



BLAZING TORCH

NỮ TU ĐA MINH TỈNH DÒNG ĐỨC MARIA VÔ NHIỄM | DOMINICAN SISTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE PROVINCE



WINTER 2024



A NOTE FROM THE prioress provincial, SR. MARIA THERESA NGUYEN, O.P.

*“Let us together be committed to journey in faith and love,
spreading the Gospel and serving our neighbors.”*

Dear Families, Friends, and Benefactors,

As we approach the end of 2024, a year filled with both challenges and triumphs, we find ourselves filled with deep gratitude and eagerness for all that awaits us in the coming new year. Our Province has experienced remarkable growth and transformation, all thanks to the unwavering support of our dedicated families, friends, and benefactors. Your generosity and commitment have been instrumental in shaping our mission and inspiring us to reach new heights.

One of the most significant milestones of this year is the expansion of our mission to the vibrant city of San Jose, California. Inspired by the prophetic call of Isaiah, “Here I am, Lord, send me” (Isaiah 6:8), we are humbled by the opportunity to share the love of Christ with the local church of the Silicon Valley. Completely dependent on the grace of God, we pray that we will be His instruments in forging paths of spiritual renewal by creating lasting impacts on the lives of the children and families we encounter.

As we look forward to the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are filled with hope and promise. May Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, our Third Order Dominican brother who will be canonized as patron of young adults during the Jubilee celebrations, intercede for us. May this year give rise to a profound spiritual renewal in our world, marked by deep faith, lively hope, and active charity. As “Pilgrims of Hope,” let us together be committed to journey in faith and love, spreading the Gospel and serving our neighbors.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us take refuge in the true meaning of Christmas: God-is-with-us. May the depth of God’s love and the serenity of His peace fill your hearts throughout this Christmas season and every day of the new year.

Please continue to pray for us as we, too, keep you close in our daily prayers.

United in the love of His Emmanuel.

Sr. Maria Theresa Kim-Hong Nguyen, O.P.

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Prioress Provincial

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Cover: Sisters visiting
Santa Clara Mission



LỜI NGỎ CỦA BÊ TRÊN GIÁM TỈNH

Trọng kính quý ân nhân, thân nhân và bạn hữu,

Thời gian trôi qua thật nhanh, chẳng mấy chốc cũng sẽ kết thúc năm 2024, một năm chắt chứa đầy thăng trầm thử thách lẫn thành công, dẫu vậy, chúng con vẫn cảm thấy trong mình tràn ngập lòng biết ơn và niềm rạo rực chào đón tất cả những gì đang mở ra hôm nay và trong năm mới. Nhìn lại chặng đường qua, chúng con nhận thấy rằng Tỉnh dòng của chúng con đang phát triển nhiều khía cạnh và có những đổi mới đáng khích lệ, tất cả là nhờ lòng hảo tâm và sự hỗ trợ của quý thân nhân, ân nhân và bạn hữu xa gần. Lòng quảng đại và tín nghĩa của quý vị đã đóng vai trò quan trọng trong việc củng cố sứ vụ của chúng con, đồng thời truyền cảm hứng cho chúng con tiến xa hơn nữa.

Một trong những mốc điểm quan trọng nhất trong năm nay là việc mở rộng sứ vụ của chúng con đến thành phố náo nhiệt San Jose, California. Được cảm hứng bởi lời đáp trả trong ơn gọi của tiên tri Isaiah:

"Lạy Chúa, này con đây, xin hãy sai con đi" (Isaiah 6:8),

chúng con khiêm tốn lãnh nhận sứ mạng được chia sẻ bằng tình yêu của Chúa Kitô với giáo phận Thung lũng Hoa Vàng. Tất cả là hồng ân, chúng con ước nguyện sẽ là khí cụ của Chúa trong việc mở mang những nẻo đường mới của đời sống tâm linh hầu có thể mang lại ảnh hưởng lâu bền nơi đời sống các thiếu niên và những gia đình mà chúng con phục vụ.

Hướng tới Năm Thánh 2025 với tâm hồn ngập tràn niềm hy vọng đầy hứa hẹn, xin Chân phước Pier Giorgio Frassati, người sẽ được phong thánh làm bổn mạng của giới trẻ và là người anh em Dòng Ba Đa Minh, cầu bầu cùng Chúa cho chúng ta. Xin cho Năm Thánh này mang lại một sự đổi mới tâm linh đậm sâu trong thế giới chúng ta nhờ đức tin vững chắc, niềm hy vọng sống động và tình yêu thương chân thành. Là "Những con người hành hương của Hy vọng," chúng ta hãy cùng nhau cam kết lên đường trong tin yêu, rao giảng Tin Mừng và phục vụ anh chị em quanh ta.

Khi mừng đại lễ Chúa Giáng Sinh năm nay, chúng ta hãy chiêm ngắm ý nghĩa thật sự của Mầu nhiệm Giáng Sinh: Thiên Chúa-ở-cùng-chúng-ta. Xin cho tình yêu sâu thẳm và sự bình an của Đức Kitô, Ngôi Hai nhập thể, lấp đầy và sưởi ấm trái tim quý vị suốt mùa Giáng Sinh và mọi ngày trong năm mới.

Kính chúc quý vị luôn cảm nhận được tình yêu thương, tâm tình tri ân, lời cầu nguyện và sự đồng hành của chúng con. Xin hãy tiếp tục cầu nguyện cho chúng con.

