



Noticias desde la Curia

RELIGIOSAS MISIONERAS DE SANTO DOMINGO



NUMERO 12

AGOSTO 2026

Pope Leo XIV's Prayer Intention for August 2026

For evangelization in the city

"We pray that in large cities, often marked by anonymity and loneliness, we may find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community."

MESSAGE FROM THE prioress GENERAL

To preach grace is to extend mercy,
to forgive as we have been forgiven,
to serve with humility,
and to share the Gospel with joy.

Sr. Mary Jeanet Pintacasi, OP

PRIORESSES' ENCOUNTER CONCLUDES IN GRATITUDE AND COMMUNION



"More than a program of formation, the Encounter was a grace-filled experience of communion and renewal."





The General Council expresses its heartfelt appreciation to all the Prioresses whose generous participation enriched the encounter. Their willingness to listen, share, and journey together made the gathering both meaningful and memorable. It is our hope that the relationships strengthened and the insights gained will continue to bear fruit in their ministry of leadership and in the life of their communities.

The Congregation likewise extends its sincere gratitude to the sisters of the Philippine Province for their warm welcome and gracious hospitality. In a special way, we thank Sr. Divina Aringo, Provincial Prioress, together with the communities of Sta. Catalina Ladies' Residence and Dominican School Manila, for their generous service, careful preparation, and attentive care throughout the encounter.

May the spirit of gratitude, communion, and shared commitment experienced during the *Encuentro de Prioras* continue to strengthen our unity as one Congregation and inspire each Prioress in her ministry of leadership.



Sta. Rita, Pampanga



Villa Escudero



COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE AND RECIPROCAL OBEDIENCE AS ANTIDOTES TO ABUSE

Sor Delfi Moral, O.P.

I would like to share with you some of the ideas from the conferences I gave to prioresses, formation directors, and bursars of the monasteries of Dominican contemplative nuns from across Italy during a study and reflection gathering held from June 16–19 at the Casa di Accoglienza e Spiritualità Il Carmelo, hosted by the Carmelite Fathers.

The purpose of the meeting was to reflect on and discuss the letter that the General Chapter of the Order sent regarding governance in the Order of Preachers, with particular attention to the relationship between the exercise of community governance, reciprocal obedience, and the prevention of abuse. The underlying question was: **What is the relationship between the exercise of authority, obedience, and the prevention of abuse?**

My presentations were entitled "**Community Governance and Reciprocal Obedience as Antidotes to Abuse**," inspired by the motto of the document: *"The community of believers was of one heart and one soul"* (Acts 4:32).

The other speaker was Sr. Tosca, Superior General and psychologist, and a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. Drawing on her experience and professional expertise, she addressed the various forms of abuse from a human and psychological perspective, exploring the relationship between fragility, vulnerability, and abuse.

Following the presentations, the sisters worked in reflection groups, sharing their experiences and discerning together through a series of previously prepared questions.

Below I would like to share some of the central ideas that emerged from my presentations.

1. Balance Between Authority, Obedience, and the Prevention of Abuse

The crisis of abuse—whether abuse of power, conscience, spiritual, or economic abuse—does not arise solely from an excess of authority (authoritarianism), but also from its absence, weakness, or the failure to exercise authority out of fear of conflict. Genuine community governance and reciprocal, circular obedience are among the best safeguards against these distortions.

Questions for Reflection

- **God's will or mine?** When a decision is presented as "God's will," is there room for the sister's discernment, or is God's name used to make the decision unquestionable?
- **Is silence really peace?** When faced with a decision, does silence truly express unanimity, or could it be the result of fear and a culture of passive submission?
- **When confronted with situations that are clearly inappropriate or abusive,** does the community have the courage to call things by their proper name, or does it resort to evasions in order to avoid conflict?



2. Dominican Community and Synodal Governance

The Dominican system of governance is founded on the co-responsibility and equality of all the sisters: "What concerns everyone should be discussed and approved by everyone." Chapters and councils are not merely bureaucratic formalities or bodies that simply ratify decisions

already made; rather, they are spaces where the Holy Spirit can manifest Himself through the voice of every sister. Transparency in sharing information is likewise an act of justice that is essential for authentic participation.

