



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 25-26:26
DATE : December 1, 2025
TO : The AdZU Community
SUBJECT : **Institutional Advent Recollection and Christmas Gathering**

Dear members of the AdZU Community,

Peace to all.

As we begin the holy season of Advent, we are invited to pay attention: to the hopes we carry quietly, and to the needs of people around us. This year, that invitation is very clear. Across the country, and especially in Cebu province where our Jesuit school and parish serve, many families are still recovering from the recent earthquake and typhoons. While our Jesuit works there remain safe, the communities surrounding them continue to struggle.

In this situation, *Compañerismo* becomes more than a theme. It becomes a way of choosing what matters. It nudges us to move away from what is comfortable, and to allow compassion to shape our decisions. For this reason, we are setting aside our usual "en grande" Christmas festivities. The big performances and the abundant dinner will return another year. For now, we will keep things simple.

Our Advent Recollection and Christmas gathering will be a half-day event focused on reflection, the Eucharist, and a short program that allows us to be present to each other. The afternoon will be free, giving offices the space to rest or to celebrate in their own way.

Simplifying creates room for generosity. Whatever we save from this year's celebration will be offered to support the relief efforts in Cebu province. The Mass collection will also be dedicated to this cause. Those who wish to give more, whether as individuals or as units, may coordinate with the Finance Office.

This is not mainly about what we are foregoing. It is about who we are called to be. Ignatian spirituality invites us to respond to reality with generosity, courage, and discernment. Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that faith becomes real when it lifts the dignity of those who suffer. Choosing a simpler celebration is our way of letting these values guide us.

As we enter this season of hope, let us carry one another in prayer. May our simple gathering help us draw closer to the Christ who chose to enter our world through a family that knew hardship and trust.



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With prayers for compassion, unity, and renewed purpose,

(sgd)
Honey Rod Alfaro
Director, Formation Unit

(sgd)
Jane Bascar
Director, HRADO

(sgd)
Diane S. Candido
Principal, Senior High School

Noted by:

(ORIGINALLY SIGNED)
Fr Ernald M Andal, SJ
President