

Remembering Sister Agnes Ly Thi Le with Gratitude and Love

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans for you to thrive and not to be harmed, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Friends of the *A Call to Vietnam* Ministry,

Last summer, Sister Agnes Ly Thi Le met with us to plan the content for this annual newsletter, plans full of energy and excitement. With Sister Ly’s accident and death in September*, we come to you instead with a message of gratitude for her life and confidence in God’s guidance for the future.

Sister Ly carried the initial vision for the *A Call to Vietnam* (ACtV) ministry and was the bridge between two cultures and two religious communities who shared a common mission – to work in collaboration to benefit the most marginalized and neglected people in Vietnam, and to strengthen ties of friendship and appreciation between people in both countries. Together with her now-deceased friend and mentor, Sister Kay Burton, SNJM, she researched the need, explored the best way to offer support, identified the benefits for Holy Names Sisters and

others in the U.S., enlisted the involvement of many friends and her beloved Seattle-based Hoan Thien group as well as the involvement of her previous religious community, the Huế-based Lovers of the Holy Cross. She breathed life into what has been a 25-year partnership.



Sister Agnes Ly Thi Le, SNJM(RIP)

Later this year, with love and gratitude, Sister Ly’s ashes will be brought to Vietnam by Sister Kathleen Hilton and received by the LHC community for honor and burial in their cemetery at Duong Son. This is where Sister Ly was

welcomed by the LHC community after she lost her parents during warfare. During this same visit, Sister Kathleen will be able to consult with the LHC leadership about the future of the ACtV ministry, and she can start the previously planned process of preparing that community to lead the English-language learning that they soon will have the potential to continue by themselves.

This year will be a year of discernment as we explore options for the *A Call to Vietnam* ministry. We count on your prayers as well as your financial support which will enable us to continue providing scholarships and



Sisters Kay, Kathleen, Agnes and Mary Annette in Vietnam, July 2016

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supporting programs for poor people and children with developmental and physical challenges — in other words, to continue the vision Sister Ly held and has shared with each of us. God will guide! Through our actions of care and generosity during this year, may Sister Ly's memory be blessed.

Blessings,
Sister Linda Riggers, SNJM,
Community Liaison
with the Sisters of the Holy Names

Sister Kathleen Hilton, SNJM,
English Language Program Coordinator;
Liaison with the Huế LHC Congregation

*The obituary for Sister Agnes Ly Thi Le may be found <https://snjmusontario.org/2024/09/23/le-sister-agnes-ly-thi/>



Cam Lo Children



Lâm Bích Center, Đông Hà

Dear Holy Names Sisters and Benefactors of the A Call to Vietnam program,

On behalf of the Lovers of the Holy Cross Sisters of Huế and the children at Lâm Bích Center in Đông Hà, we sincerely thank the Holy Names Sisters and benefactors who have supported us spiritually and materially over the years. This is a precious gift!

Established in 2000, Lâm Bích Center, Đông Hà currently provides care for 44 children, including five orphans this year. The children range from infants to students in elementary, middle and high school, with some even pursuing university education.

We also support 30 elderly individuals from the community who are alone or unwell. Additionally, the Center has established a cemetery to bury abandoned fetuses from Đồng Hà Hospital.

Dear friends, raising these children is very costly! Moreover, as they reach school age and begin attending outside schools, we face tuition fees and other education-related costs, which are our current challenges.

We pray that God, through the intercession of Our Lady of La Vang, will bestow many blessings upon the Holy Names Sisters and benefactors. We hope A Call to Vietnam will continue to assist Lâm Bích Center, Đông Hà, so that the children may grow in God's love, with the compassion and generous support of all of you!

Sister Maria Bùi Thị Lệ Diễm, Director

SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR OUR BENEFACTORS of A Call to Vietnam: On the first Saturday of every month, a special Mass of Thanksgiving for our benefactors is being said by a Vietnamese priest at the An Lang Mother house chapel of the Sisters, Lovers of the Holy Cross, Huế, Vietnam. And the Sisters of the Holy Names in the United States pray every day for the needs of our benefactors.

