



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 : PATRON SAINT OF THE UST GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LAW
DATE : 8 May 2025

The University is pleased to announce that **ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT** (ca. 1175-1275) has been formally designated by the UST Council of Regents, during its meeting held on 7 May 2025, as the **patron saint of the UST Graduate School of Law**.

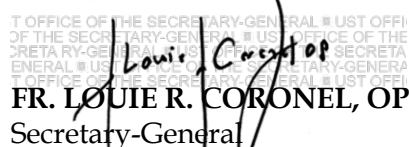
This patronage is **shared with the UST Faculty of Canon Law and the UST Faculty of Civil Law**, reflecting the shared legacy of excellence, justice, and faith that animates the University's legal education. St. Raymond of Peñafort, a distinguished Dominican priest and eminent canonist, is renowned for harmonizing legal precision with moral wisdom. His life and ministry continue to inspire the integration of law, ethics, and service to the common good (*see Annex A*).

Furthermore, St. Raymond is also honored in the University through the historic *St. Raymund de Peñafort Building* (*see Annex B*), a four-story edifice completed in 1955 that currently houses the *UST Faculty of Arts and Letters* and the *UST College of Commerce and Business Administration*. His presence is also immortalized in sculpture atop the UST Main Building, where his statue, designed by Francesco Monti, stands to the right of the *Tria Haec* monument, alongside fellow scholars St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430) and Vincent of Beauvais, OP (ca. 1184/1194-ca. 1264) (*see Annex C*). The Thomasian community will celebrate the centennial of the solemn blessing and inauguration of the UST Main Building in 2027.

May the intercession of St. Raymond of Peñafort guide all members of our legal academic community—students, academic staff, support staff and alumni alike—in the faithful and courageous pursuit of justice, truth, and ethical service. Through his example, may we continue to uphold the University's mission of forming morally upright and socially responsible legal professionals.

For your guidance and dissemination. Thank you.

In Christ,


FR. LOUIE R. CORONEL, OP
Secretary-General





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ANNEX A: ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT (ca. 1175-1275)

**Patron Saint of the UST Faculty of Canon Law, the UST Faculty of Civil Law,
and the UST Graduate School of Law**

Feast Day: January 7

Belonging to a noble family of Peñafort, Raymond was born in Barcelona, Spain around 1175. He became a distinguished theologian and professor of Canon Law at the University of Bologna; and while there, he joined the Order of Preachers in 1222. Eventually, he was ordained to the priesthood and became a celebrated Master of Canon Law. When Pope Gregory IX appointed him papal chaplain and penitentiary, he compiled and revised the papal *Decretals*, which was the basis of the Code of Canon Law of the Church until 1917. He had to rewrite and condense the decrees that had been multiplying for centuries. In 1235, he was named Archbishop of Tarragona but he was able to persuade the Pope to recall his appointment due to health reasons.

At the request of his brethren, he composed the famous *Summa Casuum*, a manual for confessors and preachers concerning the correct and fruitful administration of the Sacrament of Penance. In 1238, he was elected as the third Master of the Order and revised the Dominican Constitution (which was to remain in effect until 1924), but he resigned two years later also due to health reasons. Retiring to Barcelona, he spent the next thirty-five years preaching, hearing confessions and working for the conversion of Jews. He studied the Koran to dialogue with Moslems, and introduced the study of Arabic and Hebrew into several Dominicans convents. Furthermore, it was at his request that St. Thomas Aquinas wrote the *Summa Contra Gentiles* to aid missionaries in explaining the Christian religion to, and defending it against, dissenting points of doctrine in Islam and Judaism. He died a centenarian in 1275 and was canonized by Pope Clement VIII in 1601.

The reputation of St. Raymond in juridical science and his immense contribution to the codification of the Canon Law underscore the virtues to be imitated by the UST Faculty of Canon Law and the UST Faculty of Civil Law. Established in 1681, the **UST Faculty of Canon Law** undertakes the work of evangelization to understand, defend and proclaim the faith within the context of culture and human society, collaborating effectively in its pastoral, doctrinal, ecumenical and missionary undertakings. The **UST Faculty of Civil Law**, the oldest lay faculty in the Philippines (1734), continues to impart solid formation, imbued with Christian virtues and principles, and to serve the best interests of the profession, the nation and the Church. Furthermore, the **UST Graduate School of Law**, established in 2017, offers advanced legal education to both attorneys and non-attorneys—such as judges, prosecutors, and professionals in government or private sectors with a Bachelor of Laws or Juris Doctor degree, committed to fostering rigorous research, and upholding University-wide standards that promote the development and implementation of just and people-centered laws.

Sources: O' Kane, Michael, "St. Raymond of Peñafort," The Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. 12, New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1911; John Paul II, *Sapientia Christiana*, On Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties, 1979; <https://www.ust.edu.ph/civil-law/>; and <http://eccle.ust.edu.ph/>





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ANNEX B: ST. RAYMOND DE PEÑAFORT BUILDING





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**ANNEX C: IMAGES ST. RAYMOND OF PEÑAFORT (*Left*),
ST. AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO (*Center*) and VINCENT OF
BEAUVAIS, OP (*Right*) atop the UST MAIN BUILDING**