Trong tình yêu của Đấng Emmanuel,

Sr. Maria Theresa Kim Hong Nguyen, OP

Nữ tu Maria Theresa Nguyễn Thị Kim Hồng, O.P.
Bề trên Giám tỉnh

HAPPENINGS IN BRIEF



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

In mid-July, four of our sisters – Sister Martha Marie Lê, Sister Cecilia Martina Vũ, Sister Theresa Vũ, and Sister Maria Joanna Đinh joined the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston group of 200 pilgrims for the weeklong Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, Indiana. The sisters were amazed to see so many faithful Catholics coming together to adore and worship the True Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist. While the Lucas Stadium is not the ideal worship space, but the fervor and reverence of the faithful, testified that God is unquestioningly here as the “light in the darkness,” “touching every heart,” and “healing every heart.” The sisters undoubtedly returned with renewed and deepened devotion to the Eucharistic Lord and are eager to set ablaze the same fire within their students and those whom they will encounter in their ministry.

HỌC BỔNG ĐA MINH

Sơ Phạm Thúy Trinh và Sơ Nguyễn Thu Hằng trở về Việt Nam theo sứ vụ tông đồ hằng năm để thăm viếng 928 học sinh trải dài trên 54 địa điểm nơi Tỉnh dòng cung cấp Học bổng Đa Minh. Cho dù lịch trình dài suốt tháng với những chuyến đi vất vả đường xa, cộng với khí trời oi bức của mùa hè tại Việt Nam, hai sơ vẫn tìm thấy niềm vui và phấn khích vì biết rằng các học sinh này sẽ rất vui khi đón nhận học bổng cho niên học tới. Những tia nắng hy vọng dường như đang phủ bóng trên tương lai của các em.



O LUMEN ECCLESIA - LIGHT OF THE CHURCH

For the Saint Dominic Feastday Convocation this year, the sisters engaged in a day of study surrounding the theme of education and ministry. Father Vincent Vương Nguyễn shared with the elderly sisters “The Gift of Gratitude” while Dr. Lily Trương focused on “How to deal with special needs children.” Both speakers possessed a wealth of knowledge and experiences that captivated the sisters’ attention for over two hours. Knowledge begets love and appreciation for ministry and service.

BAN LÃNH ĐẠO HỢP MẶT

Ban lãnh đạo Tỉnh dòng và các sơ trong vai trò quản lý của tám cộng đoàn đã dành một cuối tuần cùng hội họp, chia sẻ tình tỷ muội tại Galveston. Những dịp này là cơ hội giúp chị em trở nên “một lòng, một ý, và một tinh thần” trong khi phục vụ Thiên Chúa và cộng đoàn.





FEAST OF THE LITTLE FLOWER

Sisters ministering within the state of Texas look forward to returning to the provincial house for the Prioress Provincial feastday celebration. To honor the role of a spiritual mother and leader of Sister Maria Theresa Kim-Hong Nguyen, the sisters creatively choreograph plays, skits, and songs to festively entertain all. Genuine and lighthearted laughter are medicinal and much needed in common life.

KÍNH THÁNH MARTINÔ

Vì năm nay ngày 3 tháng 11 rơi vào ngày Chúa Nhật nên cũng rất phù hợp cho việc mừng kính Thánh Martinô. Đã có trên 350 giáo dân tham dự để tỏ lòng sùng kính vị thánh Dòng Đa Minh khiêm tốn; quả thật ngài đã không thất vọng. Trước khi nghi thức cung nghinh Thánh nhân bắt đầu, một cơn mưa ào ạt làm ướt hết các ghế ngoài trời. Sau đó rất nhanh (với sự giúp đỡ của quan khách) các ghế đã được lau khô và chương trình cầu nguyện và Thánh Lễ được cử hành dưới những tầng mây dày đặc và những cơn gió mạnh. Trong thánh lễ, linh mục Giuse Hoàng Huy Cường, O.P., chủ tế và giảng thuyết, đã chia sẻ những điều kỳ diệu Chúa đã làm trong cuộc sống của cha, của dòng, và những ai cha có cơ hội tiếp xúc, qua lời chuyển cầu của Thánh Martinô. Tất cả những ai đến tham dự vì lý do này hoặc mục đích khác để tôn vinh Thiên Chúa qua lời chuyển cầu của vị Thánh khiêm tốn này.



SUB TUUM PRESIDIUM

During Advent, the Church pause to solemnly honor Our Lady under the title of the Immaculate Conception. The Immaculata is not only the patroness of the United States, but our Province from our founding day, has also sought refuge under her maternal mantle, "*sub tuum praesidium.*" On this special occasion, Fr. Richard Hinkley blessed the newly constructed *Veritas Nursery* since the old makeshift greenhouse was destroyed by hurricane Beryl back in August.

Visit houstondominicans.org for updated photos, events, and news - or - scan the QR code.





BLESSED FRASSATI

Dominican Sisters Open New Mission

SR. MARIE THÉRÈSE NGUYEN, O.P.

IT IS NOT A SECRET THAT THE DOMINICAN Sisters of Mary Immaculate Province have a special devotion to Saint Joseph, the Foster Father of Jesus and Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In fact, most if not all religious communities, men and women alike, have some level of attachment to the Guardian of Virgins. The Church further dedicates Wednesday in his honor and the whole month of March, with a special solemnity on the 19th of that month. In our Province, a beautiful life-size statue of St. Joseph stands near the entrance as protector and another large figurine of St. Joseph teaching the Child Jesus in the chapel side altar reminds the sisters of our apostolate in Catholic education.

A few years ago, Bishop Oscar Cantú, a native of Houston

yet currently the Ordinary of the Diocese of San Jose, visited our community to extend his warm invitation to teach in the Silicon Valley Catholic schools. After much prayer and discernment, we accepted the invitation to expand westward north (St. Dominic convent in Orange County was established in 2017), for Catholic education perfectly aligns with our charism and the new mission will be under the patronage of the beloved Saint Joseph, Protector of the Church and Terror of Demons.

