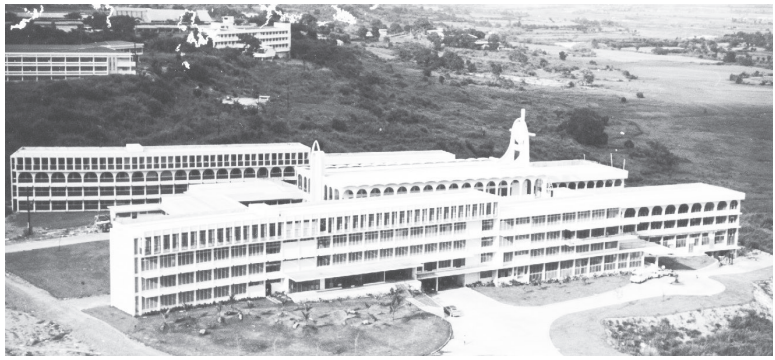
The First Sixty Years of Loyola School of Theology

From the Preface of the 2025 LST Statutes[1]



Loyola School of Theology was inaugurated in 1965 to provide theological formation for the scholastics of the Society of Jesus, the seminarians of San Jose Seminary, and the scholastics of a number of other religious orders. It is the result of a fusion, first proposed by the Jesuit Provincial Fr. Francis X. Clark, of the faculties of Berchmans College in Cebu City (the former Jesuit Scholasticate) and San Jose Seminary in Highway 54, Quezon City.

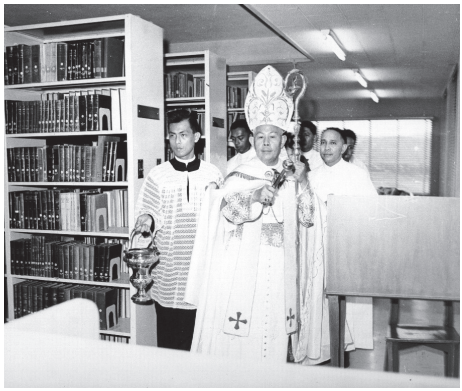
San Jose Seminary itself traces its origin to the Colegio de San Jose, founded on 25 August 1601. On 08 August 1621, Pope Gregory XV issued a brief authorizing the Archbishop of Manila to confer degrees, including degrees in theology, on

1. This article is taken from the Preface of the 2025 Statutes of Loyola School of Theology. The work of Fr. Victor R. Salanga S.J. entitled "The History of the Relationship Between Loyola School of Theology and Ateneo de Manila University" (2006) served as a secondary source integrated into the main account.



the candidates presented to him by the Rector of the Jesuit College of Manila, in which the students of the Colegio de San Jose attended lectures. After the expulsion of the Society of Jesus from the Philippines in 1768 and the extinction of the Jesuit University of San Ignacio, the Colegio de San Jose continued as a separate institution under the administration of the secular clergy until it was incorporated into the University of Santo Tomas by the Spanish government in 1875 as a school of medicine and pharmacy. By a brief of Pope St. Pius X to the Most Reverend Ambrose Agius, then Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines, dated 03 May 1910, the Colegio de San Jose was restored to the administration of the Society of Jesus for the explicit purpose of the education of priests. Its existence as an interdiocesan seminary for the entire Philippines was recognized again by Decree no. 645 of the First Plenary Council of the Philippines in 1953.

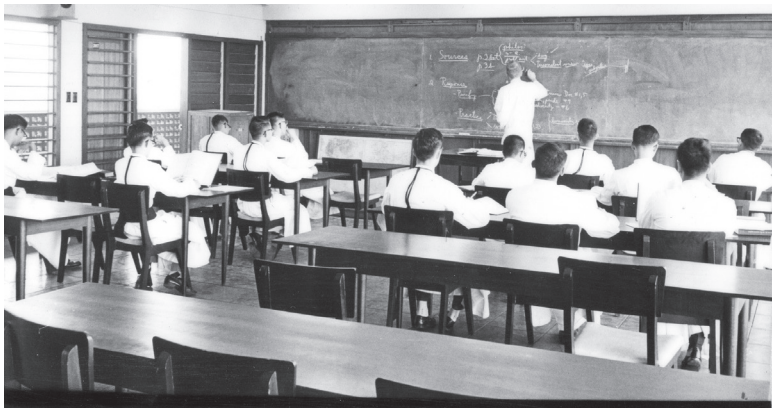
On 12 July 1965, the Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus in the Philippines, Fr. Horacio de la Costa S.J., with the authorization of the Jesuit Superior General Fr. Pedro Arrupe S.J., opened the present School as an institute of philosophy and theology incorporating within it the Faculty of ecclesiastical studies



