

## THE SISTERS OF MARY MORNING STAR in SAIGON

We are the Sisters of Maria Stella Matutina, a monastic community desiring to live a missionary and contemplative life in the heart of the Church, in the footsteps of St. John the Beloved Disciple, and of the Blessed Virgin Mary the Morning Star. We are an international community, living in 15 different countries with sisters from 27 different nationalities.

Seven years ago, with the permission of the local bishop, two sisters – one French and one Filipina – established a foundation in Vietnam, in the city of Saigon, close to the pilgrimage sanctuary of our Lady of Fatima in Binh Trieu. Our foundation was launched September 22, 2016 on the feast of the Queenship of Mary. We learned the Vietnamese language in the university and were soon able to welcome young Vietnamese women who were eager to discover and live our life of silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, the search for truth in philosophy and the Word of God, fraternal charity, and manual work. It is both a challenge and a joy for us, living under a communist regime, to help young Christians discover their dignity and freedom as children of God. Today, we have ten young Vietnamese sisters – four who have made their first vows, and six novices, who are all pursuing their monastic formation in Spain and in the Philippines.

Currently, we are seeking to make a foundation in the Lam Dong province, in the central highlands of Vietnam. With the help of many friends and benefactors, we have acquired a property in the countryside, where we hope to build a convent. There, we can fulfil our role in the heart of the Church by prayer, contemplation, and work. In addition, we are trying to develop and improve monastic workshops to support our daily needs. We produce candles, liturgical incense, stick incense, and liqueurs made from the coffee and anise we grow ourselves. We are also in the beginning stages of developing a soap and body cream workshop with the honey and avocados from our land.

Trusting firmly in Divine Providence and in your kindness, we would like to ask for your help in building our convent in the highlands of Vietnam. While we understand that we are living in difficult times, we believe that this will not be an obstacle to God's work. With your generosity and support, we hope to continue our mission of spreading the Kingdom of God through a fervent contemplative life.

Next Sunday, the parish will present a short film about our mission. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your assistance, and we promise to keep you and all your intentions profoundly in our prayer.

Sister Blandine Mentre, prioress of the Sisters of Mary Morning Star in Saigon, Vietnam