This past July, in the presence of 50 guests (priests, religious, families, friends, and benefactors), Bishop Cantú blessed the new convent of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Born in Turin, Italy in 1901, Blessed Frassati, became a Third Order (lay) Dominican and died of polio at the age of 24. Though his life was short, it was nothing short of fulfilling the Great Commandment. He loved God with his whole





FRASSATI CONVENT:

Convent House in the Diocese of San Jose

heart, mind, and soul and he made sure that this love, which he received daily at the morning Mass holy communion would also extend to his friends. An avid outdoorsman and mountain climber, Blessed Frassati creatively transformed hiking adventures into spiritual retreats. He challenged his comrades toward “Verso l’alto” literally and allegorically (to soar to the heights of spiritual holiness). His love for Jesus was also evident in his service to the poor. He spent much time with them and cared for their needs. At his funeral, his parents were shocked to see thousands of the *i poveri* (poor) who came to pay their final respects. The Vatican anticipates to canonize Blessed Frassati during the 2025 Jubilee Year celebrations.

Four pioneer sisters – Sister Maria Vincent Vũ, Sister Mary Catherine Đỗ, Sister Theresa Paul Trần, and Sister Catherine Teresa Bùi – have been assigned to serve in the Silicon

Valley with the hope of inspiring young children and young adults *verso l’alto*, towards the heights of the Christian’s universal call to holiness and attending to their catechetical formation. Sister Maria Vincent teaches 4th grade at Saint Victor Catholic School while Sister Mary Catherine teaches 6th grade at St. John Vianney Catholic School. At Most Holy Trinity Catholic School, Sister Theresa Paul teaches 4th grade and Sister Catherine Teresa serves as a member of the Diocese’s Vocation Staff. The sisters are overwhelmed by the warm welcome and hospitality that His Excellency, Bishop Cantu, and the faithful of San Jose Diocese have bestowed upon them.

We entrust our sisters and their teaching ministry to the Lord, through the intercession of Saint Joseph and Blessed Frassati. May God be glorified and many souls saved.



SURPRISE VISITS WITH THE
Master General
FR. GERARD FRANCISCO PARCO
TIMONER III, O.P.



“ Perhaps each one of us is a visual homily of
Saint Dominic’s..what will we write with our
very own religious life? ”

MENLO PARK, CA – THURSDAY 8 AUGUST

ONE OF THE PERKS OF HAVING A MISSION IN the Bay Area (Silicon Valley) is that we are in the vicinity of the Westcoast Dominican Family. Less than an hour north of the Blessed Frassati Convent is the Priory of St. Albert (provincial house of the Most Holy Name of Jesus) in Oakland while only an exit away is the Corpus Christi Monastery of the Dominican Nuns in Menlo Park. When the nuns called to extend an invitation to attend the Eucharistic Liturgy and meet the Master General, Fr. Gerard F. Timoner III, O.P. afterwards, the sisters at Blessed Frassati Convent were ecstatic and could not pass such a rare opportunity. How often does one get to see the Master General? He resides in Rome and is constantly traveling to visit the 43 provinces of the Order around the world. (Some of our sisters were able to see him at Santa Sabrina last year after the WYD events.)

Thus, on the Solemnity of Saint Dominic, the sisters attended Mass at the Monastery of the Nuns with Fr. Timoner as celebrant and homilist. In his homily, Father repainted the portrait of Saint Dominic and posed a question: “Why is it that the Order lacks his writings?” There are many explanations. Yet, one of the significant reasons is that “perhaps each one of us is a visual homily of Saint Dominic’s.” Should that be the case, then “what will we write with our very own religious life?”

After Mass the sisters had the opportunity to share in the fraternal fellowship with the 17 nuns at Menlo Park and some visiting priests and Dominican Sisters. It was like a family reunion in which all three branches of the Order were present, sharing in laughter, getting to know one another, and catching up with ministries. It was a most delightful and memorable experience! How much more jubilation will there be when the whole Order reunites under the mantle of Our Lady in eternal glory by the throne of God?

HOUSTON, TX – MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER

IN EARLY NOVEMBER, THE SISTERS AT MARY Immaculate Convent in North Houston received a phone call from the Prior of St. Dominic Priory. “Sister, the Master General will be in town for a canonical visitation of the Province of St. Martin de Porres (Southern Province) and he will stop by our priory (of the Vicarate of St. Vincent Liem) for Vespers and dinner. We would like to invite our sisters to meet Fr. Timoner.” What a pleasant and unexpected surprise! Even with a short notice, the sisters cannot pass up on a rare occasion and adjusted their evening schedule to be at the Master General’s reception. Father Timoner is very approachable and down to earth; he makes sure to greet each and every one present: friars, sisters, and lay Dominicans. He even joined the sisters at dinnertime. Afterwards, he gave a brief exhortation, inspiring all to live out the Dominican vocation daily with great fervor and dedication. Though the surprise encounter was brief, it was memorable.



RENEWING FAITH WITH MARY:

The Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage

SR. MARY AUGUSTINE PHAM, O.P.

“*For over eight hundred years, the role of the rosary has remained the same: to bring souls, including my own, to conversion.*”



MYRIADS OF VOICES JOINED TOGETHER in the thunderous yet melodic chanting of the angelic greeting. Those blessed words spoken to our Lady reverberated between the marble groundwork and the gold mosaic vaulted ceiling of the basilica. Surely, the prayers of the faithful gathered for the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage echoed into the heights of heaven and pierced the heart of Mary.

For nine months leading up to the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage, the Dominican family and expectant pilgrims united in prayer, beseeching God's grace and imploring our Lady's intercession to bless the pilgrimage and make it fruitful, that "it may lead many souls to Jesus through Mary" (Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage Novena Prayer).

With much anticipation, five sisters and I were blessed with the opportunity to make this pilgrimage to the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. During our visit, we toured both sacred and secular sites: the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, the Dominican House of Studies, the Vietnam Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and the White House.