Questions for Reflection

- **Are chapters and councils** truly spaces for dialogue and communal discernment, or do they merely confirm decisions already made by the prioress or by certain "resistance groups"?
- **The circularity of governance.** Do information, responsibility, and the exercise of authority truly circulate among all the sisters, or are they concentrated in the hands of a small group?



3. The Management of Power, Privileges, and Rotation of Offices

Remaining in the same positions for prolonged periods can transform service into a form of possession, giving rise to "personal fiefdoms" or permanent governing elites. Likewise, community resources and opportunities for formation, study, travel, or leadership responsibilities should be distributed according to genuine needs and the common good, avoiding favoritism based on personal sympathies or interests.

Questions for Reflection

- **Is governance becoming a career?** Is there genuine rotation of offices, or do the same individuals continue to occupy successive leadership positions?
- **Infantilism or maturity?** Does community formation help sisters express their opinions freely and assertively, or does it reward passive compliance that avoids raising difficulties?
- **The right to disagree.** When a sister expresses an objective concern or a differing opinion, is she regarded as enriching the community's discernment, or is she viewed as an inconvenience to be isolated?

The interest, participation, openness, and sincerity with which the sisters shared their experiences never ceased to surprise me. In many respects, I have the impression that they are ahead of us.

I was especially impressed by how they have adapted to changing times and contemporary needs, making use of the provision of dispensations whenever necessary and exercising the kind of discernment that enables them to distinguish clearly between what is essential and what is merely circumstantial.

Today's Challenges and Obstacles to Good Governance

St. Dominic responded with creativity and courage to the urgent needs of his own time. Today, in an era marked by profound change, the Dominican system of governance can offer valuable inspiration to the entire Church in addressing rigorism, authoritarianism, and every form of abuse.

In this context, the greatest obstacle to good governance is the tendency to place personal interests above the common good and the shared mission. By contrast, reciprocal obedience and authority exercised responsibly, collaboratively, and in service to the community—lived according to the spirit of Veritas—constitute an authentic Gospel witness and an effective safeguard against every form of abuse.

MYANMAR

THE GIFT OF A NEW VOCATION

Sor Maria Bambina, O.P.

On July 25, Sr. Anna Maria MuMuThein, O.P., made her First Religious Profession during a solemn Eucharistic Celebration at St. Gemma Dominican Church. The Mass was presided over by His Excellency Most Rev. Francis Than Htun, Auxiliary Bishop of Yangon, and concelebrated by seven priests. Our community, together with her family and friends, gathered to celebrate this joyful milestone and to give thanks to God for the gift of her vocation.



In his homily, Bishop Francis Than Htun reflected on the consecrated life as an act of faith, love, and total self-giving to God. He emphasized that a religious vocation is not founded on personal achievements but is a gift from God, realized through God's call and the generous response of the one who receives it. Reflecting on the four pillars of Dominican spirituality, he highlighted prayer as the heart of consecrated life. He encouraged Sr. Anna Maria to grow as an authentic Dominican missionary, bearing witness to the Gospel through prayer, study, apostolic service, and community life.

With grateful hearts, we give thanks to God, whose loving providence continues to guide our Congregation, for the gift of this new vocation. We entrust Sr. Anna Maria to the Lord's loving care and pray that she may remain faithful, joyful, and steadfast as she continues her journey in consecrated life.

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sor Anna Maria MuMuthein, O.P.

"What return can I make to the Lord for all His goodness to me?" (Psalm 116:12)

I offer my deepest gratitude to the Lord for creating me and calling me to follow Him, especially for leading me to become a Dominican and a member of this Congregation, where I have profoundly experienced His mercy and compassion.

I also thank my community for welcoming me with such warmth and love. My community is a precious gift of God's grace, and I sincerely cherish it. Walking together as a community, I experience each day its joys and challenges, forgiveness and reconciliation, unity, and the enduring love and mercy of God. Through our shared life, I have come to know more deeply the love and truth of Jesus Christ.

