

NEWSLETTER



Fundação Social das Irmãs Dominicanas Irlandesas

WE PARTICIPATE AND WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS THE MISSION



The Social Work Foundation of the Irish Dominican Sisters, through its Centres (Colégio Bom Sucesso, Centro Sagrada Família and Casinha Nossa Senhora), wishes all readers a Holy and Merry Christmas, with lots of Joy, Peace and Hope.

- What a marvellous Christmas celebrations were held in our community, with all the staff and volunteers committed to bringing joy to our students and many families, including the most vulnerable.
- What a challenge Pope Francis' message for the World Day of Peace - 1 January 2025 - Forgive us our trespasses, grant us your peace.
- What a must read - Pope Francis' new book - Hope never disappoints. The Pope says: 'Hope must be the "anchor and the sail" that guide us towards a more fraternal future than the one we dream of, where the dignity of the human being prevails over all divisions and is in harmony with Mother Earth.'

JOÃO SALES LUÍS

Presidente do Conselho de Administração

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Fundação Cristã
das Irmãs Dominicanas Irlandesas

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We're already on our way to Christmas, it's on our doorstep. For followers of Jesus, Advent is a time of preparation for the great feast. Does this feast have any meaning for us today, beyond the shopping, the decorations, the rush to get the house ready, the presents, etc.? Yes, it does. We are celebrating the birth of Jesus, our Saviour, and this is the time to give thanks for our lives, our family, friends, health, etc. The true meaning of Christmas is love: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his Son...' John 3:16-17. The Son of God came among us as a small, vulnerable, homeless baby so that we could 'have life and have it to the full' John 10:10. And we come together to celebrate this extraordinary act of love by always remembering all those in our poorly distributed world who suffer from war, violence and hunger.

I wish each and every one of you a happy and blessed Christmas, and a New Year full of peace and hope for you and for our troubled world.



SISTER BRIDGET

**Congregação das
Religiosas Dominicanas Irlandesas**

NEWSLETTER



Conferência Episcopal Portuguesa
das Igrejas Católicas Romanas

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Advent (ad-venire) means waiting for the One who 'will come', in our specific case it's about waiting for Jesus who will come to us at Christmas. And it's a wait full of expectation and hope (yes, you can wait without expecting anything special or good, without hope...). We want and believe that Jesus' coming into the world, into history, into our lives, is a coming that is always renewed, year after year, a coming of light, peace and joy, which each of us and the whole world so desperately needs and longs for... a world of wars, cataclysms, pollution, famines, poverty, disagreements, disease... St Paul says that 'the whole creation still groans in labour pains' (Rom.8:22) but also that 'the night is far spent and the day (of our liberation) is at hand' (Rom.13:12) - it's Advent... it's Christmas!



FREI JOSÉ NUNES O.P

Capelão F.O.S.R.D.I.

PASTORAL WORK WITH DOMINICAN SPIRITUALITY

POR COLÉGIO DO BOM SUCESSO

At the beginning of winter, when the days are lighter and colder, a new hope is born in our hearts that grows with the coming of Jesus and the light he announces. What a time to celebrate, what closeness to those we love, what a desire to share all the joys of life!

These are moments of tenderness and solidarity, of understanding and mutual help, which mark the history of each family and each one of us...

Every year, the school tries to get its community of teachers and non-teaching staff, students and families to reflect on God's love for each one of us, on the way we relate to our neighbours, on the importance of our spiritual growth and our faith, and to make God present among us at the Christmas party at the Belém Cultural Centre. It's a remarkable moment of enormous power that leaves no-one indifferent and, given the message it conveys, the challenge for next year is to maintain the Catholic values it advocates with the same strength and determination throughout 2025.

To all those who worked and collaborated in this great event for the Dominican family, a huge congratulations and best wishes for a Holy Christmas and a New Year full of good challenges!



EDUCATION AND FAMILY

POR CASINHA DE NOSSA SENHORA

It's Christmas time, a time for family get-togethers, meetings, sharing, love, presents...

It's a time of faith, prosperity and reflection, the end of another year has come.

Here at our crèche it's no different, we celebrate the family, family unity by involving families in our day-to-day life and in our mission.

We celebrate acquired skills together, sharing moments and the simplicity of small things.

May we always be hand in hand on this beautiful journey, where children are what matter most.

A Merry and Holy Christmas!



FAMILIES WITH SOUL

POR CENTRO SAGRADA FAMÍLIA



This year's Christmas for our users was even merrier. The families of our children sponsored the families of the social project and offered gifts to make this season even more special and supportive, from family to family. Solidarity is a powerful bond that brings people together and promotes a fairer and more welcoming world. When we talk about families supporting other families, we are dealing with a gesture of empathy and humanity that transcends cultural, social or economic barriers. When families support each other, stronger and more resilient communities are created. Solidarity between families is an act of love that echoes down the generations, inspiring everyone to build a more humane and supportive world.

This is the spirit we build on a daily basis at the Sagrada Família Centre with the nursery and pre-school children, as well as with all the families, partners and friends who walk alongside us and strengthen our Famílias com Alma social project.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this special Christmas!