The pilgrimage itself was organized by the Dominican

Friars of the Province of St. Joseph - the Eastern Province - and was hosted at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which serves as the nucleus of Catholic culture, adjacent to the Catholic University of America and the Dominican House of Studies. The entire nave of the National Shrine came to life with the presence of our Dominican friars, sisters, members of the Aquinas Institute, and laypersons gathered to honor our Blessed Mother through the Holy Rosary.

Commencing with a grand procession of a statue of Mary that was commissioned specifically for the event, Fr. Joseph-Anthony Kress, O.P., the Promoter of the Holy Rosary in the Eastern Province, blessed the statue. Fr. James Sullivan, O.P. served as the principal preacher for the pilgrimage. He beautifully shared and reflected upon the Annunciation account as the fulfillment of God's promises and how the rosary is the scenic route on our journey toward heaven.

The highlight of the pilgrimage was reciting the Holy Rosary, followed by the vigil Mass. We prayed 150 decades, standing up after each decade with a profound bow to sing the doxology and a short refrain. It was a truly powerful and solemn experience, as hundreds of people united their voices and their prayer intentions. This was followed by a



vigil Mass with Fr. Joseph-Antony as the celebrant and Fr. Dominic Verner, O.P. as the homilist. The homily was carefully crafted. I felt as if I was listening to St. Dominic himself!

Fr. Dominic introduced the story of the Battle of Lepanto in 1571 when Christendom was threatened by the Ottoman Armada. He recalled the events from the perspective of our Blessed Mother and how she came to the aid of the faithful during that time of dire need. Today, we are faced with another armada: the “Armada of Forgetfulness” as Fr. Dominic calls it. The world has forgotten God’s presence: His love in the incarnation, His teachings, His sacrifice, and His triumph over death. However, through the Rosary, we are called to confront this amnesia, and each mystery of the Rosary is a remembrance of God’s presence and work in human history and in our own history.

The event concluded with an invitation to continue the fervent devotion of praying the Rosary and the joyful announcement of next year’s pilgrimage.

This experience renewed my understanding of and devotion to the Rosary. Our Lady’s intercession is truly effective and powerful. For over eight hundred years, the

role of the rosary has remained the same: to bring souls, including my own, to conversion. As Pope St. John Paul II noted in his apostolic letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, the rhythm and repetition of the Rosary becomes the rhythm of the soul. That rhythm of meditation on the life of Christ and Our Lady becomes the rhythm of my own life. The rosary is my remembrance of God’s marvelous works, and preserves me from sinking into the abyss of forgetfulness. This pilgrimage further gave me the opportunity to encounter and witness the works of the Dominican Order. It was a transformative experience. Through conversations with other Dominican friars and sisters, I realized that I am part of a larger family, mission, spirituality, and purpose. This pilgrimage has left a lasting impression upon my mind and soul. As I returned to Houston, I felt empowered by the firm conviction that Our Lady of the Holy Rosary is interceding for me to live out my vocation to the fullest.

*Totus tuus sum, Maria.
Mater Christi, omnia mea tua sunt.*

*I am entirely yours, Mary.
Mother of Christ, all that I have is yours.*





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PHOTO ALBUM

{houstondominicans.org/photoalbums}

1. The Novice Master and Novices of St. Martin de Porres Province came to visit in October.

2. Missioned sisters in San Jose had a chance to attend Mass with auxiliary Bishop Vincent Hieu Nguyen from Toronto, Canada as the main celebrant.

3. Blessed Imelda Convent sisters recreate on wheels.

4. Prioress Provincial attended the annual Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) assembly in St. Louis, MO; she has been elected to the Board of Directors.

5. Honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary in October with the rosary procession.

6. Pilgrimage to St. Joseph (Cistercian) Monastery in Lucerne Valley, CA.

7. Elderly sisters gather weekly for their ongoing formation classes and sharing.

8. Dedication of the Holy Rosary Statue in front of St. Dominic Convent in Southern California.

9. Sisters at St. Joseph Convent compete in a game of Jenga during recreation.

10. Missioned sisters in Southern and Northern California gather for the Thanksgiving break.

11. Sr. Maria Theresa Nguyen and Sr. Angela Pham attend the Opening Mass for the Canonization Cause of Bishop Pierre Lambert de la Motte, founder of the Lovers of the Holy Cross Congregations, in Garden Grove, California.

12. Rorate Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

13. Visiting our Sisters at Resthaven Cemetery.

14. Catherine Nguyen's entrance into the Postulancy.

15. Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston fall gathering of Inter-congregational leaders.

16. Thanksgiving bake-off contestants.



-Sisters in Christ-

A SHARED VOCATION OF JOY AND LOVE

SR. CATHERINE MARIE NGUYEN, O.P.

ON A BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY, FOUR religious sisters walk along a path, each representing a different community and adorned in a distinct religious habit—white, black, blue, and gray. As they stroll, they take turns sharing and listening to one another, their smiles and laughter radiating the pure joy of Christ. It's a picturesque scene that beautifully encapsulates the vocation of consecrated women in the Church.

Recently, I had the privilege of gathering with fellow young, perpetually professed sisters from various CMSWR (Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious) communities for the new “Called by Love” program. This year’s theme, “Religious Life: A Pathway to Beatitude,” featured inspiring talks by Fr. Thomas Aquinas Pickett, O.P., and Mother Mary Christa Nutt, R.S.M. The weekend was a grace-filled experience of talks, prayer, reflection, sharing, and worship. What struck me most was the pure joy and radiant beauty that emanated from a room full of women religious who are fervent in their vocations as Brides of Christ. Although our charisms differed and we came from various communities, a deep connection bonded us together. We were united in our shared vocation as consecrated women religious who deeply loved God. In this experience, we became Sisters in Christ, journeying

together toward our final goal— Beatitude and union with God.