of San Jose Seminary. After one academic quarter at San Jose, the School moved to the present site on the campus of the Ateneo de Manila University and was called the Loyola House of Studies School of Theology and Ecclesiastical Studies (LHS STES). On 12 September 1965, the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, the LHS STES was formally inaugurated by His Eminence Rufino Cardinal Santos, D.D., then Archbishop of Manila, just as the Second Vatican Council was drawing to a close in Rome. The first classes at the new site were held on 18 September 1965.

For a whole year before the opening of STES, there were meetings to discuss the new house of studies, and one of the questions discussed was the relationship of the House of Studies to the Ateneo de Manila University. Ever since the opening of the school, the nature of this relationship has come up time and again in many faculty meetings.

Various proposals have been offered regarding the nature of the relationship. Early in the deliberations of the Committee on the House of Studies, Fr. Francis X. Clark, then Provincial, suggested that the House of Studies should be "a corporate college within the University". Nothing definite was decided. The reason is perhaps best seen in the Minutes of the LHS Faculty Meeting of March 7, 1967, where a majority of the faculty expressed themselves "in favor of a fairly loose relationship between STES and the University. Most felt that no contract should be drawn up at present, but that we be allowed



to operate as we have this past year, experimenting and testing various approaches." Hence, for the school year 1967-68, it operated as a federated institute of the University.

Yet even then, there was a proposal from the University administrators that there should be one University-wide Department of Theology, with the LHS *Praeses* (Director) as an ex officio overall chairman of theology and holding ultimate responsibility for the theology program[2]. This last proposal was accepted in the LHS Faculty Meeting of February 6, 1968, and later confirmed by Father Provincial Horacio de la Costa.

Meanwhile, on 01 January 1968, the *Normae Generales de Studiis*, the new statutes for studies in the Jesuit Order, became effective; and on 16 January the Jesuit Provincial constituted the School of Theology and Ecclesiastical Studies as an institute separate and independent in administration and finances from the Jesuit Community of Loyola House of Studies, under its own President, responsible directly to the Provincial.

2. This can be seen from the proposal submitted by Fr. John F. Doherty S.J., Academic Vice-President of the Ateneo de Manila University, on 12 December 1967 to Fr. Joseph Galdon S.J., Assistant Dean of the Ateneo College of Arts and Sciences, for discussion among the University Administrators.

Apparently the proposal to establish a University-wide Department of Theology with the LHS STES *Praeses* (Director) leading the Department never got off the ground because in 11 July 1969, Fr. de la Costa still writes about it as a goal to be accomplished: "I take it that the direction in which we wish to move is for the Loyola House of Studies to be in the truest sense the Divinity School of the Ateneo de Manila, with full charge of and responsibility for the graduate and undergraduate theology programs; and that the financial agreement now reached is a step in this direction.... Every effort should be made to move expeditiously in the same direction."

And so the representatives of the Ateneo, the LHS Jesuit Community, and STES met on May 25, 1971 at the STES Conference Room to review and revise the existing relationships between the three entities concerned for a more effective and fruitful collaboration between them. The representatives formally agreed, among other things, that LHS STES, "an affiliate unit of the AdMU, serves the University by helping staff the Theology Department of the School of Arts and Sciences" and that "STES offers an MA/PhD program in the Science of Theology...a degree obtained through the School of Arts and Sciences, Ateneo de Manila University." The Memorandum of Agreement was signed by Fr. Francisco Araneta S.J., Rector and President of the Ateneo de Manila, Fr. Ruben Tanseco S.J., Rector of LHS, and Fr. Pedro Sevilla S.J., Director of STES.