Despite my own weaknesses and limitations, I place my trust in God and find hope in my Congregation and community, with whom I continue this journey. I pray for the grace to remain faithful and to persevere in the vocation to which God has called me.

May all praise and glory be to the Lord forever!





Juniorado Internacional

Valladolid, España

A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE: LIVING, LEARNING, AND GROWING TOGETHER

The International Juniorate is far more than a time of academic formation or preparation for mission. It is a journey of human, spiritual, and community growth, where each sister learns to be transformed by God through shared life, cultural diversity, and everyday experiences. The following reflections from three junior sisters reveal how this time of grace has strengthened their vocation and renewed their commitment to follow Christ in the spirit of St. Dominic.

Sor Mary (Myanmar)



When I learned that I would be part of the International Juniorate and that I would have to leave my country, I felt nervous. I worried about the language, the new culture, the people, and the unfamiliar place. Everything was new to me, yet at the same time I was eager to discover what lay ahead. Although I initially struggled to express myself in the language, the warm welcome of the sisters made me feel at home from the very beginning. Their kindness, patience, and willingness to teach and support me gave me great confidence. Thanks to them, I gradually learned, adapted, and embraced this new stage of my life.

For me, the International Juniorate has been a place where I have come to experience what it truly means to say, “We are sisters.” It is easy to say that we are sisters, but it is not always easy to live that reality. For me, this has been a real struggle: loving God also means learning to love my neighbor. And before I can love others, I must first learn to love the sisters whom God has placed by my side.

At times, even the things I once did with enthusiasm lose their meaning when selfishness enters my heart. Then many questions arise. Often, I prepare myself to question God or even to pour out my complaints before Him in tears. Yet whenever I come into His presence, I fall silent, and the only words I can say are, “Thank You.”

“One may live in a house of formation, but if one does not allow oneself to be formed, there is no true formation.” These words of our Formation Directress, which I learned in class, have remained deeply engraved in my heart. They remind me that the seven years of formation I have experienced so far have not been solely the work of my Formation Directress. They have also required my own openness—to accept, to welcome, and to allow myself to be transformed by everything I have learned, both in moments of joy and in times of darkness. I know that I must continue this journey of formation each day, with the grace of the Lord, allowing every experience to shape me, transform me, and help me grow.

Sor Virginia Servito (Filipinas)

I remember when our Formation Directress asked me what I expected from the Juniorate. At that moment, I honestly did not know, so I simply replied, “To study the Spanish language.” As time went by, however, I learned so much more—especially through living in a multicultural community and participating in the apostolate. I encountered different situations that challenged my patience and my capacity to love, both in community life and in ministry.

Although our apostolate may seem simple, it has had a profound impact on me. I learned how to build relationships with people outside the community, especially with those who are actively involved in the Church. We sing in different parishes here in Valladolid, and every Saturday we lead *Lectio Divina* and pray the Holy Rosary with the elderly who live near our community. Each time I see them and receive their words of affection and encouragement, I find renewed strength and inspiration to continue serving with love and enthusiasm.



In community life, I have come to appreciate the beauty of our diversity. This diversity can make us stronger if we learn to accept and love one another. At first, this was not easy for me because we all came from different formation programs. As a priest once told us, what matters is not what we do, but who we are. My life is about following God, and to do that, I need to journey with others. It is not about what I receive, but about what I can give to my community. It is not about who is right or wrong, but about practicing acceptance and forgiveness in every situation.

I hope that my experience in the Juniorate will continue to help me grow and bear fruit, enabling me to become a more understanding and service-oriented sister for the communities where I will one day serve. Once again, I am deeply grateful to the Institute and to everyone who has been part of my journey.

Sor Mathilda (Myanmar)



Thanks to this time of formation, I have come to know myself more deeply—as a person, as a consecrated religious, and as a missionary. It has been a journey of grace, but also one of learning. I humbly recognize that, at times, my attitudes reflected immaturity. Yet the Lord, in His infinite patience, has also used my weaknesses to help me grow and mature in my vocation.

