



# UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI41

A.Y. 2021-2022

**TO :** THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

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

**RE :** 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SANTÍSIMO ROSARIO PARISH-UST

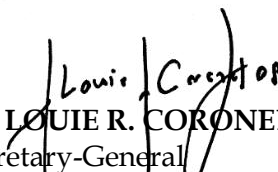
**DATE :** 10 MARCH 2022

The **Santísimo Rosario Parish-UST** is an extraordinary parish, not only because of its location and territory: a parish church within a University campus, covering two universities (University of Santo Tomás and Far Eastern University) within its jurisdiction; but also because it was established at the height of the Second World War to serve the Church in the Philippines.

On 21 March 1942, Most Rev. Michael O'Doherty (1874-1949), Archbishop of Manila, issued a decree establishing the "*Parroquia del Santísimo Rosario de la Universidad de Santo Tomás en Sampaloc, Manila*" with the UST Chapel serving as the Parish Church.<sup>1</sup> Eventually, the Archbishop appointed Fr. Emiliano Serrano, OP (1901-1975) as its first parish priest, who served from 1942 to 1952. Also appointed as assistant parish priests were Fr. Ángel Fernández, OP (1905-1955) and Fr. Benito Vargas, OP (1916-1991), the first Filipino Dominican.<sup>2</sup> On 28 April 1942, the Archbishop presided over the canonical inauguration of the parish, and he thanked the Dominicans for the readiness to provide the new parish with its own Church and personnel.

On the occasion of the **80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the canonical establishment of the Santísimo Rosario Parish-UST**, His Eminence **José F. Cardinal Advincula, DD**, Archbishop of Manila, will preside over the Eucharistic Celebration and deliver the homily on **21 March 2022 (Monday) at 10:00 am**. The Thomasian community is invited to participate *virtually* via the official Facebook pages of the [parish](#) and the [University](#).

Pope Francis exhorts us "to rediscover the beauty of the rosary, which has nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries," and he invites us "to carry the rosary in our hands, or in our pockets."<sup>3</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup> cf. O'Doherty, Miguel DD, *Decreto de Erección de la Parroquia del Santísimo Rosario de la Universidad de Santo Tomás en Sampaloc, Manila*, 21 Marzo 1942; *Acta Capituli*, Manila 1947, Appendix ix, pp.131-132.

<sup>2</sup> Neira, Eladio OP, et. al., *Misioneros Dominicanos en el Extremo Oriente* (1836-1940), 2000, pp. 547, 581 y 660.

<sup>3</sup> cf. Pope Francis, *General Audience*, St. Paul VI Hall, Vatican City, 7 October 2020.