

Greetings to Joe and everyone from Nazareth Parish,

How are you all doing? Christmas spirit is probably already felt in the Parish? The weather here is getting colder, and everyone is busy preparing for the advent of Christmas celebrations. The children are also practicing dances for the Parish's performance on Christmas Eve. This year, on December 23rd, we held a food fair for the girls and invited their parents to attend so the children could celebrate the holiday with their families.

Dear all, it's been quite a while since we've kept in touch, everyone probably wants to know how the children are doing. They've almost completed half of their school year. Generally, the children are quite well-behaved, studious, and have the will to strive every day. Their school workload is increasing; they have two sessions a day and hardly any free time. The Primary and Middle schools are closer to Phuong Quy convent, so the children have a little more time to rest, whereas the High school children have to travel further, hence are relatively exhausted. With such a busy pace of life, I try to create the best condition to help reduce their daily stress. Outside of school hours, the children have time to interact with each other, play and have fun, and share such an innocent and carefree lives together. Watching the children's lives and futures unfold with purpose each day brings me great joy and motivation to accompany and care for them every day. I'm conscious that the children spend most of their childhood within this home, so their well-being is crucial. Due to the lack of family environment at the convent, I strive to make them feel like this is their second home, a place that will leave its mark on their childhood. Compared to others, the children are already very well-behaved with fixed daily schedules, balanced between schooling and recreation without interference by the phone. Their academic achievements are quite good, with praises from their teachers for being diligent and studious. These positive progresses however do not come without difficulties. Caring for 50 children is no small task, each with their own personality and family background, social pressure can sometimes make them upset or tempts them secretly break the convent protocols. Such situations demand patience and understanding from us to empathize with the children. Learning through experience, I gradually become accustomed to and able to accompany the children through all difficulties, with the single goal of guiding them on their path of education, which is above all else. It's very normal for young children from Ethnic minorities to desire freedom to enjoy themselves, and drop out of school. Fighting against this natural inclination is an internal challenge for each individual.

Dear Joe and parishioners, I wish to share some of these current information and feelings with everyone in Nazareth Parish. You all hold an important position in the current boarding house. Although the Sisters are personally responsible for the upbringing of the children, you are the crucial force behind the scenes who have been providing the caring for the children for generations.

On the occasion of Christmas, the Sisters and the children wish you and everyone a holy and fervent Christmas season and a peaceful and happy New Year. We and the children will always remember you in our daily prayers and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Phuong Quy, December 18, 2025.  
Sister, Maria Ho Thi Cam Nhung

With only a few days left until  
Christmas and the New Year 2026,  
sisters in Phu Long Quy wish all the parishioners  
a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Best wishes !

Sister Maria Hiep Cam Nhung

