**THE VIETNAMESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN WA**
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## A 50-YEAR JOURNEY WITH MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, TO A FOREIGN LAND 1975-2025

"Over 2000 years ago, Jesus also became a refugee on earth in the Mystery of the Incarnation in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Mother Mary accompanied her Son until His last breath on Calvary, and finally, when she died, God took both her Soul and Body up to Heaven, where her Son reigns forever and ever."

Looking at the historical timeline of Vietnam, there has also been a wave of migration through each period. Many generations have left their ancestral homeland in search of a better place to settle down. The destiny of the nation is intertwined with the destiny of its people, no matter where they go. Vietnam remains the place of their roots, the sweet starfruit cluster, and the essence of the rice fields are forever embedded in their hearts.

The year 2025 marks a historic milestone for Overseas Vietnamese, commemorating 50 years of the journey of Vietnamese people in search of freedom after the events of April 30, 1975. Reflecting on this, we are a group of Christians who feel blessed to have Mother Mary always accompanying us from the past to the present, and through all the ups and downs of our country's destiny and into the future.

Sitting here, I find myself reminiscing about the journey of the Vietnamese people abroad, especially the Christians who have always had Mother Mary accompanying them on the many roads of each period. Each road has challenged/presented us with countless hardships, every step has marked drops of sweat and tears, every historical event has painfully imprinted suffering, but in the ups and downs of that history, we have so many courageous witnesses who have died for the Faith, for the Catholic Faith, and today our Vietnamese Church has 117 Martyr Saints.

There have been times when it seemed that we Christians have been wiped out, excluded, and eliminated throughout the history of the country. But when the seed of faith has once fallen to the ground, it still grows and rises in any difficult and challenging circumstances. That seed of faith has flowed in the blood of the Martyrs, and in every individual Christian Vietnamese, young and old, who has always wholeheartedly dedicated themselves to their belief in the Risen One, who is Jesus Christ, the King of the universe, our God, and also the Beloved Son of Mother Mary, who once migrated as a refugee from the heights of heaven.

When faith is embedded in every historical phase, for every Christian child of the Land of Vietnam, the figure of Mother Mary is never separate from the destiny of the country and of each individual. The event of the Mother appearing at Lavang speaks of how much the Mother loves the Vietnamese people, and that appearance is an act that expresses the Mother's constant companionship, comfort, and healing of all physical and spiritual wounds of her children. The Mother always observes every change in the destiny of Vietnam to the point that it pains her heart, like arrows piercing through her heart.

Mother does not stand high above to look down and see her children suffering, dying for the Faith, but Mother has stepped down to follow each step with her children. For the tears, the drops of blood that her children are enduring, Mother also weeps with her children.

When the children of Vietnam are at peace, Mother is happy, Mother is blissful. When the children of Vietnam are arrested and imprisoned, when hatred leads to killing each other, causing suffering to one another, creating division and separation, brothers harming one another, lacking freedom of religion... then Mother Mary is very sorrowful, and in her heart, she longs to comfort and protect her children, like a mother hen shelters and nurtures her chicks under her wings.

April 1975 is a very important milestone in the history of our Vietnam, marking the end of the Republican political regime and the beginning of the Communist political regime. Due to political instability, millions

of people, the citizens of Vietnam left their homeland to seek freedom in other lands by any means necessary, even if it costs them tears, blood, or even death. Many people did not reach the shores of freedom in a third country; they have been buried beneath the sea and in the poisonous forests. Mother Mary has accompanied them, and she felt their pain when she saw her people wandering and dying in foreign lands, dying in every possible way. Her heart ached for the fate of the citizens of Vietnam.

Some lucky people have reached the shores of freedom, they have scattered across various places, settling in many different countries around the world. Their lives since the very beginning have been about finding a livelihood and stabilizing in a foreign land. How many drops of sweat and tears have soaked into each step, each sleep, each word, and action, and they have been determined to become the building blocks for future generations, and they have succeeded. Moreover, they have been very successful in many fields, both in politics, society, education, and religion.

