



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

Fr. Eusebio G. Salvador, S.J., Campus,  
La Purisima Street, 7000 Zamboanga City, Philippines  
Web Site: <http://www.adzu.edu.ph>

Tel: (+63) (062) 991-0871 loc 1002  
(+63) (062) 991-1151  
Fax: (+63) (062) 991-0870  
E-mail: [president@adzu.edu.ph](mailto:president@adzu.edu.ph)

October 12, 2025

## Fiesta del Nuestra Señora del Pilar

Dear Ateneo de Zamboanga University Community,

Our nation has faced one calamity after another: storms, earthquakes, fires, eruptions. In moments like these, when suffering is everywhere, we are reminded how fragile life can be. But we are also reminded how much we can still choose to hope, to act, and to care for one another.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has invited all of us to prayer and repentance. Here at Ateneo de Zamboanga, we want to respond in a way that is true to our mission as a Jesuit university. We may not have church bells ringing across the city, but we have something just as powerful: a community of young people, faculty, staff, and partners who can help build a different future.

This is a time to look inward and outward.

Inward, because real change begins when each of us examines our own choices, our indifference, our compromises.

Outward, because this is also a time to speak clearly: we must demand accountability from those who lead our country. Public service is not a privilege; it is a responsibility.

We need leaders who will be models for the young. Leaders who serve with competence and compassion. Leaders who care for the poor and dismantle anything that stands in the way of human dignity and a just society.

We also need young people who will not settle for less, who will grow into citizens and leaders rooted in love of God and love of country.

So I invite our whole Ateneo community: students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends, to join this national season of prayer and renewal.

Let our noon and Sunday Masses be moments of real intercession for the healing of our land and the conversion of hearts, including our own.

Let white ribbons and white clothing across campuses (Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays until November 23, 2025) be a quiet but firm sign of our shared hope and desire for integrity.

Let conversations in our classrooms, offices, and circles be spaces where faith deepens, conscience sharpens, and courage grows.

As a Jesuit university, we exist to form persons for and with others. Our mission is not only to educate minds but to shape hearts that care for the common good. When we allow faith to move us, young and old alike, we help build the country we long for.

*Pro Deo et Patria.*

Let it be the way we live, the way we lead, and the way we hope.

In faith and service,

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