A first draft of the Statutes of STES was proposed for discussion on 07 December 1971. On March 28, 1972, the present name, Loyola School of Theology, was adopted for STES. In February 1977, the Jesuit Provincial and Superior General approved the Statutes that govern LST for a trial period. A semi-final revision was completed on 14 July 1983. In view of the School's affiliation with the Theological Faculty of Fujen

Catholic University, Taipei, for the purpose of granting the ecclesiastical degree Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology to LST graduates, the Statutes were partially revised again according to the pertinent sections of the Apostolic Constitution of Pope John Paul II, *Sapientia christiana*. This revision was completed on 02 August 1984. On 09 October 1985, the Congregation for Catholic Education granted the School affiliation with Fujen Catholic University for a period of five years.

Another revision of the Loyola School of Theology Statutes was completed on 24 February 1988, and on 18 March 1989, the Congregation for Catholic Education constituted and declared the School aggregated to the Jesuit Faculty of Theology at Fujen Catholic University for a period of five years for the purpose of granting the Licentiate and Doctorate degrees in Theology (STL and STD). At the end of three years, a slightly revised edition of the Statutes was sent to the Congregation and was approved conditionally on 07 April 1992 for a period of two years. The Statutes with the suggested changes were forwarded to the Congregation in January 1993, and the Faculty at Fujen gave their approval in February 1993.

After reports on the School in October 1993 by the Dean of the Fujen Faculty of Theology and then by Loyola School of Theology itself, the Congregation expressed willingness to move toward definitive approval of the aggregation pending a final revision of the Statutes. This requested revision of the Statutes was completed on 25 August 1994 and then submitted, through the Fujen Faculty of Theology, to the Congregation for final approval and definitive aggregation. On 01 December 1994, the Congregation approved the Statutes and granted definitive aggregation to the Jesuit Faculty of Theology at Fujen Catholic University for an indeterminate period of time.



In light of the request for the erection of an Ecclesiastical Faculty at Loyola School of Theology, Fr. General and LST Chancellor Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J. submitted amendments to the Statutes of the School. These proposed changes are amendments to the Statutes, published in 1995. They were endorsed by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines in July 1999, and approved by the Congregation for Catholic Education *ad experimentum* for five years on 13 August 1999[3], thereby instituting Loyola School of Theology as an Ecclesiastical Faculty of Theology.

Meanwhile, the administrative structure of the School of Arts and Sciences of the Ateneo de Manila University became more complex and elaborate as it evolved and branched out into the Loyola Schools, comprised of the School of Humanities, John Gokongwei School of Management, School of Science and Engineering, and School of Social Sciences.

3. The LST Statutes were further revised and approved by the Congregation for Catholic Education of the Holy See in August 2004, October 2014, and October 2020.

As both LST and the Loyola Schools of the Ateneo de Manila University expanded, their relationship has become more and more complicated and has never been definitively defined. The time came to clarify their relationship that was initially agreed upon in the 1971 Memorandum of Agreement. Thus, a new MOA was signed by Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres S.J., President of Ateneo de Manila University, and Fr. Victor R. Salanga S.J., President of Loyola School of Theology on March 17, 2006, effective from SY 2006-2007 to SY 2011-2012. By virtue of a renewed agreement signed on May 25, 2015, LST, while remaining a federated unit in the University as it had been since 1968, was established as the new Theology and Ministry Program of the School of Humanities.

In the years that followed, LST's mission expanded beyond its home campus through affiliations recognized by the Holy See. On November 9, 2017, the Congregation for Catholic Education, by decree signed by His Eminence Giuseppe Cardinal Versaldi, D.D., Prefect, approved the affiliation of the Theological Program of St. John Vianney Theological Seminary (SJVTS) in Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines with LST. Shortly thereafter, on January 23, 2018, a similar decree signed by the same officials granted the affiliation of St. Joseph Jesuit Scholasticate (SJJS) in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. By virtue of this relationship, the Congregation for Catholic Education authorized LST, as an Ecclesiastical Faculty, to confer the Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (STB) degree upon SJVTS and SJJS students. These affiliations signaled the growing trust of the Holy See in LST's ability to extend its academic and ecclesial mission beyond its Quezon City campus, fostering theological formation across the Philippines and Asia.