



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI57
A.Y. 2024-2025

TO : THOMASIAN COMMUNITY
FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
RE : NATIONAL RARE DISEASE WEEK (22-28 February 2025) and
WORLD RARE DISEASE DAY (28 February 2025)
DATE : 27 February 2025

The University, in coordination with the Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders, Inc. (PSOD)¹, joins in the observance of the **16th National Rare Disease Week** (February 22-28, 2025), with the theme: "*More Than You Can Imagine*". Established under Presidential Proclamation 1989, this week-long observance aims to raise awareness and garner public support for persons affected by rare diseases in the Philippines.

Throughout the world, over 300 million people are living with a rare disease, which includes approximately 6,000 known rare conditions. On February 28, *Rare Disease Day* will be commemorated globally, uniting communities in their shared purpose to elevate the voices of those affected by rare diseases.²

The Thomasian community is encouraged to support this meaningful campaign and help spread the message that '*Rare is not alone*' by participating in the following:

1. "Light Up for Rare" Campaign

- With the assistance of the Facilities Management Office, the University's landmarks will be lit in violet on 28 February 2025 (Friday), *Rare Disease Day*, 6:00 pm -9:00 pm.
- This will be part of a worldwide effort to create a visual chain of lights, symbolizing solidarity with the rare disease community.
- The Thomasians are encouraged to take photos of the lighted campus landmarks and post them in their respective social media accounts using #CareForRarePH #NRDW2025 #RareDisease .

2. Visit rarediseaseday.org and Share its resources

- RareDiseaseDay.org is the official website for **Rare Disease Day (RDD)**, managed by EURORDIS (Rare Diseases Europe). It serves as a central hub for information, events, and advocacy efforts worldwide.
- Watch [RDD Webinar: Driving Awareness by amplifying Young Voices in the Rare Disease Community](#) on Youtube.

¹ PSOD is a non-stock, non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for persons with rare or orphan disorders.

² **Rare Disease Day**, launched by EURORDIS and its Council of National Alliances in 2008 with 18 countries, has since grown to over 100 countries, 1,000+ events, and widespread media coverage.