Returning home, I felt rejuvenated and profoundly grateful for my vocation. As I resumed my daily life as a Dominican Sister of Mary Immaculate Province, I had a newfound awareness that my fellow Sisters in Christ from other religious communities are concurrently carrying out their respective ministries alongside me. Together, as we each fulfill our God-given roles to build up the Body of Christ, we create a magnificent tapestry of love and worship to offer to God.



ĐÓN NHẬN SỨC KHỎE TÂM THẦN VỚI LÒNG *Trắc Ẩn*

- EMBRACING MENTAL HEALTH WITH COMPASSION -

Hai chị trong Ban Đào Tạo tham dự chương trình sức khỏe tâm thần và tư duy hướng về sức khỏe toàn diện do Liên Dòng Nữ Việt Nam Hoa Kỳ tổ chức trong ba ngày cuối tuần tại Los Altos, CA. Cùng với khoảng 32 chị em thuộc các dòng nữ khác nhau tại Hoa Kỳ, các chị đón nhận được nhiều kiến thức vừa lý thuyết. Có nhiều điều để học trong cuối tuần này, nhưng đặc biệt nhất là học được phương cách nhận diện tình trạng sức khỏe tâm thần của mình và làm sao ứng dụng những gì đã học để có thể sống khỏe, sống vui và sống thánh, cho cá nhân cũng như những thụ huấn sinh có bốn phận hướng dẫn và đồng hành.

-Sr. Maria Goretti Vũ Mai Oánh, O.P., Đặc trách Ủy ban Đào tạo

In November 2024, we attended the Mental Health Awareness Workshop. We thank God for this wonderful and fruitful workshop, which has been immensely helpful in increasing our awareness of mental health. This workshop provided general information about mental health, including recognizing signs and tools, which will assist us as we return to our communities and ministries. The fruits we have gained from this workshop will assist us in supporting and fostering others, especially our sisters, towards better physical, mental, and spiritual health. This will enable us to follow Christ and serve His people more effectively.

- Sr. Joanna Đinh Phụng Quyên, O.P.,
Giám đốc Thánh viện

Ba ngày học hỏi đi qua nhanh! Nhóm hội họp thu lượm những kiến thức và kỹ năng căn bản về tâm lý cũng như tư vấn do Sr. Theres Phước Trần, Dòng Mến Thánh Giá Los Angeles thuyết trình và chia sẻ. Chị em cảm nhận sự nâng đỡ và cảm thông trong nhóm. Ai ai cũng thấy phấn khởi để tiếp tục sứ vụ huấn luyện và đồng hành với chị em trong hội dòng, cộng đoàn của mình.

- Sr. Catherine Teresa Bùi Duyên Anh, O.P., Đặc trách Ban Ôn gọi



EXPANSION PROJECT & Benefit Dinner

THE LORD, FOR THE PAST 46 YEARS, HAS BLESSED the Province with young vocations and many benefactors to support us along the way. We are grateful to our families and friends, near and far, who have partnership with us in our apostolate. We look forward to many years of faithful service in our Dominican vocation.

A few years ago, we relocated the initiation formation house to the main provincial house at St. Catherine Convent. Though the housing arrangement was tight, yet it is bearable. But in order to foster growth and maintain a healthy formation environment and the day-to-day operation of our campus grounds, we need to expand our facility. The expansion project will include two additional classrooms, gathering spaces for the three groups in formation (postulants, novices, and temporary professed), office spaces for the directors of formation, music and art rooms, storage spaces, and an extended refectory.

There will also be additional 30 parking spaces and a pavilion where the sisters can participate in sports and outdoor activities.

Furthermore, the entrance to the convent is in seriously need of an upgrade. As more sisters are in teaching in Catholic schools, catechizing in the faith formation programs in the parishes, or accompanying various church groups, many have come to know the sisters and express the desire to host their events at St. Catherine. In recent years we have seen an influx of buses dropping off students at the convent for retreats or visits as part of the vocation awareness program. Young adult groups and lay church movements also prefer the quiet grounds and serene atmosphere of the convent for their conferences and gatherings. A pickup truck, recently tried to avoid the car in front making a turn, sped and flew into our chicken-wired fence. Hence, it is fitting for a renovation.

DOMINICAN SISTERS
MARY IMMACULATE PROVINCE

ST CATHERINE CO
5250 GASMER D

The new gate entrance will be widened to ease the traffic flow and the fence wall will be moved further (north) from the street.

On Sunday November 10, 2024, around twelve hundred of our families and friends came out to help us fundraise for the project. The love and support we received to convert the drawings into a reality were simply incredible and beyond our imagination. We are grateful to the Vocation Support Association Committee for their initiative and planning the benefit dinner. Their tireless efforts are remarkable. Reverend John Kha Tran, Reverend Loc Nguyen, and the parishioners of Vietnamese Martyrs

have graciously offered us the parish hall as the place of gathering and reception and generously supported us in countless ways. The thousand plus attendees were treated to hymns and songs performed by priests and sisters. It was truly a memorable night for not only did we fundraise, but we also friend-raised.

We are deeply grateful for the overwhelming support we received during the Benefit Dinner. Thanks to the kindness of so many, we are now a step closer to realizing our dream of expanding our mission. The generous contributions will directly impact our ability to sustain our holy endeavors and reach more souls with the love of Christ.



Visit houstondominicans.org/benefit to support our expansion project - or - scan the QR code.



