

NEWSLETTER



Fundação para o Bem
do Povo e da Comunidade

WE PARTICIPATE AND WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS THE MISSION

The Irish Dominican Sisters Social Welfare Foundation, through its Centers (Bom Sucesso School, Holy Family Center, and Casinha Nossa Senhora), wishes all readers much Hope in this Jubilee Year. A few notes:

- The Irish Dominican Sisters, our Founders, were in Portugal in mid-October, after elections for a new term. We already knew the new Prioress, Sister Elizabeth Ferguson, well, and we got to know the new Administrator of the Foundation, Sister Marie, who lived in Portugal for many years and wrote a wonderful article for this Newsletter.
- With the collaboration of the Sisters, a commercial enterprise was launched, BS - Sociedade de Desenvolvimento Cultural e Social (Society for Cultural and Social Development), with a view to raising funds for the restoration of the Convent's heritage and to support our social project (Famílias com Alma - Families with Soul) through the management of the convent's spaces outside educational hours.
- Regarding the social project, Pope Francis has just launched his first Apostolic Exhortation on "Love for the Poor." In the last point, he tells us: "through that simple, very personal, and close gesture of help, it will be possible for that poor person to feel that Jesus' words are meant for him: I have loved you."



JOÃO SALES LUÍS

Presidente do Conselho de Administração

NEWSLETTER



Partido das Irmãs
das Religiosas Dominicanas Irlandesas

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As I recalled the five days I spent in Lisbon, the parable of the Mustard Seed constantly came to mind. This parable describes a small mustard seed that grows to its full potential, becoming the largest of all herbs, emphasizing that great things grow from small beginnings. This symbol reminds me of those small beginnings, when the first student came to be educated by the Dominican Sisters at Bom Sucesso in 1829. Little did the sisters know that their vision of a Dominican Catholic education would soon blossom, expand, and become the FOSRDI of 2025. My visit to the various Centers was a profound reminder of how transformative the power of belief can be. The last four sisters to leave Bom Sucesso in 2016 were able to leave because they believed they could entrust the education and transmission of solid Christian values to the deeply committed staff of the three centers. Their mustard seed had grown into a strong and resilient plant and had survived many difficult and challenging periods in Portuguese history. Their unwavering, steadfast, and constant conviction gave them the courage to hand over these centers to others, knowing that the seeds they had sown had taken deep root in the hearts of those who continue Dominican education in these flourishing centers.

I was inspired by how the employees embodied the Dominican spirit. Seeing how the value of solidarity is strongly promoted among the pupils and students at the Centers, as they support disadvantaged families. At the General Chapter of our Dominican Congregation in July this year, we affirmed that our goal is to embody our mission as Dominican Preachers of truth, compassion, and peace, responding in every way possible to the needs of others, and that all our educational efforts aim to promote truth. I have no doubt that our mission is being carried forward by all those I met during my visit to Lisbon just a week ago.

SISTER MARIE

**Congregação das
Religiosas Dominicanas Irlandesas**

NEWSLETTER



Ordem dos Irmãos da
Regeneração Sagrada Dominicana

WE PARTICIPATE AND WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS THE MISSION

On September 7, an extraordinary Dominican layman was canonized: Pier Giorgio Frassatti. Young (he died at the age of 24), a lover of life, interested in democracy, a sportsman... he was also an assiduous listener to the Word of God and an evangelizer, both within his immediate family circle and among many others. He was a great friend of the poor and showed them great solidarity, as evidenced by the presence of thousands of them at his funeral. How can we not see FOSRDI as a continuation of Frassatti's spirit and work?



FREI JOSÉ NUNES O.P

Capelão F.O.S.R.D.I.

PASTORAL WORK WITH DOMINICAN SPIRITUALITY

POR COLÉGIO DO BOM SUCESSO

These first months of the school year were marked by several moments that brought us closer to God, to each other, and to the whole Church.

Along with all the moments of prayer that were experienced by the various cycles of the School—such as the blessing of the prayer corners in the 1st cycle and the preschool classrooms, or the pilgrimages that the 2nd and 3rd cycles made to Fatima or to the Convent of St. Dominic – the Candlelight Procession on October 13 was perhaps the most visible sign of the desire of the entire school community to walk together and turn towards God. We had the grace of walking to Jerónimos alongside Sister Elizabeth and Sister Marie, who arrived in Portugal that same day. Their presence reinforced our certainty that we are beginning another school year, continuing the mission that the Lord has entrusted to them.



EDUCATION AND FAMILY

POR CASINHA DE NOSSA SENHORA

Back to Daycare

September brings the charm of new beginnings. After a summer full of discoveries and rest, we return to daycare with open hearts and the joy of welcoming, once again, every child and every family that is part of this community.

We know that the first few days can be intense. For children, everything is new: the people, the spaces, the sounds, the smells. For families, the daily separation is an exercise in trust. And for the Casinha team, it is a time when we put the essence of our mission into practice: welcoming with love, patience, and faith in the process. This is how, little by little, we build the bond and security they need to grow.

This will also be a year of external changes. The expansion of the daycare center will bring some adaptations, new spaces, and a different dynamic to our daily lives. We appreciate the families' understanding and see this phase as a sign of growth. It is a change that we welcome with humility and hope, confident that everything contributes to the good of this community.



FAMILIES WITH SOUL

POR CENTRO SAGRADA FAMÍLIA



8th Families with Soul Run/Walk

On September 21, Jamor Urban Park was once again the setting for a moment of sharing and solidarity. For the eighth consecutive year, the Families with Soul Run/Walk brought together families, employees, and friends on a morning marked by color, energy, and the spirit of community that characterizes this event.

More than just a sporting activity, this initiative symbolizes the power of unity around a common cause. Whether running or walking, each participant contributed to a greater goal: supporting the Famílias com Alma project. The fundraising and goods collection campaign associated with this event has a significant impact on the work carried out daily and on the lives of those most in need, reinforcing the collective commitment to a more just and supportive society.

This edition saw the registration of more than 300 people and the support of 20 partner entities, whose collaboration was essential to make the event possible.

The success of yet another edition reinforces that when people unite around a common purpose, memorable moments are created and significant changes are generated. It is in this spirit of unity, commitment, and partnership that we continue our mission to support, inspire, and make a difference.

