



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI06

A.Y. 2023-2024

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**RE : ✠DEAN EMERITUS PROF. MAGDALENA ALONSO VILLABA, PhD
(1928-2023)**

DATE : 12 September 2023

With deep sorrow, the University announces the passing of

**✠DEAN EMERITUS PROFESSOR MAGDALENA ALONSO VILLABA, PhD
(22 July 1928 – 11 September 2023),**

who was born on 22 July 1928, the feast day of St. Mary Magdalene, patroness of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), and peacefully passed away on 11 September 2023 (1:51 pm) at the Capitol Medical Center. She was 95 years old.

She finished her Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in 1957. A year after her graduation, she was already recruited by the renowned Filipino Philosopher Dr. Emerita Quito (1926-2017) to teach Philosophy in the University. She continued her academic journey by pursuing her graduate studies, earning her Master's degree in 1968, and subsequently completing her doctorate in 1976, *magna cum laude*. Her Master's Thesis "[*Atman-Brahman Relationships in the Upanishads*](#)" was published in the *Unitas* in 1973. Her dissertation "[*An Interpretation of the Doctrine of Transmigration*](#)" was published in the *Philippiniana Sacra* in 1977.

On 2 June 1975, Dr. Villaba delivered the *Discurso de Apertura* titled "[*Mission of Women: A Return to their Original Role*](#)", the inaugural lecture during the opening ceremonies for AY 1975-1976 at the UST Chapel. Her textbook "[*Philosophy of the East*](#)" was published in 1980 and again in 1995. Furthermore, she published more than twenty (20) articles about Philosophy and Culture.

In addition to her esteemed role as a professor, Dr. Villaba also made significant contributions to the University in various capacities. She served as Coordinator for Philosophy in the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters (1972-1973); Assistant Dean of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters (1972-1976), Dean of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters (1979-1987); and Dean of UST Graduate School (1987-1995). Despite officially retiring in 1993, her services were extended from AY 1993-1994 to AY 2008-2009.

In 1987, the late Dr. Villaba became a recipient of the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*, a Papal award in recognition of her outstanding service and dedication to the mission of the Catholic Church. In





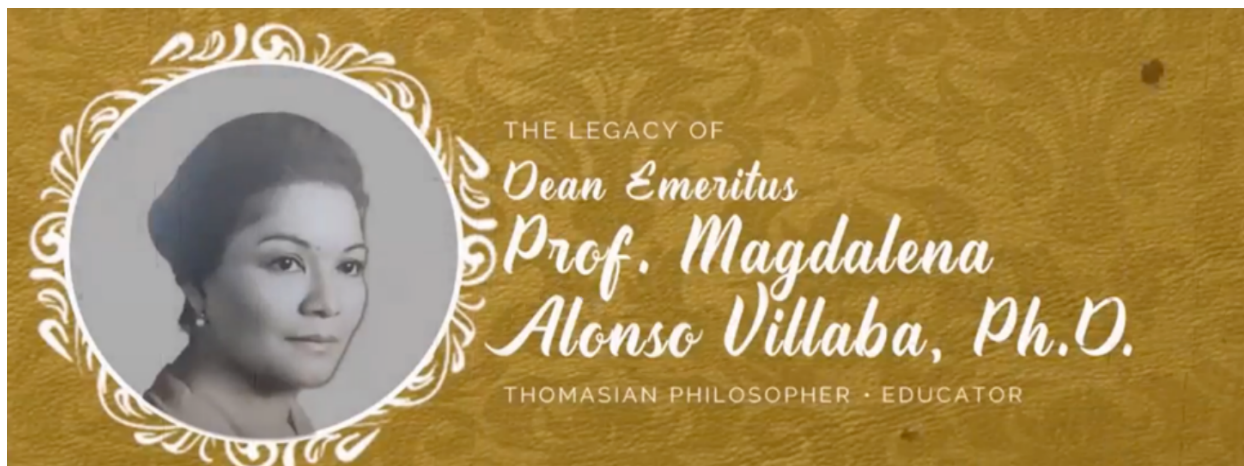
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1996, the University bestowed on her the title *Dean Emeritus* in recognition of her honorable and distinguished service to the University of Santo Tomas. She also served as the Provincial Council President of the Lay Dominican Fraternities – Philippine Province in the late 1990s to 2004.

For fifty years, she committed herself to the noble vocation of teaching and leading in the academe, serving as an educator and administrator. Her unwavering dedication has not only left a lasting impact but has also kindled the aspirations of generations of students, including Dominican priests, motivating them to pursue their vocation in the academe, eventually becoming professors and administrators.

In the Introduction to her doctoral dissertation, Dr. Villaba reflected on the question: “What becomes of men after death? ... this will remain a question that the future generations will ask. Like the exact time of one's death, what happens to the individual after death will perhaps remain forever a secret.”¹ In her life, Dr. Villaba acknowledged that the limitations of human understanding underscores the importance of faith in God. *Maraming-maraming salamat po, Dean!*



**Eternal rest grant unto *Dean Emeritus* Prof. Magdalena Alonso Villaba, PhD, OP,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.**

We invite the Thomasian community to offer prayers for the eternal repose of the soul of *Dean Emeritus* Professor Magdalena Alonso Villaba, PhD, whose remains lie in state at the St. Martin Chapel, Santo Domingo Church, with viewing time from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm.

Requiem Masses are scheduled at **6:00 pm on September 12-16, 2023**, and **9:00 am on 17 September 2023 (Sunday)**, followed by **the interment at the La Loma Cemetery**. Thank you.


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

¹ Magdalena A. Villaba, “An Interpretation of the Doctrine of Transmigration,” *Philippiniana Sacra*, Vol. XII, No. 36, September-December 1977, p. 417.