For those who have reached the shores of freedom, could this be a journey of calling, a mission entrusted to them by God, for them to continue to develop their faith, cultivate their lineage, contribute their intellectual abilities, and the cultural customs of the land where they live, to bring glory to the nation of Vietnam on the international stage?

Looking back at 50 years in exile, almost everyone is proud and honoured that the country they are living in has become their second homeland, so they are determined to engage and contribute to the country that has sheltered them; and almost everyone has been able to do this and is prouder than ever to be a Vietnamese person in exile. Do we notice? With every success, every failure, every blessing and hardship, every rise and fall, struggle, and suffering, like waves surrounding us and wanting to drown us, wanting to pull us away from the Christian faith, we remain steadfast in our trust and cling to God, for we always believe that Mother Mary has been watching over and strengthening each step of the children of exile for the past 50 years, and will continue forever.

The Vietnamese Catholic Community Centre in Western Australia, following the historical flow of the Vietnamese diaspora, has also been formed and developed for over 40 years. Thanks to God's grace, through the intercession of Mother Mary, especially through her companionship, along with the prayers of the Vietnamese Martyrs, the Community has also found a spacious place for worship activities, and is a gathering place for all members of God's people, to together with our Mother praise, glorify, honour, and serve God in all places and at all times.

Of course, through these lines of text, it is impossible to fully express and articulate all the hardships and ups and downs that the Community has experienced. Every person, whether living or deceased, is the most vivid testimony and a link connecting us into a Community that we cannot even imagine how it has transformed beautifully and successfully up to this day. People often say: "All beginnings are difficult"; this is very true in the history of our Community, and it is also something that our Community needs to reflect thoughtfully, to pray, and to collectively give thanks for all the grace that God has generously bestowed upon our Vietnamese Catholic Community in Western Australia.

Each person contributes a brick, each person offers a prayer, and each person is a continuation that contributes to the ever-growing Catholic Community of Vietnamese in Western Australia in many aspects. In this spirit, we cannot help but express our gratitude and remember the esteemed Chaplains, the Teachers, the Sisters, and every member of the people of God who have consistently contributed their labour, material resources, and spirit to the Community through various historical phases, from the early days of establishing the Community until today.

It is because of our love for the Community that we see unity, love, a common heart, a common effort, and we hold hands together to move forward to preserve and continue to develop the Community.

Therefore, let us always give thanks to God and together, with one hand holding onto the Mother and the other hand holding onto our brothers and sisters, walk on the path that the Vietnamese Martyrs have paved for us, helping us to move towards the homeland that they are waiting to welcome us into. That is the Homeland of Heaven.

*Written by Fr. Dominic Kim Son Nguyen*
*Chaplain of the Vietnamese Catholic Community in WA*

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VIETNAMESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA (1976 – 2025)

## *The Early Period (1976-1980)*

At the end of 1976, Vietnamese refugees began to set foot in Western Australia in small numbers. From 1977 to 1980, about 10 Catholic families settled in Perth. Together, they numbered about 50 parishioners who regularly attended Sunday Mass and celebrated major feasts at neighbouring parishes around the Graylands Hostel Temporary Accommodation Centre, such as St. Thomas' Church in Claremont or St. Paul's Church in Swanbourne.

With the spirit of rapidly integrating into a new life and sharing a common Christian faith, the Vietnamese faithful at that time quickly gained special attention and support from the local Catholic Church, especially from Archbishop Barry James Hickey, who was then serving as the Director of the Catholic Migrant Centre at CentreCare of the Archdiocese of Perth.

Archbishop Hickey had visited the Vietnamese refugee camps in Southeast Asia in 1980 - 1981 to learn how he could assist Vietnamese refugees as well as new immigrants settling in Western Australia. Accompanying him were Father Patrick Kelly and Father Kevin Flinn of the Columban Order in Rivervale. Father John O'Dwyer, the parish priest of St. Thomas in Claremont, and especially Father Reginald Smith, the parish priest of St. Paul in Swanbourne at that time, had always warmly welcomed all Vietnamese Catholic refugee brothers and sisters to join them and their parishes for Mass. Father Reginald Smith actively helped the Vietnamese Catholic Community in Western Australia to have a place for activities, such as meetings, choir rehearsals, and organizing Masses with a Vietnamese distinction.

