

NEWSLETTER



Fundação Obra Social
das Religiosas Dominicanas Irlandesas

WE PARTICIPATE AND WALK TOGETHER TOWARDS THE MISSION

The Foundation of the Irish Dominican Sisters' Social Work, through its centres (Colégio do Bom Sucesso, Centro Sagrada Família and Casinha Nossa Senhora), wishes all our readers a happy summer holiday filled with Joy, Peace and Hope. A few highlights:

- On 16 July, our annual Mass was celebrated with all staff at the Convento do Bom Sucesso. The celebration was presided over by our Dominican chaplain, Friar José Nunes, and included inspiring reflections from Sister Elizabeth, Prioress of the Congregation, and Sister Marie. During the celebration, we recognised all employees who have completed 25 years of service and paid a special tribute to Dr Ana Cristina, marking her 25 years as Head of School at Colégio do Bom Sucesso. It was a joyful occasion of thanksgiving and a renewal of our commitment to our shared mission.
- All staff members received a copy of Pope Francis' book Magnificent Humanity. In it, the Pope reminds us that the humanity created by God stands before a decisive choice: to raise a new Tower of Babel, marked by disorder and division, or to build the city where God and humanity dwell together.
- We officially inaugurated the expansion of the nurseries at Centro Sagrada Família and Casinha Nossa Senhora, in the presence of Dr Isaltino Moraes, Mayor of Oeiras, and Dr Clara Marques Mendes, Secretary of State for Social Action. From September, 64 additional children will be welcomed through the Creche Feliz programme. Following a complex process supported by Portugal's Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR) funds, we are now beginning a new chapter with a larger, more connected community.

JOÃO SALES LUÍS

Presidente do Conselho de Administração

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On Thursday, 16 July, we gathered in the chapel of the Convento do Bom Sucesso to celebrate the Eucharist in thanksgiving for all that has been achieved throughout the 33-year journey of the Foundation.

With the completion of three new classrooms, we gave thanks that Casinha Nossa Senhora Day Care Centre will now be able to welcome 36 additional infants. We also celebrated the refurbishment and expansion of Centro Sagrada Família in Algés, which will enable the Centre to welcome 28 more children from September onwards.

The most significant moment of the celebration was the tribute to Ana Cristina Mariz Fernandes in recognition of her 25 years as Head of Colégio do Bom Sucesso. We wish to acknowledge Ana Cristina's unwavering commitment to education, her determination, her vision for the future, and the positive impact she has had on the lives of so many young people.

The passion, wisdom and leadership she has demonstrated throughout these 25 years of service have guided the School to a high standard of excellence. As we look back on the many innovative initiatives she introduced over the years, we recognise the remarkable contribution she has made in building a genuine spirit of community, rooted in a strong sense of mission, mutual respect and a commitment to Truth, while fostering a culture of trust and integrity.

The relationships she has nurtured with staff, students, families and members of the Foundation's Board of Directors will undoubtedly continue to bear fruit in the lives of everyone who belongs to the Colégio do Bom Sucesso community.

Throughout her years of service, Ana Cristina has faithfully embodied Dominican values and given voice to what lies at the heart of our educational and human mission.

As the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of Cabra, we express our deepest gratitude to Ana Cristina for carrying forward our educational legacy and for helping to proclaim God's liberating Word, so that the relationships broken between God, humanity and creation may be restored.

SISTER MARIE

**Congregação das
Religiosas Dominicanas Irlandesas**

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Around two months ago, Pope Leo XIV published the Encyclical Letter Magnifica Humanitas, highlighting the importance of human dignity at all times and in every place, together with the values that flow from it, such as freedom, respect, peace, and the rights to healthcare, education, work and housing.

For us, this is a meaningful opportunity to recall the presence and ministry of the Sisters in Portugal, who have been true champions of human dignity. Indeed, this remains the guiding principle and inspiration behind all the educational and social outreach carried out by the Foundation of the Irish Dominican Sisters' Social Work (FOSRDI), and continues to inspire everyone who serves within it.



FREI JOSÉ NUNES O.P

Capelão F.O.S.R.D.I.

PASTORAL WORK WITH DOMINICAN SPIRITUALITY

POR COLÉGIO DO BOM SUCESSO

In the light of the Christian faith, we were created through love and for love, called to live in relationship with others, to care for creation, and to help build a more just, fraternal, and supportive world. This is also the mission we inherited from the Sisters who founded our educational community. From them, we have received the identity that shapes us and prepares us for the future.

Within this context, Bom Sucesso embraced the theme "Where We Come From, Where We Are Going", inviting our community to reflect on our journey and the meaning of life, as well as on the importance of our past and our responsibility in shaping the future.

Jesus offers us a clear answer when He says, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." (John 14:6). These words remind us that the purpose of our lives is not simply to achieve academic or professional success, but to grow as individuals, to discover who we are, and to live in love and service towards others.

Jesus is the Way, because He teaches us to live with respect, responsibility, justice, and service. He is the Truth, because He enlightens our choices and helps us distinguish right from wrong, even when the path is challenging. He is the Life, because He invites us to live with hope, joy, and trust, finding meaning in every challenge and every achievement.

Throughout this school year's project, we sought to invite our community on a journey of discovery: to explore our roots, appreciate our history and our faith, and, at the same time, look to the future with hope.

It has been another year in which we have had the opportunity to walk together, aware of where we come from, confident about where we are going, and certain that, by following Jesus, we will find the path that leads to truth, to life, and to the building of a better world.

Next year, the journey will continue, following a Light that never fades.

EDUCATION AND FAMILY

POR CASINHA DE NOSSA SENHORA

Casinha de Nossa Senhora concluded this school year with its first Thanksgiving Mass, celebrated in partnership with and with the active involvement of the children and their families. Together, in a spirit of unity and love, we gave thanks for the many blessings received: the successful completion of another school year, the continuation of the legacy of the Sisters of the Foundation of the Irish Dominican Sisters' Social Work, and the inauguration of new nursery classrooms, which strengthen our mission and commitment to education and service to the community.



FAMÍLIAS COM ALMA

POR CENTRO SAGRADA FAMÍLIA



A Day to Remember.

Some days become part of an institution's history. 20 July was one of those days.

We came together to celebrate the end of another school year, beginning with our first Thanksgiving Mass, a special moment shared with our children, families, staff, partners and friends. It was a time of gratitude, reflection and celebration of everything we achieved together throughout the year.

The presence of our families made this occasion even more meaningful. They are at the heart of our work and are our partners each day in the shared mission of nurturing, educating and supporting every child's development. It was a privilege to celebrate this important milestone together.

The celebration became even more special with the official inauguration of our two new nursery classrooms, an important milestone in the journey of Centro Sagrada Família. These new facilities represent far more than an expansion of our capacity—they reflect our commitment to welcoming more children, supporting more families, and continuing to invest in high-quality early childhood education.

To everyone who joined us and shared this memorable day, we offer our heartfelt thanks. To our families, for the trust they place in us. To our staff, for their dedication and professionalism every day. And to our public authorities, partners and supporters, for their encouragement and belief in our mission.

Together with our community, we continue to grow, guided by the same purpose that has always inspired us: to build a brighter future for our children.

