



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY  
FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
RE : THE STREETS SURROUNDING UST  
DATE : 4 JUNE 2022

The streets around the University's Sampaloc campus are more than just names we see on signs and maps. Alfredo Chicote and Antonio de la Riva, UST donors and founders of the Sulucan Development Company, provided the names of the streets limiting UST's Manila Campus, of which two are names of historic places, and two are names of important persons.

- **España Boulevard** honors Mother Spain. The Philippines received the gift of the Gospel through the Spanish missionaries more than 500 years ago, and Miguel de Benavides, OP (ca. 1552-1605), a Spanish Dominican, founded the University of Santo Tomas.
- **Forbes Street** is in memory of the American Governor-General William Cameron Forbes (1870-1959), who served the Philippines from 1909-1913. In 1971, Forbes Street was renamed as **Arsenio H. Lacson Street**, after the Manila mayor who served from 1952-1962.
- **Dapitan Street** is in reference to the place of exile of UST's distinguished alumnus Dr. José Rizal on the coast of Zamboanga del Norte.
- **P. Noval Street** stands for Padre Noval or Padre José Noval, the Tricentennial Rector, who served from 1910 to 1914. During Padre Noval's term, the University acquired a 21.5-hectare space in Sulucan—now the district of Sampaloc—and this same space continues the legacy that began in Intramuros.

The surrounding streets represent the four basic historic characteristics of UST in Sampaloc, Manila: *Hispanic* (España); *American* (Forbes); *Filipino* (Dapitan); and *Dominican* (P. Noval).<sup>1</sup>

Lastly, why is the district called "*Sampaloc*"? Until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a large portion was filled with groves of tamarind trees (*tamarindus indica*) from which the district was named.

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

<sup>1</sup> cf. Villaroel, Fidel OP, *A History of the University of Santo Tomás: Four Centuries of Higher Education in the Philippines (1611-2011)*, Vol. II, (UST: Manila, 2012), p. 334.