GLORY OF GOD *and* SALVATION OF SOULS

MINISTRY UPDATES



Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston



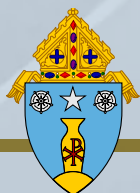
ST. CATHERINE CONVENT | HOUSTON, TX

1. Sr. Maria Theresa Kim Hong Nguyen, O.P., *Prioress Provincial*
2. Sr. Angela Pham Thuy Pham, O.P., *Vicaress, Mission Office*
3. Sr. Theresa Gabriel Loan Vu, O.P., *Local Prioress*
4. Sr. Magdalene Lanh Pham, O.P., *Prayer ministry*
5. Sr. Mary Kim Van Vu, O.P., *Prayer ministry*
6. Sr. Theresa Thu Mai, O.P., *Prayer ministry*
7. Sr. Lucy Luong Nguyen, O.P., *Prayer ministry*
8. Sr. Theresa Hang Pham, O.P., *Greenhouse caretaker, Prayer ministry*
9. Sr. Theresa Hoa Trinh, O.P., *Prayer ministry*
10. Sr. Rosemary Thai Khong, O.P., *Prayer ministry*
11. Sr. Maria Goretti Oanh Vu, O.P., *Provincial Council, Assistant to the Archdiocesan Vicar of Religious*
12. Sr. Cecilia Huong Nguyen, O.P., *Nurse*
13. Sr. Theresa Tinh Ho, O.P., *Hospital chaplain*
14. Sr. Maria Lan Nguyen, O.P., *Prayer ministry*
15. Sr. Theresa Oanh Nguyen, O.P., *Seamstress, Vocation Sponsors Association*
16. Sr. Anne Catherine Minh Vu, O.P., *Teacher assistant at St. Theresa Catholic School (Sugarland), Catechist*
17. Sr. Francesca Binh Bui, O.P., *Provincial Council, Catechist of the Good Shepherd at St. Catherine Montessori (Houston)*
18. Sr. Bernadette Huong Nguyen, O.P., *Study abroad at Angelicum*
19. Sr. Cecilianna Ha An Le, O.P., *Provincial Bursar, Nurse*
20. Sr. Ann Bosco Hue Nguyen, O.P., *2nd Grade teacher at St. Thomas More Catholic School (Houston)*
21. Sr. Marie Thérèse Nga Nguyen, O.P., *Provincial Council and Secretary*
22. Sr. Anna Maria Lan Luong, O.P., *Facility management*
23. Sr. Anna Monica Suong Tran, O.P., *Teacher assistant at St. Theresa Catholic School (Sugarland)*
24. Sr. Maria Goretti Hang Ta, O.P., *2nd Grade teacher at St. Ambrose Catholic School (Houston)*
25. Sr. Maria Goretti Thuy Nguyen, O.P., *Associate Director, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston Office of Evangelization and Catechesis*
26. Sr. Theresa Marie Chau Nguyen, O.P., *Professor at the University of St. Thomas (Houston)*
27. Sr. Rose Catherine Diem Hoang, O.P., *Religion teacher at St. Ambrose Catholic School (Houston)*
28. Sr. Anna Pauline Van Pham, O.P., *Director of Student Sisters*
29. Sr. Theresa Phuong Phan, O.P., *Elderly care*
30. Sr. Theresa Phuong Vu, O.P., *Director of Religious Education at Holy Rosary Parish (Houston)*
31. Sr. Maria Joanna Quyen Dinh, O.P., *Director of Postulants*
32. Sr. Mary Margaret Khanh Pham, O.P., *Director of Novices*
33. Sr. Theresa Joseph Loan-Anh Nguyen, O.P., *Graduate Studies at Catholic University of America*
34. Sr. Mary Agnes Hieu Nguyen, O.P., *House bursar, Catechist*
35. Sr. Mary Augustine Diem-Thu Pham, O.P., *Studies*
36. Sr. Paulina Therese Kim Anh Vu, O.P., *Studies, Catechist*
37. Sr. Rose Martin Huong Le, O.P., *Studies, Catechist*
38. Sr. Grace Marie Diem-Quynh Dinh, O.P., *Studies, Catechist*
39. Sr. Monica Rosario Vien Tran, O.P., *Studies, Catechist*
40. Sr. Mary Gemma Hien Nguyen, O.P., *Studies, Catechist*
41. Sr. Josetta Thérèse Xuan-Nhi Nguyen, O.P., *Studies, Catechist*
42. Sr. Amata Veritas Khanh Vy Lam, O.P., *Studies, Catechist*
43. Philomena Marie My-Duyen Nguyen, *Novice*
44. Martha Nam My Truong, *Postulant, Catechist*
45. Therese Mary Jessica Nguyen, *Postulant, Catechist*
46. Anna Teresa Tran, *Postulant, Catechist*
47. Mary Diana Pham, *Postulant, Catechist*
48. Theresa Catherine Nguyen, *Postulant*



MARY IMMACULATE CONVENT HOUSTON, TX

1. Sr. Agnes Kimchi Nguyen, O.P., Local Prioress, Pastoral Counseling
2. Sr. Maria Sang Dinh, O.P., PreK teacher at Mary Immaculate Preschool
3. Sr. Mary Clare Xinh Nguyen, O.P., Toddler teacher at MIPS
4. Sr. Agatha Thu Nguyen, O.P., Preschool teacher at MIPS
5. Sr. Elizabeth Thu Thuy Nguyen, O.P., Preschool assistant at MIPS
6. Sr. Agnes Anh Dao Nguyen, O.P., Bookkeeping at MIPS
7. Sr. Catherine Kim-Phuong Nguyen, O.P., Cook at MIPS
8. Sr. Elizabeth Huyen Anh Dinh, O.P., Teacher assistant at MIPS
9. Sr. Theresa Duyen Doan, O.P., Teacher assistant at St. Edward Catholic School (Spring)
10. Sr. Maria Theresa Thuy Lien Pham, O.P., Preschool teacher at MIPS
11. Sr. Rosemary Diep Nguyen, O.P., Toddler teacher at MIPS
12. Sr. Martha Marie Xuan-Ngoc Le, O.P., 2nd Grade teacher at St. Edward Catholic School (Spring)
13. Sr. Mary Theresa Thao-Ly Nguyen, O.P., Director of Mary Immaculate Preschool
14. Sr. Theresa Yen-Nhi Nguyen, O.P., Studies, Teacher assistant at MIPS
15. Sr. Cecilia John Bosco Dinh, O.P., Studies, Substitute teacher at MIPS, Catechist



