



UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UST:SO06-00-CI24

A.Y. 2025-2026

TO : THE THOMASIAN COMMUNITY

FROM : OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

RE : A DAY OF PRAYER FOR TRUTH AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

DATE : 14 October 2025

In line with the *National Call to Prayer and Public Repentance* of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP),¹ the University will observe *A Day of Prayer for Truth and Good Governance* on **21 October 2025 (Tuesday)**. His Eminence José Cardinal Advincula, DD, Archbishop of Manila, also enjoins communities "to conduct prayerful reflections, circles of discernment, and concrete but peaceful and non-violent actions against corruption."²

Following the UST Statement "*When the Waters Rise, So Must We*" (7 September 2025), the UST Central Student Council's *Prayer Vigil* (20 September 2025), the *Thomasian Walkout against Corruption* (29 September 2025), and the *Thomasian Solidarity Night against Corruption* (3 October 2025), this institutional initiative calls upon the Thomasian community to renew its prayerful commitment to the values of integrity, accountability, and peace in our nation.

In observance of this event, the University shall conduct the following activities:

1. LECTURE ON INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC SERVICE

- The Lecture will be held at **10:00 am** at the Grand Ballroom, 2nd Floor, Bl. Buenaventura García Paredes, OP Building, with The Honorable Amparo M. Cabotaje-Tang, *Retired Presiding Justice of the Sandiganbayan*, serving as the guest speaker.

2. MIDDAY PRAYERS FOR TRUTH AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

- At **12:00 noon**, the Thomasian community shall pause for the *Angelus*, in remembrance of the Mystery of the Incarnation and in gratitude for God's abiding presence in our nation's life.
- At **3:00 pm**, the **Divine Mercy Prayer** will be offered for the healing of our people and the purification of public institutions.
- At **4:30 pm**, the community will gather for the **Holy Rosary** at the UST Chapel, invoking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for truth, justice, and peace to reign in our land.

3. MASS FOR TRUTH AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

- At **5:15 pm**, a **Eucharistic Celebration** will be held at the UST Chapel, to be presided over by **Most Rev. Napoleon B. Sipalay, Jr., OP, DD, Bishop of Alaminos**.
- The CBCP's "[A National Cry for Mercy and Renewal](#)" shall be prayed during the Mass.

¹ Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), *Circular No. 25-14*, 11 October 2025.

² His Eminence José F. Cardinal Advincula, DD, *Pastoral Statement on the Issue of Corruption*, 15 September 2025.



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4. CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY, RINGING OF BELLS, AND ORATIO IMPERATA

- After the Mass, a **Candle Lighting Ceremony** and the **Ringling of Bells** will follow at the UST Carillon area.
- The lighting of candles symbolizes the Thomasian community's collective prayer that truth may dispel the darkness of corruption and that integrity may illumine public life.
- The pealing of the Carillon bells "...shall be both a prophetic cry of indignation and outrage against the evil of corruption, as well as a resounding call to contrition and conversion" while the **Oratio Imperata for Integrity, Truth, and Justice** is "a clear expression of the urgency and seriousness of our situation."³

5. LIGHTING OF CAMPUS LANDMARKS IN WHITE

- The campus landmarks will be **lit in white** from **6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**, "... as a sign of our desire for transparency, accountability, and good governance, and as a humble prayer that our nation may be washed clean and renewed in God's mercy, and spared of further calamities."⁴
- The color white serves as a visual expression of the Church's call for repentance and moral transformation, as the University bears witness to its commitment to the Light of Truth.
- The Thomasians are encouraged to take photos of the lighted campus and post it in their respective social media accounts using #USTVeritas or #USTvsCorruption.

6. DIGITAL SPACE FOR TRUTH AND HOPE

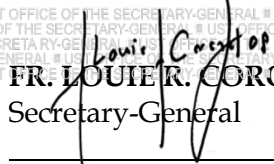
- The CBCP calls on the youth: "You have in your hands a power no generation ever had: the *digital space*. Use it wisely and courageously—to document truth, expose wrongdoing, and build communities of conscience. But remember: your strength is not in rage but in steadfast hope; not in violence, but in truth and solidarity."⁵

7. SIGNATURE TARP BANNER

- A **Signature Banner** located at the Quadricentennial Square serves as a symbolic platform for expressing solidarity.
- Thomasians are invited to sign in support of the **Thomasian Unity Statement against Corruption** "[*Truth must Rise Higher than Flood Waters*](#)", subject to data privacy regulations.

All Thomasians are highly encouraged to participate in these activities—on campus or online via the official UST [Facebook](#) page—and to join in prayer for our nation.

As members of the Thomasian community formed in *Veritas in Caritate*, let us stand firm in integrity and act with compassion, so that truth may prevail and the light of Christ may guide our land. "*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden*" (Mt 5:14).

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FR. LOUIE R. CORONEL, OP
Secretary-General

³ His Eminence José F. Cardinal Advincula, DD, *Pastoral Mandating the Praying of the Oratio Imperata for Integrity, Truth, and Justice*, 2 October 2025; See also CBCP, *Circular No. 25-14*.

⁴ CBCP, *Circular No. 25-14*.

⁵ *ibid.*