



Noticias desde la Curia

RELIGIOSAS MISIONERAS DE SANTO DOMINGO



NUMERO 1

SEPTEMBER 2026

Prayer Intention of Pope Leo XIV
for September 2026

FOR THE CARE OF WATER

*"We pray for a just and sustainable management of water,
a vital resource, so that all may have equal access to it."*

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIORA GENERAL

This month invites us to reflect on the choices we make each day as custodians of Creation. Let us strive to reduce waste, consume with greater responsibility and care for those who suffer most directly the environmental impact. May simplicity and gratitude be our way of life.

WALKING TOGETHER IN GRATITUDE, COMMUNION AND MISSION



After the Prioresses' Encounter in the Philippines, the Prioress General continued her fraternal visit to the communities that she had not been able to visit during her previous visit to the Philippines last December.

She shared a message centered on gratitude, communion, vocation, and mission, encouraging the sisters to continue walking together, with Jesus at the center of their lives and mission.

1. **Gratitude for Prayer and Support.** The Prioress General expressed her gratitude to all the sisters for their prayers. She shared that she could truly feel their prayers and support, especially now that the new General Council is beginning its service. Although many of its members are new to their responsibilities, she trusts that the Lord is guiding them and showing them the way forward. She asked the sisters to continue accompanying the Council with their prayers.
2. **Gratitude to the Older Sisters.** She highlighted the importance of being grateful to the sisters who came before us. When many of us entered the Institute, the communities, apostolates, and structures were already established. The sisters who preceded us worked and sacrificed greatly to build what we have today.

She expressed her concern for some older sisters who feel that they are no longer useful or have become a burden to the community. She reminded them that our vocation and mission continue until death. Even when sisters are no longer able to participate actively in the apostolate, their prayer, presence, and stability remain a valuable contribution.



Comunidad de "Our Lady of the Rosary Nursing Home" San Juan City

The younger sisters, especially those who are very busy with their apostolates, should be attentive to the older sisters and help them feel valued. Every sister should feel that she continues to be an important part of the community.

3. **Prayer and Shared Responsibility.** Prayer is essential to community life. It is like the “blood” that gives life to the community. The Prioress General also reminded the sisters that positions of responsibility are not privileges that make some sisters untouchable. Leadership is service.

Likewise, the apostolate belongs to the whole community. Each sister should contribute according to her abilities. No sister should feel useless or less important. Each one has a role to play in the mission.

4. **Rediscovering the Joy of Our Vocation.** The demands of apostolic work can sometimes leave the sisters feeling tired and overwhelmed.

The Prioress General encouraged everyone to pause from time to time and ask themselves: “Am I happy in my vocation? Am I allowing my vocation to grow?” Even when we experience difficulties or disagreements in the community, we should remember that Christ is with us and that God accompanies us at every moment.

In the spirit of our Chapter motto, “Walking Together,” we must begin with ourselves. God has called us not for a limited time, but until death. Therefore, we are invited to renew our enthusiasm each day and to continue growing faithfully in our vocation.

5. **Caring for Sisters Who Are Suffering.** The Prioress General called for greater sensitivity toward sisters who are experiencing difficulties. Some keep their problems to themselves until the burden becomes too heavy. Communities need to learn to notice, approach, listen to, and accompany sisters who are suffering, without judging them.

We need to create communities where sisters feel free to trust one another and share their difficulties. When necessary, we should also positively value seeking professional or psychological help.



Comunidad de “Dominican College”
San Juan City



Comunidad de “Dominican School” Manila



Comunidad de “Dominican School” Cebu



Comunidad de “St. Catherine’s College”
Carcar City, Cebu

6. Keeping Our Eyes Fixed on Jesus.

Community life is not always easy because we have different personalities, preferences, and ways of doing things. At times, we may even feel disappointed by the behavior of another sister.

The Prioress General invited us to ask ourselves: “Why am I here? For whom did I enter religious life: for Jesus or for this sister?” Our model is Jesus. We can be inspired by the good example of our sisters, but we must never lose sight of Christ as the center of our vocation. When we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, it becomes easier to accept, love, understand, forgive, and be patient with one another.