Alongside that was the caring assistance and selfless heart for the newly arrived Vietnamese refugee community of Sister Dympna, the Superior of the Loreto Sisters, Sister Carmel, from the Our Lady of the Missions, Sorrento, and from charitable organizations such as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and especially the St Vincent De Paul Society with memorable benefactors like Mr. and Mrs. Gerard and Verona Russell – the President of the St Vincent De Paul Society of Western Australia and Mr. Tony Gardner – in charge of the St Vincent De Paul Society in the Claremont area.

In addition, the Vietnamese refugees of that time surely cannot forget the kind faces of Ms. Leonie Ryan – a staff member of the Catholic Immigration Centre, CentreCare, and Sister De'Salle from Iona Presentation College. They diligently helped Catholic Vietnamese refugee students find and enrol in suitable schools to start their new lives… Thanks to this, the initial Catholic Vietnamese families always had the opportunity to bond with each other, find a living environment that integrated well for both their social life and spiritual and moral well-being.

All the blessings and achievements during those times have been deeply etched in the hearts of the early Vietnamese Catholic refugees with the first Christmas Mass in both English and Vietnamese for the Vietnamese parishioners at the Graylands Hostel's Temporary Centre, celebrated in 1980 by Father Patrick Kelly and some Australian priests. Also attending were Sisters and several representatives of the St Vincent De Paul Society of Western Australia as well as supporters from the Graylands Hostel Temporary Centre.... This marked the inception and formation of the VIETNAMESE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA - VCCWA.

## *The Period of the Establishment (1981-2025)*

Just as seeds are sown into good soil to bear fruit, the presence and spiritual and moral needs of the early Catholic faithful here have gradually grown and strengthened through various stages across both space and time.

In February 1981, Fr. Dominic Ngoc De Nguyen was sponsored by Archbishop Barry James Hickey - in his capacity as the Director of the Catholic Migrant Centre at that time - to move from a refugee camp in Thailand to settle in Perth. In the early months after his arrival, he resided at Graylands Hostel. By April of the same year, he was appointed as the assistant priest of St. Thomas Parish Claremont; he also served as the Chaplain of the Vietnamese Catholic refugee community. The community's Chaplain officially decided to establish the Vietnamese Catholic Community. Through this, the first Representative Board was elected and introduced to the community during the grand celebration honouring the Vietnamese Martyrs in September 1981. *(Fig 1 from the Vietnamese version)*

***The Representative Committee:***

- **1981-1984:** In September 1981, Fr Dominic Ngoc De Nguyen established the first Representative Committee at Claremont Church. The members of the Representative Committee included: Mr. Dang Quang Nguyen, Mr. Dinh Lich Lam, Mr. Trong Phuoc Dinh, Mr. Van Khoat Nguyen, Mr.Van Hong Nguyen, Mr. Van Vuong Dong, Mr. Van Chu Bui, and Ms. Thi Hoi Nguyen . *(Fig 2 -4)*

  In addition to the Executive Committee, there was also an Advisory Board established with the senior members of the Community including Mr. Cu Nghien, Mr. Huy Luc Do, Mr. Van Hinh Tran, and Mr. Van Phuoc Nguyen. In May 1982, the initial Advisory Board of the Community was supplemented with 2 additional members, Mr. Viet Lang Ta and Mr. Van Thinh Tran. In 1984, Monsignor Michael Keating invited several cooperative members including: Mr. Dang Quang Nguyen, Mr. Dinh Lich Lam, Mr. Huynh Giao, and Mr. Ngoc Ngoan Nguyen to join the Board.

