

NEWSLETTER



VERITAS

Fundação Obra Social
das Religiosas Dominicanas Irlandesas

WE PARTICIPATE AND WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS THE MISSION

The Irish Dominican Sisters Social Welfare Foundation, through its centers (Bom Sucesso College, Holy Family Center, and Casinha Nossa Senhora), wishes all readers a happy holiday filled with joy, peace, and hope. A few notes:

- On July 17, an outdoor mass was held at the Sagrada Família Center with many collaborators and friends of the Foundation. It was presided over by our Dominican chaplain, Friar José Nunes, and featured very good speeches by Vice-President Ana Mariz Fernandes, Administrator Carla Correia, Sister Martina Phelan, Prioress of the Congregation, and Sister Bridget. It was a moment of thanksgiving with great joy and renewal of our commitment to our mission.
- All collaborators received two books: The Story of Frassati—a Dominican layman who died at the age of 24 and will be canonized on September 7; and Pope Francis' latest encyclical, Amou-nos (He Loved Us). The Pope says: Do not fail to live the joy of trying to communicate Christ's love to others.
- The National Council of the Dominican Family, of which our Foundation is a member, wrote a letter to the Israeli ambassador, also signed by us, calling for an end to the genocide in Gaza. I ask you to follow this dramatic issue, also with indignation, prayer, and hope for peace, which is very urgent.



JOÃO SALES LUÍS

Presidente do Conselho de Administração

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Writing this on the feast of Saint Mary Magdalene seems very appropriate to me. We, of the Dominican Order, hold her in high esteem. Mary of Magdala appears many times in the Gospels. She was one of the women who accompanied Jesus when he ministered throughout Galilee. Her love for Jesus led her to the tomb early on Sunday morning to anoint his body, finding it empty and then meeting Jesus in the garden, becoming the first witness of his resurrection. Jesus says to her, "Go and tell my disciples that I have risen." Because she brought the news of the Resurrection to the Apostles, she is known as the Apostle of the Apostles. From the early days of the Dominican Order, she was proclaimed co-patroness. We Dominican women often think that the Church has forgotten that it was a woman who was the first to witness and proclaim the Resurrection. Therefore, we must reclaim our role in preaching. It is wonderful to see FOSRDI promoting and encouraging everyone to live and preach the Good News. As St. Francis said, "Preach the Gospel always, and when necessary, use words."



SISTER BRIDGET

**Congregação das
Religiosas Dominicanas Irlandesas**

NEWSLETTER



VERITAS

Fundação Obra Social
das Religiosas Dominicanas Irmãs

WE PARTICIPATE AND WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS THE MISSION

These days, we are celebrating the feast day of Saint Mary Magdalene (July 22). She was a woman, a faithful disciple of Jesus, the first Apostle in the history of the Church, the woman who went to announce the Resurrection of Jesus to the eleven apostles, who were still incredulous. For this reason, she is the patron saint of the Order of Preachers, of the entire Dominican Family, for she was the Mother of preachers. So let us remember what our Sisters wrote and left in a frame, currently in the 'beautiful room' of the Colégio do Bom Sucesso, assuming themselves as women preachers in the footsteps of Mary Magdalene: "Our Mission / as Dominican Women / is to / study / share/ proclaim / and witness to / the liberating Word of God/ in order that / right relationships be restored / between God, people and the earth / where these are broken / due to lack of knowledge / and distortion of the truth." Which, translated into Portuguese, means: **A nossa missão / como mulheres dominicanas / é / estudar / compartilhar / proclamar / e testemunhar / a Palavra libertadora de Deus / para que / relacionamentos correctos sejam restaurados / entre Deus, as pessoas e a terra / onde isso está em falta / por deficit de conhecimento / e distorção da verdade.**



FREI JOSÉ NUNES O.P

Capelão F.O.S.R.D.I.

PASTORAL WORK WITH DOMINICAN SPIRITUALITY

POR COLÉGIO DO BOM SUCESSO

Pilgrims of Hope - Colégio do Bom Sucesso in Fátima

On May 28, 2025, Colégio do Bom Sucesso experienced a very special moment that brought together students, educators, staff, parents, and grandparents on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Fátima, under the motto "Pilgrims of Hope."

During the journey, in the 17 vans that made up the caravan, teachers and students reflected on Pope Francis' words about the Jubilee year and the meaning of living Hope. Everyone prayed the rosary and asked for Peace among the peoples of the world and in the hearts of each one of us.

The morning was marked by the celebration of the Eucharist in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, presided over by Friar Zé Nunes, in a ceremony full of faith, emotion, and gratitude. Gathered as an educational community, we gave thanks for the 2024/2025 school year, entrusting to Mary all the joys, challenges, and achievements we experienced.

As a sign of devotion and trust, a small group of children joined the school principal and offered white flowers to Our Lady, in a symbolic gesture of peace and hope for the future.

The children experienced this morning with great enthusiasm. They felt part of something bigger, not only because of the atmosphere of silence and prayer, but also because of the joy of being together on a different and special day. The morning ended with a lively family picnic in a simple and happy atmosphere that will remain in everyone's memory.

It was a day of gathering, prayer, and communion that strengthened the bonds that unite us.



EDUCATION AND FAMILY

POR CASINHA DE NOSSA SENHORA

In recent months, we have experienced moments that deserve to be celebrated with gratitude.

- In May, Family Month, we shared a picnic and four outings with many uncles, aunts, grandparents, and other family members, strengthening the bonds that unite everyone at the nursery.
- June brought changes and, with them, the tireless support of families—carrying furniture and taking care of the children on transition day, always in a spirit of mutual help. It also brought us a “new home” where we were/are being very well received, as the school welcomed the daycare center with open arms.
- July is the month of young volunteers. Children, young people, and adults who offer us their time, joy, and affection, and who, who knows, may be future colleagues in the mission of education.

To all, our sincere thanks for walking with us.



FAMILIES WITH SOUL

POR CENTRO SAGRADA FAMÍLIA



Training and Inclusion of Families in Situations of Social Vulnerability

Promoting training and inclusion for families in situations of vulnerability is one of the main strategies for combating social inequality and promoting human development. In this context, it is essential to guarantee not only immediate assistance, but also real opportunities that enable a transformation of everyday life.

Empowerment is a fundamental step in this process. More than just teaching techniques, empowerment means strengthening people's autonomy and self-esteem.

At the same time, social inclusion must ensure that these families have full access to basic rights such as health, education, culture, leisure, and decent housing.

It is also essential to listen to families, respect their stories, and value their potential. Inclusion is not achieved solely through services and resources, but through respect, acceptance, and active participation. Each family has knowledge, experiences, and dreams that, when recognized, become tools for transformation.

Finally, true inclusion occurs when families cease to depend exclusively on social support and begin to build their own paths with security and dignity. This requires a joint effort within the community.

Investing in training and inclusion is investing in a more just, humane, and supportive future for all.