7. Strengthening the Missionary Spirit.

The Prioress General also shared some initiatives to strengthen communion and the missionary spirit of the Congregation. International gatherings and opportunities to visit communities in other countries can help the sisters to know one another better and appreciate the diversity of the Congregation.

Sisters who wish to have a missionary experience may have the opportunity to spend some time in another community, following the appropriate protocols and ensuring that this experience does not interfere with their regular apostolate. It is not a matter of tourism, but an experience of formation and communion.

A Fraternal Exchange

Toward the end of the reflection, the sisters were given the opportunity to express their own thoughts, positive experiences, difficulties, concerns, and suggestions that could help strengthen the life and mission of the Congregation. They responded wholeheartedly, sharing openly and sincerely from their own experiences. This mutual exchange created a meaningful space for listening, understanding, and deeper communion.

Although the visit was brief, the sisters expressed their deep gratitude for the opportunity to be with the Prioress General, to share with her, and to experience her closeness and presence among them. The simple moments of conversation and encounter



became precious memories for the communities.

Walking Together

The fraternal visits were a beautiful continuation of the spirit of “Walking Together.” They reminded the sisters that, although we belong to different communities and carry out various ministries, we are one family, called to support one another and to serve the mission with one heart and one mind, keeping Jesus at the center.



VOCATIONAL JOURNEYS: NEW BEGINNINGS AND RENEWED “YES”

TAIWAN

JOYFULLY WELCOMING OUR FIRST ASPIRANT IN THE EAST TIMOR MISSION

Sor Susan Predas, O.P.

On August 22, 2026, the East Timor Mission joyfully welcomed its first aspirant, Amira Martins, from the town of Same. She was formally accepted by Sr. Jean Bergado, OP, Mission Coordinator, marking a significant milestone in the young mission of the Religious Missionaries of St. Dominic in Timor-Leste.

Amira is 20 years old and comes from a big and devout Catholic family of nine siblings. After graduating from high school, she prayerfully decided to take the first step toward discerning her vocation with the Sisters.

As an aspirant, Amira will live with and participate in the life of the community. She will gradually become familiar with our Dominican way of life through community activities, the recitation of the Rosary, the Liturgy of the Hours, daily Mass, prayer, and service. This time of accompaniment will allow her to deepen her relationship with Christ and discover more clearly God’s call in her life.

Amira will also begin her university studies in the 2027–2028 school year, while continuing her vocational discernment and formation.

Her presence is a source of joy, hope, and gratitude for the East Timor Mission. We entrust her journey to God and pray that, like Mary, she may continue to listen with an open heart and courageously respond to God’s call.



KOREA

On August 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration, at ten in the morning, we celebrated, by the grace of the Lord and under the light of Truth, the admission ceremony of our aspirant, Catarina Song-i Song. We give thanks to God for the blessing of being able to welcome a new sister this year, just as we did last year.



The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Juan, O.P., and the sisters from the different communities gathered to share, in true fraternal joy, this moment of grace. Her mother and younger brother also attended the ceremony to pray for her new beginning in the community of God. After Mass, we shared the joy of our encounter with words of welcome and refreshments. We also prayed that God may continue to send new vocations, so that the legacy of preaching entrusted to us by St. Dominic may endure through us.

The admission of this new sister also gave each of us an opportunity to reflect on our own vocation and the vows we have received. Through us, who are unworthy, the Lord continues to carry out the mission entrusted to the Church and to illuminate the world with the light of Christ.

We ask you to pray for Sister Catarina, who is taking her first steps in religious life in God, that she may be guided by the Word, sustained by the community, and walk steadfastly along the path of eternal love.



