beginning 1855: AB, STB, PhL, STL, PhD, JCB, STD, JCL, and JCD.

<sup>3</sup> P. Jacinto Zamora earned the following degrees from UST: JCB (1858) and LLB (1859).

<sup>4</sup> cf. [www.officialgazette.gov.ph/rizal-monument/](http://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/rizal-monument/)