Diocese of Beaumont

HOLY FAMILY CONVENT BEAUMONT, TX



1. Sr. Anne Hanh Le, O.P., Local Superior, Director of Holy Family Retreat Center (Beaumont)
2. Sr. Maria Huyen Le, O.P., 2nd Grade teacher at Saint Anne Catholic School (Beaumont)
3. Sr. Anna Imelda Hang-Nga Nguyen, O.P., Theology teacher at Monsignor Kelly High School (Beaumont)
4. Sr. Marie Fidelis Ai-Nhi Le, O.P., Studies, Assistant Director of Holy Family Retreat Center (Beaumont)



HOLY ROSARY CONVENT MISSOURI CITY, TX

1. Sr. Mary Theresa Tuyet Kieu, O.P., Local Superior, Sancta Maria gift shop
2. Sr. Theresa Dung Nguyen, O.P., Vocation Sponsors Association
3. Sr. Anna Nguyet Nguyen, O.P., Sancta Maria gift shop
4. Sr. Immaculata Thuy Dao, O.P., Mission for the Poor
5. Sr. Dominica Than Nguyen, O.P., Registered nurse
6. Sr. Theresa Josephine Thien-An Do, O.P., Catechist of the Good Shepherd Formation Leader, CGS at St. Catherine Montessori (Houston)
7. Sr. Magdalene Mai-Uyen Tran, O.P., Sancta Maria gift shop
8. Sr. Martina Cecilia Cuc Vu, O.P., Elementary Religion teacher at St. Cecilia Catholic School (Houston)
9. Sr. Thomas Marie Xuan Bui, O.P., 2nd Grade teacher at St. Laurence Catholic School (Sugarland)
10. Sr. Mary Vincent Ferrer Lan Pham, O.P., 4th/5th Grades Religion at St. Laurence Catholic School (Sugarland)
11. Sr. Imelda Therese Nhung Pham, O.P., Studies, Catechist
12. Sr. Mary Dolores Angela Pham, O.P., Studies, Catechist



Diocese of Victoria

ST. JOSEPH CONVENT PORT LAVACA, TX

1. Sr. Mary John Mai-Thao Lam, O.P., Local Superior, Pre-K teacher at Our Lady of the Gulf (Port Lavaca)
2. Sr. Monica Vianney Nhung Le, O.P., Catechist of the Good Shepherd program at Our Lady of Sorrows and Nazareth Academy (Victoria)
3. Sr. Marianne Raphael Van Hoang, O.P., 3rd-8th Grade Religion teacher at OLG
4. Sr. Mary Martin Oanh Tran, O.P., PreK-2nd Religion and Art, 1st-5th Music teacher at OLG





Diocese of Fort Worth

BLESSED IMELDA CONVENT | FORT WORTH, TX

1. **Sr. Catherine Mary Phuong-Tien Duong, O.P.**, Local Superior, 4th-8th Religion teacher at St. John the Apostle Catholic School (North Richland Hills)
2. **Sr. Theresa Ha Mai, O.P.**, Middle School Religion teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School (Arlington)
3. **Sr. Maria Raphael Tram Tran, O.P.**, Theology teacher at Nolan Catholic High School (Fort Worth)
4. **Sr. Mary Magdalene Hang Nguyen, O.P.**, Teacher assistance at St. Joseph Catholic School (Arlington), Mission Office
5. **Sr. Anne Frances Ai Le, O.P.**, Diaconate Formation program
6. **Sr. Marie Savio Tram Dinh, O.P.**, Religion teacher at Holy Family Catholic School (White Settlement)
7. **Sr. Mary Hyacinth Jessica Nguyen, O.P.**, 2nd Grade teacher at St. Andrew Catholic School (Fort Worth)
8. **Sr. Marie Frassasti Phoi Phoi Nguyen, O.P.**, 3rd Grade teacher at St. George Catholic School
9. **Sr. Catherine Marie Kim-Thuy Nguyen, O.P.**, Registered nurse at St. Rita and St. George Catholic Schools (Fort Worth)

10. **Sr. Mary Monica Tram Vu, O.P.**, 4th/5th Grades Math and Science at St. Maria Goretti Catholic School (Fort Worth)
11. **Sr. Mary Grace Hallie Tran, O.P.**, Teacher assistant at St. John the Apostle Catholic School (North Richland Hills)



Diocese of Orange

ST. DOMINIC CONVENT | GARDEN GROVE, CA



1. **Sr. Catherine Yen Tran, O.P.**, Local Superior, TK-5th Grade Religion teacher at St. Barbara Catholic School (Santa Ana)
2. **Sr. Mary Anthony Diep Nguyen, O.P.**, 2nd Grade teacher at Christ Cathedral Academy (Garden Grove)
3. **Sr. Immaculata Thérèse Thuy-Kieu Nguyen, O.P.**, Catechist of the Good Shepherd program at Christ Cathedral Academy (Garden Grove)
4. **Sr. Christin Phuong-Loan Nguyen, O.P.**, Junior High Religion teacher, Campus Ministry at Saint Bonaventure Catholic School (Huntington Beach)



Diocese of San Jose

BL. FRASSATI CONVENT | MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA

1. **Sr. Maria Vincent Nhung Vu, O.P.**, Local Superior, 4th Grade teacher at St. Victor Catholic School (San Jose)
2. **Sr. Mary Catherine Thu Do, O.P.**, 6th Grade teacher at St. John Vianney Catholic School (San Jose)
3. **Sr. Theresa Paul Khanh-Vy Tran, O.P.**, 4th Grade teacher at Most Holy Trinity Catholic School (San Jose)
4. **Sr. Catherine Teresa Duyen-Anh Bui, O.P.**, San Jose Vocation Office



HEART-TO-HEART CONVERSATIONS *with children*

Sr. MONICA VIANNEY LE, O.P.