VIETNAM

EN CAMINO VOCACIONAL EN LA VIDA RELIGIOSA

From Postulancy to the Novitiate

On August 5, 2026, during our morning prayer at the Le Van Sy Community, Chi Maria Elizabeth Lê Thị Dung and Chi Teresa Nguyễn Thị Phương Thi received the **áo dài**, as a sign of their admission to the Novitiate in Vietnam. This moment marks a deeper commitment to following Jesus in religious life. Their desire to continue responding to God's call has grown stronger and more firmly established.

With renewed faith, joy, and courage, they now begin this new stage of their formation. May the Lord continue to guide, strengthen, and accompany them as they grow in love, fidelity, and dedication to their vocation. May He grant them the grace to remain faithful to His call and to embrace with joy each day of this journey with Him.



First Religious Profession

On August 7, 2026, Sister Benedicta Ngô Thị Hương made her **First Religious Profession** in our chapel at the Go Vap Novitiate. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Phaolô Nguyễn Minh Tuấn, Vicar of the Dominican Fathers in Vietnam.

It was a solemn celebration, enriched by the beautiful singing of the sisters of the community, and attended by members of other religious congregations living near our house. The celebration was also made more special by the presence of her parents, relatives, and friends, who wished to accompany her on this significant day and share in her joy.

After Holy Mass, we had a small celebration in our courtyard.

Recalling this special day, Sister Benedicta wished to express her deep gratitude:

"First of all, I give heartfelt thanks to God for calling me to live the religious life. On this special day of my First Profession, August 7, 2026, I have received many blessings and experienced great joy.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our Congregation, the Missionaries of St. Dominic, for giving me the opportunity to share religious life with the sisters and for accepting me as one of its members, as a daughter and a sister. The communities in Vietnam have cared for and accompanied me, and through them I have been able to grow in faith and in my religious life.

I also give heartfelt thanks to my Formator and to all the sisters who have accompanied me throughout the different stages of my formation, for their teachings, prayers, presence, and, above all, their love. They have all helped me to become a true Religious Missionary of St. Dominic."



We give thanks to the Lord for the gift of her vocation and entrust her to our prayers, asking that she may remain faithful to the promises she has made. May the Lord continue to guide, strengthen, and bless her as she faithfully follows Jesus and grows in love, self-giving, and fidelity to religious life.

Sor Filomena Villacruzada. O.P.





Juniorado Internacional

Valladolid, España

A RENEWED “YES” WITH LOVE AND HOPE

With great joy and gratitude, our Valladolid and Juniorate community celebrated the renewal of the vows of two of our religious sisters. It was a special moment to give thanks to God for their lives, their vocation, and their generous self-giving.



“The day on which I renew my vows is a very special and sacred day for me. Once again, as I pronounce my ‘yes’ before the Lord, I experience more deeply the gift of the vocation that God, in His infinite love, has given me. I want to thank Him because He has called me, chosen me, and has always walked with me, with patience and fidelity, throughout my journey of consecration.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Congregation, especially to the Valladolid community and the Juniorate formators, for welcoming me with affection, for their prayers and accompaniment, and for providing me with the necessary conditions to live my vocation and follow the Lord through the Congregation. Their love and support are a precious gift that helps me to walk with greater confidence on my journey of consecration.

On this day of grace, I wish to continue entrusting my vocation to the Lord. May He continue to guide and sustain me and grant me the fidelity I need to live my ‘yes’ more fully each day and to make

my entire life an act of thanksgiving for His infinite love.” — *Sr. Pía*

“I will sing forever of the mercies of the Lord.” (Psalm 89:2)



“Today, my heart overflows with a sacred awe and infinite joy. To renew my religious vows, to say once again, ‘Here I am,’ is to do so with the certainty of one who is deeply loved. I thank God for His patience and for always being with me. Although many times I have felt alone, struggling in the darkness and enduring many nights without light, God’s love has always been present.



I also give thanks to the community for its support and for the vocation that gives meaning to my life. May this new ‘yes’ be an echo of my first ‘yes’: humble, joyful, and completely surrendered into the hands of God.” — *Sr. Bona*

CHINA CONTINENTAL

ANNUAL RETREAT: RENEWED IN FAITH AND MISSION

Sor Edith Jia, O.P.