- **1984 – 1985,** Mr. Duc Tin Tran was elected as the Head of the Representative Board.
- **1985 – 1986,** Mr. Van Quat Pham held the position of Head of the Representative Office**.**
- **1986 – 1987,** Mr. Dang Quang Nguyen held the position of Head of the Representative Office.
- **1987 – 1995,** Mr. Minh Toan Le held the position of Head of the Representative Office.
- **1995 to 2006,** Mr. Dinh Lich Lam held the position of Head of the Standing Committee.

- **2006 - 2009,** the Standing Committee consisted of: **Mr. Le Minh** (chairman), Mr. Duc Tuan Pham (vice foreign affairs), Mr. Huu Minh Nguyen (foreign affairs assistant), Mr. Dinh Duong Nguyen (vice internal affairs), Mr. Huy Phung Nguyen (internal affairs assistant), Mrs. Thi Ve Dinh (treasurer), and Ms. Nguyen Minh Khoi (secretary).

- **2010 – 2012; 2013 - 2015; 2016 – 2018;** The members of the Standing Committee during these terms were led by **Mr. Le Minh** as the chairman and other willing members collaborating with him.

- **2019 – 2021;** The Standing Committee consisted of: **Mr. Hiep Nguyen** (chairman), Mr. Perter Hung Nguyen (deputy for internal affairs), Mr. Van Hien Nguyen (deputy for external affairs & Secretary), Mr. Tien Hoa Nguyen (member for Maintenance & Order), Mr. Viet Tam Hoang (member for Finance).

- **2022 – 2024;** The members of the Standing Committee included: **Mr. Huy Can Truong** (chairman), Ms. Thi Khanh Van Nguyen (deputy for internal affairs), Mr. Xuan Binh Pham (deputy for external affairs and Secretary), Mr. Hiep Nguyen (member in charge of Liturgy), Mr. Viet Tam Hoang (member for Finance & Social Affairs), Mr. Van Binh Pham (member for Order & Maintenance), Mr. Eric George Nguyen (member for Communications & in charge of Youth).

- **2025 – 2027,** the Standing Committee consisted of: **Mr. Van Hien Nguyen** (chairman), Mr. Xuan Binh Pham (Deputy for Internal Affairs), Mr. Quoc Thai Vu (Deputy for Foreign Affairs), Mr. Quoc Ky Nguyen (Secretary), Mr. Thanh Hai Nguyen (member in charge of Liturgy), Mrs. Thi Thu Cuc Pham (member for Finance & Social Affairs), Mr. Tien Hoa Nguyen (member for Construction & Public Order and Security), Mr. Eric George Nguyen (member for Communications & Youth).

***The Finance Committee***

- *1997, Mr. Nguyễn Hữu Thịnh, Mr.Phạm Đức Khiêm, Mrs. Nguyễn Thu Thủy*
- *2000-2023, Mr.Hoàng Minh Tân, Mr.Nguyễn Thanh Bình, Mrs.Trần Thị Thu Thủy.*
- *2023 to the present, Mr.Phạm Đức Tuấn, Mr.Nguyễn Tiến Hòa, Mr.Hoàng Viết Tam, Mrs.Huỳnh Đăng Như Ý*

## II. The Leaders of the Vietnamese Catholic Community in Western Australia - VCCWA

### a. Bishops, Priests Leading Spiritually:

- First, **Fr. Duc Thu Nguyen** of the Jesuit order visited the Vietnamese Catholic Community from Adelaide in 1980.

- In April 1981, **Fr. Dominic Ngoc De Nguyen** was sponsored from the refugee camp in Thailand to Perth and was appointed as the Chaplain of the Vietnamese Catholic Community until 1983. At the end of 1983, **Fr. Francis Van Phat Trinh** came from Adelaide to assist the community for 3 months.

- In 1984, **Monsignor Michael Keating** took over as the parish priest of Highgate, replacing Monsignor Barry Hickey, who had just been appointed as the bishop of the diocese of Geraldton. At the same time, **Monsignor Keating** also held the responsibility of Chaplain of the Catholic Community of the Vietnamese in the Western Australia.

