



Sisters
Hospitallers

Historic Awareness

Did you know that at our institution we foster individual and collective awareness in an effort to be part of Hospitaller history? Learn how this Hospitaller value is applied at the Delegation of Vietnam.



Gioan Baotixita Nguyễn Nho Quang

**Voluntary doctor
at the Houses
of Chu Hai,
Vietnam**



My name is Gioan Baotixita Nguyễn Nho Quang and I'm a doctor by profession. More than 20 years ago, a friend invited me to a two-storey house located next to the Chu Hai church in Vietnam. The house was, and is, the property of the Sisters Hospitallers. There I came into contact with a group of people of varying ages and conditions: the elderly, children with intellectual and physical disabilities, the socially excluded, orphans, etc. A number of young sisters cared for them.

Seeing those people, so vulnerable, I experienced a flood of compassion in my heart. I wanted to share a part of me with them, a part of who I am and what I am as a medical professional. I was excited. A sister offered me the opportunity to collaborate by helping and caring for these people, who were desperately in need of all kinds of attention. I accepted without hesitation and I've visited the centre three or four times a week ever since. **I review the health status of every user and I contribute the medications that are necessary for their treatment. I also provide the sisters with training in physiotherapy so they can apply it to the children at the centre and improve their quality of life.**

Two decades after that blessed day, the humble establishment that I discovered has become a major centre, with several units, dedicated to providing comprehensive care to 60 children with severe intellectual disabilities. It also has a boarding school to facilitate the education of those living in rural areas and a doctor's office to attend to the basic needs of the nearby residents. Almost without realising it, I have become a regular collaborator. **I identify with the mercy and ten-**

erness that thrives in this house. My vocation as a doctor and my compassion for those who suffer go hand-in-hand with the spirit that I have seen and felt here since the beginning, modelled by the hospitality of Jesus, who spent his life "doing good and healing the sick."

All Christians can experience the identity and mission of the Congregation of the Sisters Hospitallers. It is the spirit that I embody in my personal and professional life as a physician. **I strive to reveal the ultimate purpose of my work, which is none other than the glory of God manifested through the boundless love for others, and especially for the poor and needy.** In an echo of our HISTORIC AWARENESS as an institution, this is what our founders, St. Benedict Menni, Venerable María Josefa Recio, and María Angustias Giménez, lived and taught us with the founding of the Congregation.

Thanks to the power of the Spirit with no boundaries, a small group of young sisters nurtured the seed of hospitality at that poor, simple house in Chu Hai. Thus, through their presence, the charisma of mercy blossomed in Vietnam, my beloved land.

In the years that I have collaborated with the Sisters Hospitallers, I have felt and continue to feel that **the Lord has accompanied me and guided me on the Hospitaller path and I am sure that I will do the same with the people who approach, embrace, and experience God's work.** I wish it to be so: that there are many people who embody the Hospitaller spirit like me, and that the Hospitaller message extends to all corners of the world.