From August 16 to 22, 2026, the religious sisters of the Mainland China group successfully held their annual retreat at the Novitiate of Our Lady of the Rosary in Lingdong. The retreat was led by Fr. Martin Bai, from the Province of the Holy Rosary of the Order of Preachers.

The central theme of the retreat was: **“Understanding Women in the Bible to Recognize the Importance of the Female Role in the Evangelizing Mission of Today.”**

During these days, Fr. Martin Bai guided the sisters in a profound reflection on the journeys of faith and the vital strength of the women portrayed in Sacred Scripture. Through listening, prayer, and reflection, the sisters not only rediscovered the unique role of women in the history of salvation, but also deepened their appreciation of the importance of the feminine dimension in evangelization today.

All the sisters expressed their gratitude for this enriching experience, sharing that they had received abundant spiritual fruits and experienced a profound spiritual renewal.

At the conclusion of the retreat, Fr. Martin Bai imparted a special blessing to each of the sisters. With affection, he wished that, in their consecrated life, they would continue to trust in God’s grace and strength, serve Him with enthusiasm, and dedicate themselves ever more faithfully to the people entrusted to their care.



ROMA



Agua Viva

Tiempo de la Creación 2026

INMERSIÓN EN EL AGUA VIVA

Ezequiel 47:9, 12

The **Season of Creation**, celebrated from **September 1 to October 4**, is an ecumenical time of prayer, reflection, and action to renew our commitment to caring for our Common Home.

“Environmental justice [...] can no longer be considered an abstract concept or a distant goal. It is an urgent necessity that involves much more than simply protecting the environment. It is a question of justice: social, economic, and human. For believers, it is also a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed.” **Pope Leo XIV**

This year, the theme is “**Living Water,**” with the symbol “**Immersion in Living Water,**” inspired by the vision of the prophet Ezekiel: “*Wherever the river flows, every living creature that swarms shall live*” (Ez 47:9).

Water is a source of life and a fundamental human right. Yet the growing water crisis disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, future generations, and all of creation. Pollution of rivers, droughts and floods, desertification, the overexploitation of groundwater, water scarcity, and unequal access to water are among the great challenges of our time.

This crisis also has serious social and human consequences. It threatens food security, affects health, causes displacement and migration, and can lead to conflict over access to this essential resource.

In the face of this reality, we are called to recognize that **water is God’s gift, entrusted to us to protect and share justly**. As collaborators with the Creator, our relationship with creation cannot be based on domination, but on **responsibility, respect, and mutual care**. All creation forms an interconnected community of life.

The vision of Ezekiel is, however, also a **vision of hope**. The water flowing from the temple transforms everything it touches and makes life flourish. In the same way, we are called to be instruments of God so that his grace, justice, and mercy may flow into our world.

Prayer: Living Water

(Adapted from the Prayer for Creation 2026)

Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters in the beginning,
we gather as part of your community of all creation,
thirsting for your grace.

Awaken in us the call to care for the waters:
to protect watersheds,
to defend water rights,
and to honor the dignity of those who thirst.

May your Word be a spring within us,
flowing forth for the healing of the nations.

May God our Father,
who brought water from the rock, sustain us in the desert.

May Christ our Lord, who is the **Living Water**,
renew us for the work of restoration.

And may the Holy Spirit
carry us in the currents of grace,
until **justice flows like the waters**
and **righteousness like a never-failing stream**. Amen.

Immersed in Living Water, may we allow God’s grace to flow through us and, through us, into all creation.

Sor Ma. Martha Sasaki, O.P.