- On December 1, 1984, **Deacon Francis Xavier Ly Van Ca** was ordained a priest and worked as an assistant to Monsignor Keating to help the community in celebrating the sacraments. In 1992, he officially took the role of Administrator for the Community until 2000. With more than 12 years of service to the Community and many years of pastoral work in many local parishes, he contributed greatly to the Church and left a beautiful mark with his love for Culture & Faith. He passed away on July 26, 2022, and was remembered by the Vietnamese Catholic Community as a dedicated, enthusiastic and charitable priest.

- From July 2000 to January 2001, **Fr. Joseph Dinh Tuong Vu** served as the interim Chaplain of the Catholic Community in Western Australia.

- January 2000 – February 26, 2009, Fr. Peter Minh Thuy Nguyen was assigned to be the Administrator of the Vietnamese Catholic Community. During his time serving the Community, he organized the Men's and Women's congresses as well as invited guest priests to give annual retreats. In 2005, he and the Executive Committee purchased the old Macedonian Community Center on Wanneroo Road, turning it into the main activity center of the Vietnamese Catholic Community to this day.

- From January 2003 to January 2006, **Fr. John the Baptist Quyet Chien Nguyen** served as the Assistant Chaplain of the community and as the chaplain of the Eucharistic Youth Movement.

- January 2006 – February 2009, **Fr. Dominic Kim Son Nguyen** served as Assistant Chaplain of the Community and as the chaplain of the Eucharistic Youth Movement

- From February 2009 until March 2021, **Fr. Peter Mong Huynh Nguyen** held the position of Administrator Chaplain and Father Micae Pham Quang Hong became Assistant chaplain of the Vietnamese Catholic Community. He was a refugee and a well-known priest and musician in the Vietnamese Catholic community. He wrote hymns such as 'A Trust', 'God Has Been a Refugee'; and released 5 CDs of hymns from 1999 to 2007. By using his musician talents, Father contributed to nurturing the spiritual life of the community through music, especially for the Vietnamese Catholic

community in Perth. In 2015, Father and the Standing Committee built a parish house on the land behind the centre for the priests to live to be more accessible for pastoral work.

- **Fr. Michael Quang Hong Pham** came to Australia around 1997 and has been a member of the De La Salle Vietnam Order since 1963. He continued his priestly vocation at St Charles Major Seminary, Perth – being ordained a deacon in 2005 and a priest in 2006 by Archbishop Barry Hickey. From December 3, 2005, he was appointed Assistant Rector of the CĐCGVNTU. He is a famous preacher. Through his creative and passionate teaching style, he has risen from his prison past to become a spiritual "light" for the Vietnamese community in Perth and the online audience of the Community channel. However, since 2024, he has retired, living at the Community's Parish House, preaching and continuing to assist the community when possible.

- From March 2021 to the present, the current chaplain is **Fr. Dominic Kim Son Nguyen.** He is one of the priests originating from Perth. He is dedicated to serving as a spiritual leader, celebrating the sacraments, providing counseling, and nurturing the faith of the faithful. In addition, he has also served two terms as General Chaplain of the National Eucharistic Youth Movement in Australia, with the Eucharistic Youth Association in Perth, and he helped in organizing two Nang Hong conferences in Perth in 2005 – 2010 & 2021 – 2024.

**b. Sisters Accompanying the Vietnamese Catholic Community in Western Australia**

- **Sr. Dympna** of the Loreto order often visited families and diligently helped the community during the early days when Vietnamese were settling in Perth.

- In 1984, **Sr. Patricia Byrne** was officially appointed to oversee the resettlement program for newly arrived refugees and to serve the Vietnamese Catholic Community. Sister Patricia Byrne RNDM, of the Religious Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, is deeply loved by the Vietnamese Catholic community in Western Australia. Her life is a journey of loving service, especially for Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. **For 30 years** (1984-2014), she has welcomed refugees at the airport, prepared housing, taken them for medical check-ups, helped with paperwork, and became a **'mother' and 'grandmother'** to hundreds of families. She passed away on **August 4, 2020**, at Mercy Care nursing home in Perth, at the age of 92. **A farewell mass was held at the Vietnamese Catholic Community Centre in Westminster and Sacred Heart Church in Highgate**, with a large attendance from the community.

