



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI82
A.Y. 2023-2024

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

RE : CELEBRATION OF THE BACCALAUREATE MASS 2024

DATE : 30 May 2024

In reference to OSG Circular No. 66 AY 2023-2024 dated 29 February 2024, the University is pleased to announce the celebration of the **2024 Baccalaureate Mass** at the **UST Grandstand and Open Field** on **31 May 2024 (Friday)**, with **Very Rev. Fr. Isaias Antonio D. Tiongco, OP**, Acting Rector, as the main celebrant and homilist.

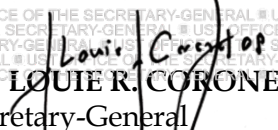
The event includes Pre-Event Activities, the Eucharistic Celebration proper, and a Post-Mass Program. The *Ceremony of Light* will precede the most anticipated *Recessional March* through the Arch of the Centuries. *Attached is a copy of the guidelines and information for the celebration of the Baccalaureate Mass for your reference.*

The **seating assignments** and the **route of entrance to the Open Field** as well as the **order of academic units for the Processional/Recessional parade**, will be sent to the respective offices of the academic units as soon as it is available.

All administrative and academic officials, academic staff, and graduating students of the Higher Education Level are enjoined to attend this significant University activity.

We thank and praise the Lord for guiding us through our academic journey amidst the challenges of the times.

Thank you.


FR. LOUIE R. CORONEL, OP
Secretary-General





UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE BACCALAUREATE MASS (including Pre-Event Activities and Post-Mass Program) Class of 2024

I. PREPARATORY GUIDELINES

- **ON DROP OFF AND PICK UP:** The University will observe a *Carless Day*; hence the graduating students are advised to be dropped off and fetched.
- **ON SAFETY AND SECURITY:** The participants are still encouraged to wear face masks, especially those with symptoms. ID Cards are likewise worn when accessing the campus and buildings.
- **ON PROPER ATTIRE:** Students should wear clean and proper official **Type A uniform**.
- **ON PROPS AND DESIGNS:** Each Academic Unit is encouraged to devise its unique strategies or *gimmicks* for a triumphant ambience and celebratory spirit of gratitude, but is guided by the following:
 - Costume masks, hand-held props, placards and other similar materials can be used during the processional and recessional parade.
 - There should be NO fireworks/firecrackers, sky lanterns, candle balloons, helium balloons, floating balloons, confetti, foam sprays, paint sprays, colored powder, party poppers (blizzards), glitters, animals, camera drones (except the official photography drones), and AC-powered gadgets/props, during the processional and recessional parade.
 - Battery-operated props can ONLY be turned on after the closing song of the Mass.
- **ON PERSONAL PROVISIONS:** The participating graduating students and academic staff advisers are encouraged to carry with them their umbrellas, light snacks, and drinking water (in personal tumblers and NOT disposable bottles) during the event.
- **ON THE UNIVERSITY PROVISIONS:** The *Thomasian Mission Crosses* for the Imposition Ceremony; the *candles and candle holders* for the Ceremony of the Light; and the *Thomasian Pledge bookmarks* should be claimed by the representatives of the respective academic units from the Office of the Secretary-General not later than **29 May 2024 (Wednesday)**.
 - The respective academic units shall determine the system of distribution of the aforementioned materials to the graduating students.
 - The crosses should already be with the graduating students BEFORE they proceed to the Open Field.





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II. PRE-EVENT ACTIVITIES

- 3:00 pm **ASSEMBLY IN RESPECTIVE HOLDING AREAS**
The graduating students of the different academic units assemble inside their respective buildings for instructions.
- 4:30 pm **PROCESSIONAL MARCH**
- The sound of a *tambuli* will signal the call for mobilization to the Open Field passing through their designated entry points, to be followed by the drum roll of the UST Yellow Jackets.
 - Members of the Reception/Welcome Committee of the respective academic units will lead them to their assigned seats upon arrival at the venue.
- 5:30 pm **PRE-MASS PROGRAM**
- Opening Prayer** is composed of the following:
- St. Thomas Aquinas Double Jubilee Prayer to be led by the Director of the Center for Campus Ministry;
 - Graduates' Prayer of Gratitude;
 - Entrustment to the Blessed Virgin Mary;
 - Flower Offering to the Blessed Virgin Mary by the Deans and student representatives
- Introduction of Academic Units** with flag bearers.
Note: The Academic Unit Secretaries are requested to choose the flag bearers of their respective Academic Units.
- Entrance of the Philippine Flag and the UST Flag**
(c/o ROTC cadet/cadettes)
- Philippine National Anthem** to be led by the Conservatory of Music

III. MASS PROPER (6:00 pm)

PROPER DISPOSITION:

- The participants of the Mass are expected to dispose themselves properly for the full, conscious, and active participation in the Liturgy.
- To ensure the solemnity of the Mass, observe silence and listen attentively to the Homily, which is whole-heartedly dedicated to the graduating students.
- Gimmicks may ONLY be displayed/ demonstrated during the actual recognition of Academic Units in the Post-Mass Program.





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OFFERTORY:

The Academic Unit Secretaries are requested to choose a representative from their respective Academic Units, who will bring the love offering to the altar for the benefit of the Dominican Mission Schools of the Dominican Province of the Philippines.

IV. POST-MASS PROGRAM (7:15 pm)

1. RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC UNITS

2. VIDEO PRESENTATION

3. GRADUATION MESSAGE (c/o Central Student Council President)

4. BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF THE THOMASIAN MISSION CROSS

- Academic Units will be called according to the order of the foundation year.
- Every Academic Unit, represented by one candidate for graduation, carrying their respective Mission Crosses will be invited to come up the stage for this ceremony.
- Each graduating student will be accompanied by their respective Deans and Regents, who will impose upon them the symbolic Thomasian Mission Cross.
- For the graduating students in the audience, the Thomasian Mission Crosses will be *simultaneously* imposed by a student upon the student next to him/her.

5. THOMASIAN PLEDGE OF LOYALTY

6. CEREMONY OF LIGHT (*LUMINA PANDIT*)

- The candle should be with the graduating students beforehand, which should be lit ONLY during the *Ceremony of Light*.
- The Presider (Fr. Acting Rector) will light the symbolic torch, and in turn, the Deans and Regents will light their corresponding torches from the Presider's torch. The graduating students will then receive their own light from the torches of their respective Deans and Regents.

7. UST HYMN (c/o Conservatory of Music)

8. RECESSIONAL PARADE

- The Fr. Acting Rector and the Fr. Secretary-General, together with the administrative and academic officials and the Marching Band, will lead the parade wherein the graduating students from the different Academic Units triumphantly walk through the Arch of the Centuries.
- The graduating students are reminded to be mindful of health and safety of oneself and others during the recessional walk, while still maintaining the solemnity of the event.

