



Office of the President

Ateneo de Zamboanga University

The Jesuit University in Western Mindanao, Philippines
Since 1912

In Consortium with:
Ateneo de Davao University
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan

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UNIVERSITY MEMORANDUM

MEMO NO. : Memo 24-25:79
DATE : May 5, 2025
TO : The AdZU Community
SUBJECT : Welcoming Fr. Joseph Emmanuel A. Liwanag, SJ to Ateneo de Zamboanga University

It is with deep joy and hope that we announce the assignment of **Fr. Joseph Emmanuel "Joel" A. Liwanag, SJ** to the Ateneo de Zamboanga University community beginning **School Year 2025–2026**.

Fr. Joel will serve primarily as a **faculty member of the Higher Education Unit**, where his academic background, pastoral experience, and psycho-spiritual expertise will undoubtedly be a great gift to our mission of transformative education.



Fr. Joel entered the Society of Jesus in 2003 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2014. His academic formation reflects the breadth and depth of Jesuit education at its finest. He earned his **Bachelor in Sacred Theology (*summa cum laude*)** from the **Loyola School of Theology**, a **Master of Arts in Theological Studies** from the **Ateneo de Manila University**, and most recently, a **Doctorate in Psychotherapy and Counselling (DPsych)** from the **University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom**.

Across his years of ministry, Fr. Joel has woven together theology, education, pastoral care, and psychological formation. He has served as **Vocations Director for the Philippine Jesuits**, **Director of Arvisu House Jesuit Candidacy**, **Counselor at the Emmaus Center for Psycho-Spiritual Formation**, and **Formation Director and Campus Ministry Head at Sacred Heart School – Ateneo de Cebu**. His counseling experience extends internationally, having worked with **Wellbeing Scotland** and **Hope Park Counselling Centre** in the United Kingdom.

Fr. Joel brings a unique blend of **intellectual rigor**, **pastoral sensitivity**, and **psycho-spiritual care** to our academic and faith community. His presence will enrich the intellectual formation of our students and strengthen our commitment to *cura personalis* — care for the whole person.

In addition to his teaching assignment, Fr. Joel will also assume the important role of **Community Minister of the Jesuit Residence** starting **Second Semester SY 2025–2026**, taking over from **Fr. Richard V. Ella, SJ**. We are grateful for Fr. Richard's quiet and faithful service, and we now entrust to Fr. Joel the continuing task of fostering fraternity and spiritual care among our Jesuit companions.

Let us warmly welcome Fr. Joel as he begins this new chapter of service in Zamboanga. We look forward to the many ways he will help nurture and strengthen our university community in mind, heart, and spirit.

Welcome to Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Fr. Joel!

Pro Deo et Patria.

(ORIGINAL SIGNED)
Fr. Ernald M. Andal, SJ
University President