

INAUGURATION OF THE CORNELIUS CARDINAL SIM PROFESSORIAL CHAIR IN THEOLOGY AND DIALOGUE

September 16th, 2021

His Eminence, the late Cornelius Cardinal Sim, in addition to his role as the Vicar Apostolic of Brunei Darussalam, was also closely involved in a number of other important efforts in the wider Church and beyond. One of his high-profiled roles in his earthly life, among others, was being the inaugural Ecclesiastical Patron of the Christian Institute for Theological Engagement, an academic research institute otherwise known as CHRISTE.

Upon the demise of Cardinal Sim, CHRISTE announced on September 5, 2021, the 100th day since His Eminence's passing, that it has been endowed with a Professorial Chair in tribute to the late Cardinal's life and ministry. This Professorial Chair carries the name of Cardinal Sim and comes with a mandate to undertake ongoing theological reflection and dialogue through research, teaching, and publications. The endowment for this Professorial Chair, is to be channeled towards funding research and publication activities on issues of theology and dialogue. The named Professor of this Chair will act as the chief appraiser of potential recipients of the annual Cornelius Cardinal Sim Professorial Chair funding grants.

This Cornelius Cardinal Sim Professorial Chair in Theology and Dialogue represents the desire of both the benefactors and the research institute to faithfully preserve and continue the legacy that the late Cardinal has left behind in his apostolic mission to the Church and the world. This Professorial Chair was officially inaugurated on September 16, 2021, commemorating 70 years since the birth of the late Cardinal Sim. On this day, the CHRISTE Board of Governors announced the appointment of the Reverend Deacon Dr Sherman Kuek OFS to this Professorial Chair, who, upon this installation, is now properly designated the *Cornelius Cardinal Sim Professor of Theology and Dialogue*.

Reflecting on his new responsibility and office, Professor Sherman said, "I pray for the grace to remember the many pastoral concerns that the late Cardinal Sim shared with me during our times together, so that this office can be instrumental in addressing those ongoing concerns in ways that are prayerful but also academically analytical."

For further information regarding the Cornelius Cardinal Sim Professor Reverend Deacon Dr Sherman Kuek, CHRISTE, as well as information regarding grants under the newly formed Cornelius Cardinal Sim Professorial Chair, please visit <https://christeonline.org>.

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Media Pack:

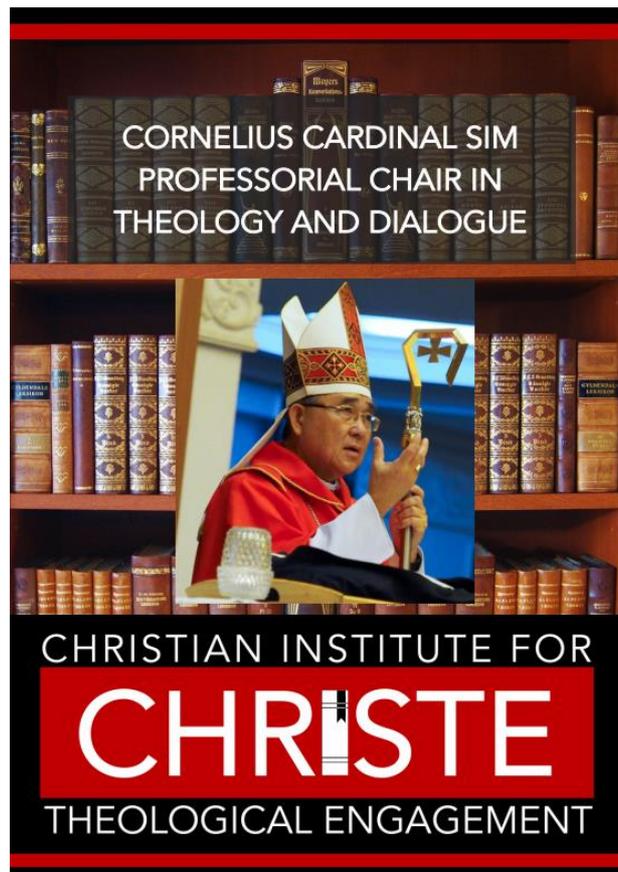


Figure 1: Cornelius Cardinal Sim Professorial Chair promotional artwork.



Figure 2: Cornelius Cardinal Sim Professor Reverend Dr Deacon Sherman Kuek OFS

About the Cornelius Cardinal Sim Professorial Stole Design:

CHRISTE instituted the professorial stole as a visible symbol of the Cornelius Cardinal Sim Professorial Chair in Theology and Dialogue. The academic stole should not be confused with clerical stoles used in ecclesiastical settings. Like all academic dresses typically worn by academicians, the use of the academic stole began in Europe from medieval times. They were worn by academicians for different purposes. Some wore them to indicate their academic appointments such as chancellorships, while others wore them to represent their respective academic or professional institutions. There were also those who wore the academic stole to display the conferment of outstanding academic honours.

The design of the professorial stole is particular to this office, as it contains silver embroideries of the heraldry of the named Professor, as well as that of the late Cardinal in whose name this endowment is established. In the case of Cardinal Sim's heraldry, the external ornaments (i.e. galero, tassels, and cross) typically incorporated into heraldries of Church prelates have been omitted to avoid any semblance of ecclesiastical heraldry, retaining only that which is particular to the person it represents, including the motto of His Eminence, *duc in altum* ("put out into the deep", from Luke 5:4). Directly beneath the coat of arms is the official emblem of CHRISTE on both sides of the stole.



About CHRISTE:

The Christian Institute for Theological Engagement (CHRISTE) is a gathering of Christian scholars and specialised practitioners seeking to engage in ecumenical Christian thought with a special focus on cross-disciplinary studies relevant to contextual issues impacting modern society. It also promotes the study of Christian Theology and Interfaith Dialogue among the Christian. CHRISTE is a global academic initiative that comes under the intergovernmental charter of the United Nations Treaty Series

49006/49007 (comprising twelve governments spread out over four continents). This places the Research Institute under the legal jurisdiction of international law.

About Professorial Chairs:

An endowed professorial chair is a position that is privately funded through a sum of money donated by either an individual, a group, or an institution. The endowment is deployed for purposes assigned by its donors, usually in relation to work that is attributed to the professorial chair in question. Donors may choose to name a professorial chair after an individual or an institution of their choice as an enduring tribute to the person or institution after which it is named. The practice of the endowment of professorial chairs goes as far back as ancient Rome. Steeped in tradition and ceremony, endowed professorial chairs are considered to be the highest recognition that an academic institution can bestow upon a professor.