



TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

RE : CELEBRATION OF THE BACCALAUREATE MASS 2025

DATE : 26 May 2025

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 2025

I. PREPARATORY GUIDELINES

- **DROP OFF AND PICK-UP:** The University will observe a *Carless Day*. Graduating students are advised to arrange for drop off and pick-up accordingly.
- **SAFETY AND SECURITY:** The participants are encouraged to wear face masks as a precautionary measure to safeguard the health and well-being of all attendees. ID cards must be worn at all times when accessing campus buildings and facilities.
- **PROPER ATTIRE:** Graduating students must wear their clean and official **Type A uniform**.
- **PROPS AND DESIGNS:** Academic Units are encouraged to express celebratory creativity in a spirit of thanksgiving, subject to the following guidelines:
 - Costume masks, hand-held props, placards and similar items may be used only during the processional and recessionary parade.
 - To maintain the solemnity and safety of the celebration, participants are directed to refrain from using items such as, but not limited to, firecrackers, sky lanterns, balloon releases, confetti, party poppers (blizzards), paint sprays, glitters, animals, colored powder, non-official drones, and AC-powered props during the processional and recessionary parade. Instead, we encourage creative yet simple expressions of joy that reflect the dignity and spirit of the occasion.
 - Battery-operated props can **ONLY** be turned on after the closing song of the Mass.
- **PERSONAL PROVISIONS:** 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.
- **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 2025 (Thursday)**.
 - The respective academic units shall determine the system of distribution of the aforementioned materials to the graduating students.
 - The Mission 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**

Graduating students assemble inside their respective buildings for instructions.

4:30 pm **PROCESSIONAL MARCH TO THE OPEN FIELD**

(c/o Office for Student Affairs)

- The sound of *tambuli* will signal the *mobilization* to the Open Field via designated entry points, followed by the *drum roll* of the UST Yellow Jackets.
- Members of the Reception/Welcome Committee of the respective academic units will assist students in proceeding to their assigned seats.

5:30 pm **PRE-MASS PROGRAM**

- The Invocation** is composed of the *Graduates' Prayer of Gratitude* led by a graduating student leader; the *Entrustment to the Blessed Virgin Mary* led by the Director of the Center for Campus Ministry; and *Flower Offering to the Blessed Virgin Mary* by the Academic Unit heads and student representatives.
- Introduction of Academic Units** with flag bearers (to be chosen by the Academic Unit Secretaries).
- 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)

- All participants of the Mass are enjoined to dispose themselves reverently for the full, conscious, and active participation in the Sacred Liturgy.
- To preserve the solemnity of the celebration, silence must be observed, and attentive listening to the Homily – specially prepared for the graduating class – is highly encouraged.
- Creative expressions or gimmicks may be displayed **only during the official roll call of Academic Units in the Post-Mass Program**, and strictly **not before the conclusion of the Mass**, particularly after the closing song has been rendered.
- The Academic Unit Secretaries are requested to designate a representative from their respective Academic Units to bring the *love offering* to the altar, for the benefit of the Dominican Missions of the Dominican Province of the Philippines.
- The E-Missalette may be accessed by scanning the QR code located at the back of the *Thomasian Pledge bookmark*.





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

1. RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC UNITS (Roll Call)

2. VIDEO PRESENTATION

3. MESSAGE TO THE GRADUATING STUDENTS (c/o Central Student Council)

4. GRADUATION MESSAGE (c/o Central Student Council)

5. BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF THE THOMASIAN MISSION CROSS

- Academic Units will be called according to the order of their foundation year.
- Every Academic Unit shall be represented by a graduating student, bearing the respective Mission Cross, who will be invited to come up the stage for the ceremonial imposition.
- The representative will be accompanied by the Dean and Regent of the respective Academic Unit, who will ceremonially impose the *Thomasian Mission Cross* upon the graduating student.
- For the graduating students in the audience, the Thomasian Mission Crosses will be *simultaneously* imposed by a student upon another student next to him/her.

6. THOMASIAN PLEDGE OF LOYALTY

7. CEREMONY OF LIGHT (*LUMINA PANDIT*)

- Graduating students must have their candles with them prior to the *Ceremony of Light*. These candles are to be lit **only** during the designated part of the program.
- The Presider (Fr. Provincial) will first light the symbolic torch, from which the Deans and Regents will ignite their own torches. The graduating students will then receive the flame from their respective Deans and Regents, symbolizing the passing on of the light.

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

9. RECESSIONAL PARADE

- The Fr. Provincial and the Fr. Secretary-General, together with the administrative and academic officials and the Marching Band, will lead the parade, during which the graduating students from the different Academic Units will triumphantly walk through the *Arch of the Centuries*.
- Graduating students are reminded to be mindful of their health and safety, as well as that of others during the recessional walk, while upholding the solemnity of the event.

