



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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A.Y. 2024-2025

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY
FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
RE : IN MEMORIAM: †REV. FR. JAVIER ARRÁZOLA, OP (1934 - 2025)
DATE : 18 April 2025

With deep gratitude for a life lived in generous service to God and His people, the University announces the passing of

† Rev. Fr. Javier Arrázola Elorza, O.P.
(20 November 1934 – 17 April 2025),

who was born on 20 November 1934 in Legazpia (Guipúzcoa), Spain, and returned to our Creator on 17 April 2025, *Holy Thursday*, at 3:00 pm. He was 90 years old. Responding to the call of religious life, he entered the novitiate at the *Convento de Santo Domingo* in Ocaña (Toledo) and made his **first profession** on **11 July 1954**. He pursued philosophical studies at the *Convento de Santo Tomás* in Ávila (1954–1957) and theological studies at the *Albertinum* in Nijmegen, the Netherlands (1957–1960), where he was **ordained to the priesthood** on **22 July 1960**.

Throughout his religious life, Fr. Arrázola carried out his ministry with tireless dedication, especially in the areas of pastoral work, education, and formation across various mission territories. In the **Philippines** (1963–1985, 1990–1995), he served as **Vice Rector** (1970–1972) and eventually the **7th Rector** (1979–1985) of the **UST Central Seminary**. He also served as **Prior** of the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas (1972–1978), while concurrently serving as **Prefect of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library** (1973–1978). From 1990 to 1995, he became **Superior** of *Nuestra Señora del Rosario House* in Binondo, and in 1994, was appointed as the **5th parish priest** of **Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary – Binondo Chinese Parish** (1994–1995).

In **Spain** (1985–1990), Fr. Arrázola took on the important role of **Master of Students**. From 1995 until his passing in 2025, he served in **South Korea**, where he was instrumental in establishing the **Dominican mission**. He became **Superior** of the *St. Dominic House* in Seoul (2000–2003, 2007–2010) and later served as **Vicar of the Provincial for the Mission in Korea** (2010–2012). Near the close of his earthly pilgrimage, he continued his **pastoral ministry**, and also served as **Cantor** and **Assistant for Justice and Peace**.

Fr. Arrázola is remembered with great affection and respect by his Dominican brothers, the faithful whose lives he touched, and the generations of priests and religious he formed with wisdom and compassion.



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We invite the Thomasian community to offer prayers for the eternal repose of the soul of **†Rev. Fr. Javier Arrázola Elorza, O.P.** Laid to rest on **18 April 2025, Good Friday**, we entrust his soul to the eternal embrace of the Risen Lord he so generously served.

“Well done, my good and faithful servant... come share your master’s joy” (Mt 25:23).



*Requiem aeternam dona P. Xavierio Arrázola Elorza, OP,
Domine, et lux perpetua luceat ei.
Requiescat in pace. Amen.*

**Eternal rest grant unto Fr. Javier Arrázola Elorza, OP,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.
May he rest in peace. Amen.**

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FR. LOUIE R. CORONEL, O.P.
Secretary-General