



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI50  
A.Y. 2022-2023

**TO :** ALL ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS  
**FROM :** OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
**RE :** DEMISE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI  
**DATE :** 31 DECEMBER 2022

The Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas, the Catholic University of the Philippines, joins the Catholic Church in mourning the passing of “a humble worker of the vineyard of the Lord”<sup>1</sup>,



**†His Holiness Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**  
**(16 April 1927-31 December 2022),**

a leading theologian of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a formative figure of the Catholic Church, a giant of faith and reason, and a servant who worked with soul and intelligence for a more fraternal world and was committed to the faith of the Church and stalwart in [her] defense.<sup>2</sup>

In 2011, he sent Archbishop Zenon Cardinal Grocholewski (1939-2020) as his extraordinary envoy to the Quadricentennial celebration of the University, and blessed the entire community through a video message on 28 April 2011 (cf. <https://youtu.be/2RFJkKQP0sU>).

The Holy See Press Office announced the demise of the Pope Emeritus: “With sorrow, I inform you that the Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI, passed away today (31 December 2022) at 9:34 AM (Rome Time) in the Mater Ecclesiae Monastery in the Vatican. As of Monday morning, 2 January 2023, the body of the Pope Emeritus will be in Saint Peter's Basilica so the faithful can pay their respects.”

Eternal rest grant unto Benedict XVI, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen

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

<sup>1</sup> cf. *Vatican News*, “Farewell to Benedict XVI: ‘Humble worker in vineyard of the Lord’”, 31 December 2022, <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2022-12/pope-emeritus-benedict-xvi-dies-aged-95.html>.

<sup>2</sup> cf. *BBC News*, “Former Pope Benedict XVI dies at 95”, 31 December 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64107731>.