

## **A few words about the Vietnamese Community at OLA...**

The Vietnamese community at Our Lady of the Assumption, Cong Doan Man Coi, Our Lady of Rosary, was established on July 19, 1979 with the loving support of our late beloved pastor Monsignor William Barry and OLA Parish Community. It started out initially with about 30 Vietnamese families living in Claremont and the adjacent cities. Father John Hoa Quang Nguyen was assigned as the associate pastor and was responsible for the Vietnamese community at its conception.

Currently, the Vietnamese community has grown to about 200 families under the guidance of Father John Nghi Tran. Sunday mass is celebrated at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Mass is also celebrated every first Friday of the month at 7 p.m.

Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., the Vietnamese youths meet and attend Vietnamese language and religious education classes.

Since its formation, the Vietnamese community consists of the following ministries:

1. The Vietnamese representatives consist of five members: 1 chairperson and 2 assistants, a secretary, and a treasurer. Its mission is to organize many Vietnamese religious activities for Vietnamese Catholics, and to represent the Vietnamese community to the parish and participate in various ministries and activities of the parish (eg. Fiesta).
2. The choir consists of two groups: the Hong An choir and the Fatima Youth choir. Each choir comprises of 20 to 25 members. They meet every Friday night and alternately sing at Vietnamese masses during the year.
3. The Vietnamese Catholic Mothers was formed in 1994 and consists of all mothers in the community regardless of age. The group has over 40 members. They meet the first Friday of the month. Their ministry includes visiting sick people and helping with various activities of the parish. They are the main driving force of the Vietnamese Cuisine at the Fiesta.
4. The Sacred Heart Men Association, Lien Minh Thanh Tam Association was formed in 1994. The group has over 30 members consisting of men from the community. They meet the first Friday of the month. Their ministry includes visiting sick people, helping each other in living up their Christian call and helping with various activities of the Vietnamese Community.
5. The Fatima Youth Group was officially formed by Father Peter Ha Son Le. Members consists of youths from six years and older. They meet every Sunday to participate in the Vietnamese language and religious education classes (first communion, confirmation, and bible studies) before Mass. The group also contributes greatly to activities of the Vietnamese community and parish such as the Fiesta and Lenten soup.

6. Families Prayer Group has weekly devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary. Every week, a family member takes turn to welcome the Statue of Our Lady of Rosary into his/her family home and have other members to come to that house to pray together, usually at 5:00PM on Saturday.

Besides the above groups, the Vietnamese community also has other Ministries such as: Eucharist Ministers, Lectors, Altar Servers, the Vietnamese language and culture school, religious education, Vietnamese RCIA, Marriage preparation.

Prepared by:

*Vietnamese Community Leadership*