Since returning to Huế, Vietnam in 2022 with a Master's in School Administration from Heritage University, my transition from student to school leader has been both challenging and rewarding. Thankfully, after two years, I've grown more accustomed to the role, though I still face challenges.

One of my achievements has been helping children become more familiar with English. As I consider the future, I hope that even after I'm no longer the principal, the children will continue to learn English. With that in mind, I initiated English language professional development for the teachers. I am thrilled to see both children and teachers enjoy saying things properly in English.

Being principal doesn't mean I'm no longer an English Student. Staying fluent in the language remains a top priority for me. I hope to one day lead an English language center. The reason I aspire to this



is because of my journey of learning English which *A Call to Vietnam*, Heritage University, and my life in the U.S.-Ontario Province made possible. I believe my experiences can help many students begin or advance their own English learning journeys.

Sister (My) Dung Nguyen, LHC

Returning to Vietnam in 2022 after earning my Master's in English Language and Literature from Heritage University, I have been fortunate to use what I learned as I assist with the work and mission of my congregation.

Monday to Saturday mornings I work in the congregation office. I also have responsibility for congregational projects requiring English. The remainder of my time is spent teaching English to the children in our congregation's boarding house, tutoring those wanting to improve their communication skills and prepare for English exams, and assisting Sisters preparing to study abroad.



I am happy to witness the daily progress of my students. Their joy increases my motivation to teach and develop my skills so that I can continue to contribute to the mission of our LHC congregation.

I give thanks to God for *A Call to Vietnam*, which helped prepare me to study in the United States. My sincere thanks to the benefactors who have

generously contributed funds to help develop and sustain the program and the Sisters of the Holy Names of the U.S.-Ontario Province, who directly supported me during my years in the United States.

Sister (Kim) Dung Huynh, LHC

The Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary are dedicated to the mission of education and within this mission promote justice and create community. They have heard a call to collaborate with the religious community of the Lovers of the Holy Cross, Huế in Vietnam to:

- Support ministry to children with developmental and physical disabilities, pregnant teens, mountain people, children unable to afford an education,
- Educate young women entering Religious life, particularly in acquisition of English language skills.

Catholic Mothers Association at the Vietnamese Martyrs Parish, Seattle, WA. 1981–2024



Established in the Archdiocese of Seattle in 1981, the goals of the Catholic Mothers Association at the Vietnamese Martyrs Parish are: Sanctifying Oneself - Family - Educating Children - Performing Apostolic Charity Work.

In the early days of the association, Sister Agnes Ly Thi Le invited us to assist with the charity work of the Holy Names Sisters. In response, the association participated in fundraising events and contributed in other ways to apostolic education and charity work.

We are grateful for Sister Ly's updates on the work being

done through *A Call to Vietnam*. The collaboration between the association and the Sisters of the Holy Names has remained strong through many years. Working together to reach out to the less fortunate in our homeland, aligns with the spirit of the association.

In return, the association receives prayers and monthly Masses offered through both the Sisters of the Holy Names and the Lovers of the Holy Cross of Hué. The Sisters pray that God grants peace, health and progress to the association and its members.

Mrs. Nhung Tran & Sister Agnes Ly Thi Le, SNJM

Thank You from Former Scholarship Recipient

Dear Holy Names Sisters and beloved Benefactors of the A Call to Vietnam program,

I give thanks to God and extend my sincere gratitude to the Sisters and benefactors who generously provided financial support for my medical education. You supported me during my internship years through my graduation as a physician.

My professional journey has brought me to three different hospitals:

- Between 2014-2020: I was stationed at Hué Central Hospital in General Medicine.
- From 2020-2023: I was a General Practitioner at Long Khanh Hospital.
- 2023-present: Currently, I am practicing as an Intensive Care and Emergency Doctor at Hoan My Vinh Hospital.

You helped me fulfill my call to the medical field, which has always been my dream. May God, through the intercession of Our Lady of La Vang, bless the Holy Names Sisters and benefactors with abundant grace.

I pledge to use my professional skills to help those in need in the future. I kindly ask for your prayers as I continue my journey ahead.

With love and respect,

Anna Hoàng Thị Huyền, MD

