

NEWSLETTER



Fundação das Irmãs Dominicanas
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WE PARTICIPATE AND WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS THE MISSION

The Irish Dominican Sisters Social Welfare Foundation, through its centers (Bom Sucesso School, Sagrada Família Center, and Casinha Nossa Senhora), wishes all readers a Holy and Merry Christmas, filled with joy, peace, and hope.

- What an unforgettable pilgrimage - A group of 30 collaborators visited Rome for the Jubilee of Education. In St. Peter's Square, Pope Leo stated that "Education is an Act of Love." The team passed through three Holy Doors, reinforcing their commitments to individual and community conversion.

- How wonderful were the Christmas celebrations held in our community, with all employees and volunteers committed to bringing joy to our students and many families, including the most vulnerable.

- What a compelling reflection - Pope Leo XIV's first Apostolic Exhortation - Dilexi Te on love for the poor, completing a book begun by Pope Francis. At the end, he says, "Whether through your work, your commitment to changing unjust social structures, or through that simple, very personal and close gesture of help, it will be possible for the poor to feel that Jesus' words are meant for them: 'I have loved you.'"



JOÃO SALES LUÍS

Presidente do Conselho de Administração

NEWSLETTER



D E I T A S

Blessed Obedience
and Compassionate Love

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Today's liturgy, December 20, invites us to explore the story of the Annunciation. Mary's life would change forever with the angel's visit, when God burst into her life and completely disrupted the plans she and Joseph were making for their married life. It is no wonder that Mary was perplexed, confused, and questioning, just as we are when we experience God bursting into our lives. We have our plans, but like Mary, when God bursts into our lives to bring something new, all plans are changed. Like Mary, we may be confused and afraid, and it may take a long time to reach a point of resignation and acceptance of what God wants from us. These are the stories of the Annunciation in our lives too, when God wants to do something new. Is there a story of the Annunciation happening in my life right now? Is there some aspect of my life where God may want to speak to me?

If we feel that nothing is happening, that God would not enter our lives, then perhaps we need to look at areas or issues where we are confused or questioning. Mary's "Yes," her "Fiat," was to cooperate with God in what he wanted to do. She was the "earth" open to receive the Savior. We too are waiting, opening ourselves so that Christ may be born again in us. We wait as individuals, as a community, while God breaks into history, into our world, where there is war, violence, hunger, greed, and corruption. Waiting can be difficult. We live in a world of instant gratification and communication. Waiting reminds us that we are not in control, but that God is at work.

As we stay awake and enter into the ordinary things of life, we discover God's intervention as transforming grace. Let us be open and aware of this time of transforming grace, when God will do something new in us, in our world, this Christmas.

SISTER MARIE

**Congregação das
Religiosas Dominicanas Irlandesas**

NEWSLETTER



F.O.S.R.D.I.

Ordem dos Irmãos do Santíssimo Rosário
Ordem dos Irmãos do Santíssimo Rosário

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We are coming to the end of the Jubilee Year of Hope. Christmas is a time of hope: the birth of the Messiah was eagerly awaited for centuries, and today, filled with hope, we too need and await Jesus to come into our lives, our history, our world—so disfigured by so many wars, divisions, poverty, injustices... But with faith and hope—two secret and powerful weapons (as appears in the script for this year's CBS Christmas party)—we trust that Love, Joy, and Life will ultimately prevail!



FREI JOSÉ NUNES O.P

Capelão F.O.S.R.D.I.



PASTORAL WORK WITH DOMINICAN SPIRITUALITY

POR COLÉGIO DO BOM SUCESSO

This year, the Christmas Party at Colégio do Bom Sucesso was a “Journey” filled with emotions, memories, and discoveries. Throughout the presentation, students, families, teachers, staff, and Sisters Marie and Catherine embarked together on a symbolic cruise that crossed places, times, and feelings, reminding us that Christmas is, above all, a journey we take together.

Each scene was a special moment of this journey: led by the “fisherman” (Friar Zé NUNES) and with the commitment of all the students, there was enthusiasm, challenges, and encounters, always guided by joy and creativity. On stage, with the help of beautiful images, light and sound, and choreography danced by the students, the message of God's love, who became Man and was born humbly in Bethlehem, was brought to life.

The “journey” also took us to the essence of Christmas, the importance of others, of sharing, of hope, and of welcoming. As in any meaningful journey, we realized that we do not walk alone and that the meaning of our path gains strength when it is lived in community.

It was a celebration full of light, color, and meaning, which will remain in everyone's memory as another beautiful stage in the journey that Colégio do Bom Sucesso travels every day. May this Journey continue, with the same spirit, throughout the coming new year.





EDUCATION AND FAMILY

POR CASINHA DE NOSSA SENHORA

Give to receive.

At this time of year, it is important to value the fellowship and affection experienced rather than the gifts shared. The presence of family members, the sharing of family values and traditions, which may vary according to the religious beliefs of others, do not neglect the possibility of creating new family traditions based on respect and acceptance of different ways of celebrating the Christmas season. It involves sharing hugs, stories, old memories, and food, sitting together in a warm and happy atmosphere. It is therefore important that children understand the reason for this gathering, which depends solely on the adults around them. The routines practiced by groups at school, at home, on vacation, etc., are fundamental in establishing relationships where sharing is key. This should be constantly encouraged in all these contexts and can take the form of a family meal, reading a book before bedtime, recounting the events of the day, or even a little hug. These can represent enormous moments of sharing, which the child will retain and replicate later in other contexts.

In this way, children will understand the concept of sharing experienced in moments of togetherness and the impact it has on themselves and others. Giving and receiving is, therefore, about the sharing we do with others.

We wish you a wonderful season of sharing with your loved ones and a Merry Christmas.





FAMILIES WITH SOUL

POR CENTRO SAGRADA FAMÍLIA



Christmas from Families to Families

We often say that Christmas is about family and togetherness... but the truth is that many of our users, for various reasons, do not attach this meaning to it. Or, when they do, they end up being overcome by less positive feelings, because their Christmas does not live up to these expectations.

At this time of year, and in the various initiatives we promote—such as the “Coffee with Principle” sessions, the delivery of “From Families to Families” Christmas hampers and gifts, and our Christmas Party—we reflect precisely on this: Christmas does not have to be the same for everyone. The fact that you don't have your family around or that you don't have children, to whom the great magic of Christmas is often attributed, does not mean a less happy Christmas. Rather, it means an opportunity to give it new meaning.

For some, this new meaning may come through volunteering, helping those in the same situation or even in more difficult circumstances. For others, simply participating in our initiatives is enough to bring comfort and a sense of belonging.

This season is another opportunity to look around us and realize what we can still give to others. In this way, it is possible to redefine Christmas and restore its magic, even if it is different from that of other times.

At our center, that is what we strive to do: provide moments of sharing and togetherness, seeking to be a safe and welcoming haven for each of our users. We do not pretend to replace the family, but we seek to make them feel a little of that comfort in every hug, every gift, and every presence in the moments we prepare for everyone.

