



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-ME26
A.Y. 2021-2022

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY
FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
RE : CONFERMENT OF DOCTOR OF SCIENCE *HONORIS CAUSA*
DATE : 7 MARCH 2022

Based on its long historical origin and international academic practice, an **honorary degree**¹ (*honoris causa*, “for the sake of the honor”, in Latin) is an extraordinary academic degree awarded to a prominent individual,—who may be an alumnus/a, or one who has never been connected with the awarding institution—in recognition of his/her meritorious contribution(s) to the advancement of a field in a particular discipline, through exemplary accomplishment(s), and/or contribution(s) in instruction, research, and practice, personal humanitarian or philanthropic engagements which led to the development of the community, society, and the nation as a whole.

On **19 March 2022 (Saturday)**, the University will confer the degree, Doctor of Science *honoris causa* posthumously upon **+MR. RICARDO S. PO, SR.** (1931-2021), the Chairman Emeritus and Founder of Century Pacific Food, Inc. The **Solemn Investiture** will be held at **9:00 a.m.** at the **Dr. Robert C. Sy Grand Ballroom**, second floor of the Bl. Buenaventura García Paredes, OP Building.

Upon the directive from the Office of the Rector, we cordially invite the **Deans and Regents to attend *in-person*** the conferment rites in their **academic robe and hood, without the cap**. The rest of the Thomasian community are invited to witness the event *virtually* through a livestream via the UST official Facebook page ([UST1611official](#)).

The **academic procession**, to be participated in by the officials of the Graduate School and the College of Science, Deans and Regents, University Executive Officials, and the immediate family members of the honoree, will begin at the hallway outside the Grand Ballroom at **8:45 a.m.**

We pray for the success of this event, and may we continuously uphold the Thomasian Core Values of Competence, Commitment and Compassion, which are manifested in the life of service of **+Mr. Ricardo S. Po, Sr.** (1931-2021). Thank you.


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

¹ cf. Commission on Higher Education Memorandum Order No. 9, series of 2021, *Revised Policies and Guidelines on the Conferment of Honorary Doctorate Degrees by Higher Education Institutions in the Philippines*, p. 1.