Nuevas Asignaciones

Sor Bernardita Rivera a la Provincia de Taiwan

Sor Rosa a la Provincia de España

Nueva Priora

**Sor Ines Martin – Comunidad de Colegio “Santísimo Rosario”
Avila, España**



Gozan de la presencia del Padre

Sor Victoria David (Filipinas)

Hermano de Sor Althea Paalencia (Filipinas)



Sor Victoria David, OP

28 de octubre 1924 – 15 de agosto de 2026

101 años de edad

70 años de Vida Religiosa

Born on October 28, 1924, to Castor P. David and Susana V. Ocampo, she was baptized and confirmed on November 1, 1924. She pursued her education at Assumption Academy, where she completed her A.B. in Secretarial Studies, and at Sta. Isabel College, Manila, where she earned her BS Elementary Education.

Responding generously to God's call, she entered postulancy in May 1950 and began her Novitiate on April 5, 1953. It was during this time that she received the religious name Sr. Victoria de Maria David y Ocampo, OP. She made her First Profession on May 24, 1956, and pronounced her Perpetual Vows on May 24, 1959, giving herself more fully to God and to the service of His people.

Her religious life was characterized by a remarkable willingness to serve wherever she was needed. She began her ministry as a classroom teacher and treasurer in San Jacinto. In 1958, she was transferred to Dominican College, San Juan, where she served as treasurer until 1969. She was then appointed Superior in Bamban, Tarlac from 1969 to 1972.

In 1973, Sr. Victoria assumed the responsibility of Provincial Treasurer, a service she faithfully carried out until 1979. After completing her term, she served as Procurator and School Treasurer at Dominican School, Manila from 1979 to 1981. She then spent a year as Assistant Procurator in Kaoshiung, followed by her service as Procurator at Sta. Rita from 1982 to 1983.

Her years of ministry continued in various communities and institutions: as Procurator and School Treasurer at Dominican School, Dagupan from 1983 to 1986; Procurator at St. Mary's Dominican School, San Manuel, Pangasinan for three months; in charge of the canteen at Dominican Academy, Unisan for three months; and Procurator at Dominican College, San Juan from 1988 to 1990. From 1991 to 1997, she again served as Procurator at Sta. Rita.

Beginning in 1998, she devoted herself to the service of the community through the canteen ministry. She was in charge of the canteen at Dominican College, San Juan from 1998 to 2008, and then continued this ministry at Dominican School, Sta. Rita from 2008 to 2012.

Many sisters remember Sr. Victoria not only for the positions she held but for the simple and practical ways through which she expressed her love. She was known as an excellent cook and a skilled seamstress. For many sisters, she was the one who lovingly made their religious habits. Her hands, gifted with patience and care, served generations of sisters through her sewing and cooking.

Students and teachers who came to the canteen also remember her generosity. She had a way of giving more than what was expected, making people feel welcome and cared for. Behind her sometimes impatient exterior was a heart that genuinely cared for others. Her firmness often came from concern, responsibility, and a desire to do what was right.

Sr. Victoria also had a delightful sense of humor. She enjoyed drinking Coke, and those who knew her well surely have their own fond memories of her wit, laughter, and the little moments that made community life lighter.

In the later years of her life, she was entrusted to the Our Lady of the Rosary Nursing Home from 2012 until her death. Even as age gradually weakened her body and eventually left her bedridden, her spirit remained steadfast. She continued to be faithful to prayer, turning to God with the same trust that had sustained her throughout her religious vocation.

On August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sr. Victoria returned to the Lord. It is fitting that one who had given her life to God should be called home on a feast celebrating Mary's entrance into heavenly glory. Her earthly journey came to its close, but the fruits of her years of service remain in the lives of the many sisters, students, teachers, and communities she touched.

Sr. Victoria's life reminds us that holiness is often found in the ordinary: in a meal prepared with love, a habit carefully sewn, a responsibility faithfully fulfilled, a word of encouragement, a prayer quietly offered, and a heart that continues to serve even when strength is gone.

We give thanks to God for the gift of Sr. Victoria—for her years of consecrated life, her faithful service, her practical generosity, her humor, her loving care, and her persevering prayer.

May she now rest in the loving embrace of the God whom she served so faithfully. May Mary, whose Assumption we celebrate on the day of her passing, welcome her into the fullness of eternal life.