- From September 1993 to December 1997, **Sr. Maria Goretti Thi Kim Dung Nguyen** of the Our Lady of Missionary order came to assist the community.

- From October 1994 to January 1997, **Sr. Joanne Lê Linh** of the Sisters of Saint Joseph assisted the community.

- From 1999 to 2001, **Sr. Maria Thi Khanh Nguyen** of the Charity of the Holy Cross Order assisted the community.

- From January 2006 to December 2017, **Sr. Joanne Le Linh** was invited by Fr. Peter Minh Thuy Nguyen to oversee the Youth Ministry of the Community. In addition to her role as Assistant Chaplain of the Eucharistic Youth Movement, she ran the Liturgy program for children at Sunday Masses, the Catechism and Youth programs. She was a bridge between the two generations and the Vietnamese - Australian cultures. Together with the Vietnamese Youth, she participated in common programs of the Archdiocese and National Youth Gathering. She established the Angel Choir - including Youth and Children – was responsible for the monthly English Liturgy. Around 2011, together with the Chaplaincy Board, they started a weekly Bilingual Mass program, celebrated every Saturday evening.

**There are currently four Sisters serving and accompanying the Community:**

• **Sr. Therese Kim Dung Tran**, a member of the Congregation of the Lovers of Holy Cross of Thu Thiem. June 21,1993, she joined the Legion of Mary, an active member of the Mary, Mother of Good Shepherd. On May 9, 1995 she was the Team Leader. On June 17, 1996 she was the Curia of Our Lady of Lavang. In 2020 she was an Auxiliary Member in the Legio of Mary. In 2021 - 2022, she was an assistant teacher at Andre Dung Lac School. From 2021 to present, she is a Catechist.

• **Sr Therese Thi Bach Ngoc Mai Nguyen**, a member of the Congregation of the Lovers of Holy Cross of Thu Thiem, since 2019, has overseen the Angel Choir, participating in the Anre Dung Lac Vietnamese School. Since 2021, she has overseen the Sacramental catechism classes for children; participated in the Community's Word of God Artists group; established the "White Dove" group for children.

• **Sr. Martha Thi Bich Thuan Doan**, a member of the Congregation of the Lovers of Holy Cross of Thu Thiem, she came to Australia in 2020 under the sponsorship of the Archdiocese of Perth anh the Vietnamese Catholic Community of Perth, under the reign of Father Peter Nguyen Mong Huynh. She began participating in activities with the Standing Committee and other Associations to learn and get acquainted with the environment of the Community. From January 1, 2022, she was appointed by Father Dominic Kim Son Nguyen to the role of Secretary of the Community until now. At the same time, she is also directly participating in activities with the Standing Committee, Association and Organizations in the Community.

- **Sr. Therese Trang My Chau Ho**, a member of the Dominican Sisters of the Sacred Heart, was invited by Father Nguyen Mong Huynh, former chaplain, to serve as assistant chaplain to the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Association in 2019. To this day, she is still enthusiastic in training and accompanying the Youth Group and participating in the common activities of the Community.

**c. Special Vocations Arisen from the Vietnamese Catholic Community in Western Australia**

Our community has several priests and religious currently serving in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Perth:

- Fr. Francis Ly Van Ca (Deceased)
- Fr. John the Baptist Quyet Chien Nguyen
- Fr. Joseph Ba Dat Vuong
- Fr. Francis Thanh Huy Nguyen
- Fr. Peter Mong Huynh Nguyen
- Fr. Joseph Minh Nhut Tran (Deceased)
- Fr. Francis Thanh Phong Nguyen
- Fr. Dominic Kim Son Nguyen
- Fr. Dominic Savio Vu Truong Hong Thai
- Fr. Dominic Quang Thi Lam
- Fr. Peter Minh Thuy Nguyen
- Fr. Joseph Van Vinh Dong
- Sr Elizabeth Tran Ngoc Thanh Bui (Carmelite)
- Sr. Thi Thu Huong Dang (Mary Queen Sister)
- Sr. Thanh Thao Doan (Mary Queen Sister)

In addition, several priests, including two retired priests, Fr. Francis Xavier Van Phan Nguyen and Fr. Michael Quang Hong Pham, and religious from Vietnam and other states have settled in Western Australia. They have been supporting the Community in retreats, confessions and major celebrations.