ON THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS, WE celebrated our vocation as children of God. I began with a meditation from the book of Leviticus, “You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy” (Lev. 19:2). I asked the children, “What did you hear?”

They responded, “Be holy, as I am holy.”

I continued, “Who is speaking these words?”

They said, “God.”

I wondered aloud, “What does God want us to be?”

They responded, “To be holy.”

“Wow! God wants us to be holy. But how much? As much as sister Monica?”

They thought my question was silly so they all giggled and cried out, “no, like God Himself.”

I further questioned, “How can we be holy like God? How holy is God?”

Nolan was rolling his eyes and said, “God is very, very, very holy.”

And then, Houston began to sing, “Holy holy holy Lord, God of hosts,” and the whole class chimed in with him, “heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest...”

After their singing I gathered their attention and ask, “Yes, God desires us to be holy like Him. But what can we do to show that we are holy?”



Keara said, “listen to God.”

Arron added, “Do what He wants us to do.”

Luke continued, “Follow the Golden Rule.”

Yes, the children’s answers are very simple and clearly right. They know what are good choices and what are not, and to stay holy is to listen to God and do His will. Their desire to love God has no limit. No wonder Jesus taught us to become like children saying, “unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3).

Many of these *Conversations with Children* moments occur in a Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium. To learn more about the program at our preschool, please visit maryimmpreschool.org or scan the QR code.





Please join us in prayers for the repose of the recently deceased members of the

DOMINICAN VOCATION SPONSORS ASSOCIATION

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Ông Gioan Baotixita Phạm Văn Khiêm – Grand Prairie, TX
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Em Phêrô Nguyễn Thành Minh – Manvel, TX
Ông Gioan Kim Trương Long Khi – Houston, TX
Bà Anna Trần Thị Ngọc – Houston, TX
Bà Maria Nguyễn Thị Lan – Arlington, TX
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Anh Phaolô Maria Lương Tấn Phú – Houston, TX
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Ông Phêrô Nguyễn Phi Long – Port Arthur, TX

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Ông Đa Minh Bùi Gia Oánh – Arlington, TX
Bà Maria Phạm Thị Nhuận – Houston, TX
Bà Cố Têrêsa Nguyễn Thị Mùi – Houston, TX
Ông Giuse Nguyễn Văn Niên – Friendswood, TX
Bà Maria Nguyễn Thị Soi – Austin, TX
Chị Maria Donna Phạm Đoàn Hạnh – Houston, TX
Ông Giuse Nguyễn Văn Chinh – Port Arthur, TX
Bà Isave Nguyễn Thị Ngọc Hoa – Missouri City, TX
Bà Maria Nguyễn Sally – Port Arthur, TX
Bà Maria Vũ Then – Port Arthur, TX
Bà Cố Têrêsa Nguyễn Thị Ất – San Jose, CA
Ông Cố Phêrô Phạm Thanh Chúc – Austin, TX
Ông Phêrô Trần Văn Liễn – Port Arthur, TX
Ông Antôn Đỗ Văn Tấn – Westminster, CA
Ông Cố Phalô Trần Phi – Port Arthur, TX
Bà Maria Bùi Thị Lệ Hoa – Buda, TX

SAVE THE DATE

— 14th East Meets West Gala —

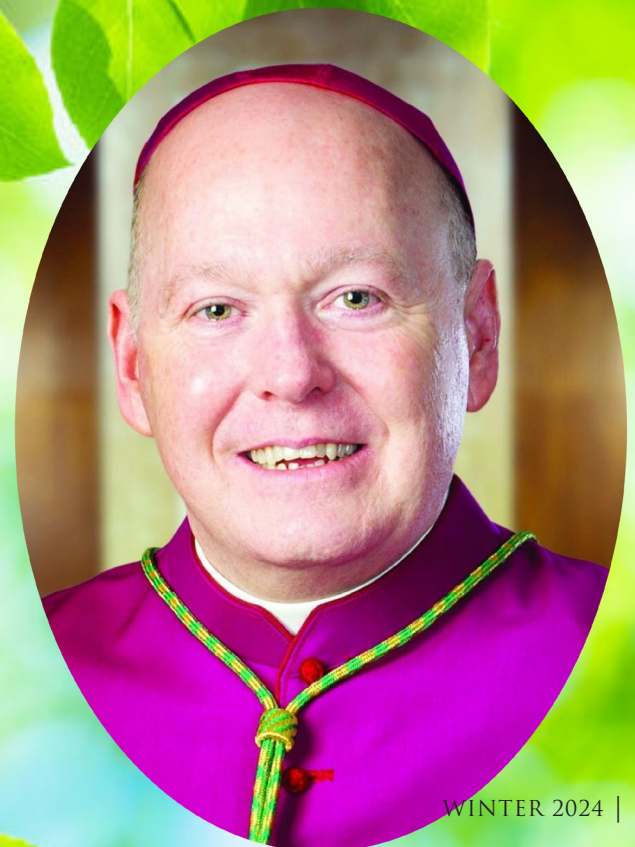
April 3, 2025

Honoring

His Excellency

BRENDAN CAHILL

Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, Texas





Dominican Sisters of Mary Immaculate Province

Nữ Tu Đa Minh - Tỉnh Dòng Đức Maria Vô Nhiễm

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*“And this will be a sign for you:
you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”
- Luke 2:12 -*

SAVE THE DATES

**14TH ANNUAL
EAST MEETS WEST GALA**
April 3, 2025

VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREATS
March 20-23, 2025
May 15-19, 2025
August 7-11, 2025

**FRASSATI
YOUNG ADULT
ADVENTURE RETREAT**
June 9-13, 2025

**ENCOUNTER
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
SUMMER RETREAT**
July 7-11, 2025

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