



UST@413: *Sailing the Galleon of Our Dreams*

THEME FOR THE 413TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS (April 2024)

*“...Trace with the sails of the galleons
The dream beyond our seeing...”*

The Philippines has a long history of maritime exploration, and the galleon played a crucial role in the country's past as it served as a mode of transportation and trade between the Philippines and other parts of the world, particularly during the Spanish colonial period. The theme "*Sailing the Galleon of our Dreams*", an excerpt from the UST Hymn, underscores the profound and enduring legacy of the University of Santo Tomas (UST) on Philippine education and culture.

Holding the distinction as Asia's oldest university, UST proudly possesses a timeless legacy that spans generations, navigating the ever-changing tides of time. She stands as a living testament to the resilience of education and the unyielding commitment to knowledge that has characterized her existence for over four centuries. Yet, what truly distinguishes UST is not just her venerable age, but her unwavering dedication to innovation in the modern world. The University's ability to seamlessly blend tradition with progress, her openness to change, and her embrace of cutting-edge technologies and educational methodologies have allowed her to remain a dynamic force in the academic landscape.

Just as a galleon is crafted by the skilled hands of a servant leader, supervised by a visionary mind of an analytical and creative thinker, and thrived its journey amidst uncertainties with the effective communication and collaboration of its crew, the theme echoes the significance of advanced synergy among disciplines, units, and institutions to accomplish shared dreams and aspirations. Harnessing the collective potential of the Thomasian community, the University serves as a reliable vessel that provides the means to navigate through academic challenges. Guided by the compass of faith, hope, and love, the Thomasians embark on a lifelong academic journey in pursuit of *Veritas in Caritate* (Truth in Charity).

Set sail in 1611 under the guidance of Archbishop Miguel de Benavides, OP (ca. 1552-1605), UST has been a radiant beacon of knowledge, nurturing generations of scholars, leaders, and visionaries, who have significantly spread the light (*lumina pandit*) across the vast oceans to serve the Church, the nation, and the global community. UST's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, research and innovation, and community development has steered progress in diverse fields, exploring new and uncharted territories, while her unyielding devotion to the integral formation of her students and learners has cultivated a lasting legacy of competence, compassion, and commitment. As the winds of time continue to blow, UST sails onward, charting new courses and making waves of impact on the shores of history.

Rev. Fr. Louie R. Coronel, OP
3 August 2023