These two years will always remain engraved in my heart. Although this stage of my formation is now coming to an end, I am fully aware that true formation never ends. From this point forward, I am called to continue the journey with greater responsibility, allowing myself to be guided by the Holy Spirit and remaining faithful to the Lord, even

when I no longer have a Formation Directress or guide beside me each day to accompany and direct my steps.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for all the sacrifices you have made for us. Behind every act of service, every correction, every word of encouragement, and every thoughtful gesture of care, I have discovered the loving providence of God. There have certainly been difficulties and trials along the way. Yet it was precisely in those moments that I experienced the Lord's loving presence most deeply.

I would also like to thank each of the sisters in the Valladolid community. Although you belong to different generations and have different life stories, I have seen in each of you the same desire to give yourselves generously to the Lord. You have been for me a living witness of fidelity, an inspiring example that I will always treasure as a precious gift in my religious life.



Nuevas Asignaciones

Sor Fatima Nguyen a la Provincia de Filipinas

Sor Jacinta Hoang a la Provincia de Filipinas

Direcciones de Correo Electrónico Actualizadas

Sor Eugenia Ikeda – aikoopjp@ymail.ne.jp

Casa de Matsuyama – catalinamatsuyamacom@outlook.jp



Gozan de la presencia del Padre

Sor Rosario Reyes (EE. UU.)

Hermano de Sor Milagros Elesterio (Guam)

Hermana de Sor Milagros Emralino (Guam)



Sor Rosario Reyes, OP

6 de octubre 1944 – 14 de julio de 2026

81 años de edad

57 años de Vida Religiosa

Sister Rosario was born on October 6, 1944, in San Jacinto, Pangasinan, Philippines, the seventh of eight children of Olympia Lopez and Manuel Reyes. Raised in a deeply Christian family, she nurtured an early desire to dedicate her life completely to God. Responding faithfully to that call, she entered the Religious Missionary Sisters of St. Dominic on April 28, 1966, and professed her First Religious Vows on January 4, 1969. After her Perpetual Profession in 1974, she embraced the missionary vocation with the zeal of St. Dominic, whose spirit of preaching and service became the guiding light of her life.

Her missionary journey first brought her to Taipei, Taiwan, where she began a lifetime of evangelization and education that would span several countries. Whether serving in the Philippines, Taiwan, or the United States, Sister Rosario faithfully proclaimed the Gospel not only through her words but, more importantly, through the witness of her life.

In 1985, she was assigned to Alice, Texas, a place she affectionately called her “first love.” There she touched countless lives as a classroom teacher, school principal, Religious Education Coordinator, diocesan Religious Coordinator, and local prioress. Her ministry later took her to Beeville, Santa Paula, California, Oxnard, and the rural communities of the Diocese of Alice, where she tirelessly brought catechesis, pastoral care, and hope to families often living in remote areas.

Even when health challenges required her return to the Philippines in 2006, Sister Rosario continued to serve with unwavering dedication, adapting her ministry to her strength while never losing her missionary heart. In 2021, she joyfully returned to the United States and became a member of Our Lady of the Rosary Learning Center in Corpus Christi, Texas, where she continued her quiet witness of prayer, presence, and service until the Lord called her home.

A lifelong educator, Sister Rosario believed that teaching was both a profession and a ministry. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Philippine Normal College (1964), a Master of Arts in Education (Curriculum and Instruction) from Michigan State University (1985), and a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas (2005). She generously used these gifts to form not only minds but hearts rooted in faith.

Those who knew Sister Rosario will remember her gentle smile, steadfast faith, humility, and compassionate heart. She lived the words of the prophet Micah, walking humbly with God, acting justly, and loving mercy. Her life reflected the Dominican charism of preaching through truth, charity, and joyful service.

As we commend Sister Rosario to God’s eternal embrace, we rejoice in the promise of the Resurrection. After decades of faithfully proclaiming the Gospel and serving God’s people with love and humility, may she now receive the crown prepared by her Beloved and hear the words she lived her entire life to fulfill: “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.