



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI25

A.Y. 2024-2025

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

RE : RED WEDNESDAY

DATE : 18 November 2024

The University, through the Office of the Vice Rector for Religious Affairs, joins the Catholic Church in the annual observance of **Red Wednesday**¹ on **27 November 2024** with the theme “*One in Suffering, One in Consolation.*” Please see the attached poster.

Red Wednesday is an initiative of the Pontifical Foundation *Aid to the Church in Need* (ACN)² 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.

On this day, the following will be observed:

- A. **Religious Activities.** After the communal praying of the ***Holy Rosary*** at **4:30 pm**, a ***Eucharistic Celebration*** will follow at **5:15 pm** at the UST Chapel, with Rev. Fr. George Phe Mang, OP, Regent of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters, as *Presider* and *Homilist*.
- B. **Lighting of Campus Landmarks.** While the bells toll and the faithful on campus pause in prayerful silence at **6:00 pm** for the *Angelus*, 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.

The Thomasian community is ***encouraged to wear red***, subject to existing policies on school/office uniform, and **prayerfully participate in the aforementioned religious activities**. Let us remember and honor our persecuted brothers and sisters through our prayers for them. Thank you.

FR. LOUIS R. CORONEL, OP
Secretary-General

¹ Acts of the 12th 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).

² 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.