



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI39
A.Y. 2022-2023

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY
FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
RE : RED WEDNESDAY
DATE : 17 NOVEMBER 2022

The University, through the Office of the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs, joins the Catholic Church in the annual observance of **Red Wednesday**¹ on **23 November 2022** with the theme “Blessed are the persecuted” (*Mt 5: 10-12*).

Red Wednesday is an initiative of the Pontifical Foundation *Aid to the Church in Need* (ACN)² to pray for, and draw attention to, Christians who suffer and are persecuted for their faith. In January 2020, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) declared Red Wednesday as an official church activity in the Philippines.

A **Eucharistic celebration** will be held at the **UST Chapel** at **5:00 pm**, with **Rev. Fr. Ermito G. de Sagon, OP**, Director for the Institute of Religion and Regent of the UST Senior High School, as **Presider and Homilist**. Those onsite, if their schedule permits, are *encouraged* to participate in the Eucharistic celebration.³

While the bells toll and the faithful on-campus pause in prayerful silence at **6:00 pm**, the **UST Main Building** (which was formally inaugurated 95 years ago), the **Arch of the Centuries**, and the **Martyr’s Monument** (Carillon Bells) will be lit in red to remind us that behind the grim reality of religious persecution lies the redemptive value of all suffering when borne in union with the Lord’s cross.

May we remember and honor our persecuted brothers and sisters through our prayers for them. Thank you.


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

¹ *Acts of the 12th Provincial Chapter of the Dominican Province of the Philippines* (2021), no. 196: We exhort our institutions and communities to celebrate... the “Red Wednesday” every last week of November for persecuted Christians (cf. CBCP Circular 25 January 2022).

² ACN is the official papal charity for persecuted Christians worldwide with at least 23 offices around the world and one of them is in the Philippines.

³ The Eucharistic Celebration for Red Wednesday in UST will be streamed live via the official Facebook pages of the [Santísimo Rosario Parish](#) and the [University of Santo Tomas](#).