**III. Churches and Community Centres:**

- 1980: St. Thomas Church, Claremont
- 1983 – 2001: Sacred Heart Church, Highgate.
- 1988: With the permission of Archbishop William Foley, the congregation purchased a centre on Barley Street, Mt. Lawley.
- 1993: The Community purchased the centre at 31 Chipala Rd in the Westminster area as a place for the CGCVNTU Community activities. The inauguration ceremony took place on June 25, 1996.
- 12/3/2005: Inauguration of the new centre at 3 Victoria Road, Westminster WA 6061. This was also the day Fr. Michael Quang Hong Pham was ordained as a deacon.

## IV. Direction of Management Strategy

### A. Management in the Past & Present

- After 50 years of reflection, we give thanks for the blessings that God has continually bestowed upon our community. We express our gratitude to the local church, through the guidance of the archbishops, bishops, priests and Australian religious Sisters. At the same time, we remember the contributions of Vietnamese priests and religious, especially former chaplain Ly Van Ca, who dedicated efforts to care for the community from 1985 to 2000. Thank you to all parishioners who have contributed their efforts and finances to build the community over the past nearly 50 years, as well as for continuing to engage in activities in all areas within the community.
- From a small group of Vietnamese Catholics settled in Perth, the Community has now grown to over 5000 believers in Western Australia. Every weekend, the faithful gather to attend Mass at the centre's chapel more than 1500 people attending three Masses on the Weekend. The organisation of activities in various ministries and associations helps to develop spirituality and create interpersonal relationships among members of the faithful community. The ministries and associations include:

- **The Management Committees,**
- **The Finance Committee**
- **The Secretary of the Community**
- **The Elderly Association,**
- **The Legion of Mary, the army of Our Lady**,
- **The Family Marriage Promotion Program**,
- **The Cursillo Movement**
- **Anre Dung Lac Vietnamese School.**
- **Bible Study Class**
- **The Sacramental Catechism**
- **The Vietnamese Catholic Women's Association of Western Australia.**
- **The Choirs of Cecilia, Holy Spirit, and Teresa**,
- **The Acolyte Ministers**
- **The Family of Divine Mercy.**
- **The Marian Pray Group**
- **The Eucharistic Youth Movement - Sacred Heart branch.**
- **Construction & Maintenance Department.**
- **The decoration committee**
- **The Social Committee**
- **Cleaning & Hygiene Group**

### B. Community Spiritual Development.

- **Developing the spiritual life of the parishioners in the community:**
  Each year, some priests and religious are invited as guest speakers to the community. As a result, spiritual life and faith are nurtured and developed. The solidarity among the associations is strengthened through common activities. Individuals participating in the associations get to know each other better and learn mutual empathy.
- **Foreign Affairs and Connections:**
  The community integrates further into the activities of the local government in Australia and the Vietnamese community in Western Australia. In particular, the community regularly engages with other ethnic communities in the Archdiocese of Perth, thereby enhancing its credibility with the ecclesiastical authorities.
- **Multipurpose and Spacious Religious Centre**

  Finally, with God's grace, the help of Archbishop Barry James Hickey, and the loving solidarity of all members in the community, we have the new spacious and convenient centre that we have today.
  With the love of God, and through the intercession of the Vietnamese Martyrs, all Vietnamese believers are being helped to maintain their Faith in order to always build a spirit of love, unity, and to know how to live in gratitude and appreciation for the blessings we have received and continue to receive from God.

Written by Vincente Nguyễn Văn Hiền
The Chairman of the *of the Vietnamese Catholic Community in WA*
August 2025