



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI34  
A.Y. 2023-2024

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY  
FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
RE : RED WEDNESDAY  
DATE : 23 November 2023

The University, through the Office of the Vice Rector for Religious Affairs, joins the Catholic Church in the annual observance of **Red Wednesday**<sup>1</sup> on **29 November 2023** with the theme “*Embracing Persecuted, Oppressed, and Christians in Need.*”

Red Wednesday is an initiative of the Pontifical Foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)<sup>2</sup> 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 **5:15 pm**, with **Rev. Fr. Pablo T. Tiong, OP, Vice Rector for Religious Affairs**, as *Presider and Homilist*. The Thomasian community is *encouraged* to prayerfully participate in the Eucharistic celebration.<sup>3</sup>

While the bells toll and the faithful on-campus pause in prayerful silence at 6:00 pm, the UST Main Building, 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, OP  
Secretary-General

<sup>1</sup> Acts of the 12<sup>th</sup> 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)

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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](#).

