



### A preparation for the Christmas

On the beginning of December, student friars were working hard to build a nativity scene for Our Lord Jesus in front of the St. Anthony Friary.

Student Friars packed 300 boxes full of Christmas presents for children in the Hoa Hong Orphans House and Nursing Home at Cu Chi





### Friars Ministries

On December 22, The student friars visited the orphanage Hoa Hong located nearby Saigon City. We gave the children Christmas gifts and sang Christmas carols. After that, our student friars also stopped and paid a visit to the elderly and the nursing home center where we gave the elders and the sick patients Christmas hope, peace, and presents.





## On December 23

This Christmas the Friar students of our St. Anthony Friary distributed gifts and food packages to poor families and elderly near the friary.



# Christmas Celebration at St. Anthony Friary

2017 Christmas was full of emotion for our friars of the Delegation with many festivities for the poor and disabled in Nursing Home, Orphanage and Leprosarium.

On Christmas eve, the Friars of the St. Anthony Friary participated in the Christmas vigil Mass at the Ben San Leprosy village. The Friars provided the choir for the event, and distributed cookies and milk to all in attendance. The Sisters of the Poor hosted a supper following for the Friars and volunteers.



Christmas Mass was in St. Anthony Formation House which presided by Fr. Provincial. Concelebrated with him were Fr. Luke – the Provincial Delegate, Fr. Joseph Truong who has just finished his term of Rector of St. Anthony Formation House, Fr. Tammylee – temporarily Rector, 2 newly priests – Fr. Peter Quoc and Fr. Paul Chanh. And participated with them were student friars and postulants. During Mass, there was rite of installation of Lector to Friar J.B. Dien and Acolyte to J.B. Thuan. In his homily, Fr. John Heinz reminded about the mystery of Incarnation of the Lord as a highest point of Franciscanism. Because through this mystery St. Francis saw the Love of God to people and the dignity of human-being. From this point, he derived the ministry of Lector and Acolyte that preaching the Word of God by actions and care for human dignity.



Following the Mass was Lunch with BBQ Burger. Beside food and drink there were full laughs and tears. We laughed because of the joy that friars brought together to the banquet. We also had tears because at this time we had chance to expressed our gratitude to Fr. Joseph Truong Nguyen for his term of Rector in Formation House is about to end and he will go back to his home Delegation in Australia for a new ministry. Within 3 years and 4 months and 5 days, he left a good example for a new born Delegation, not merely for student friars but Formator team as well. There were many tears on faces of our friars when the screen showed images about the activities of the Delegation 3 years past. It is Sad but full of hope for the growth of the Delegation to Custody in near future. He have had worked very hard to collaborate with local friars in building up the concrete base of our fraternal community here. May God return him hundredfold and may his new ministry bear much fruits of Peace and Goodness.

Our lunch was integrated with exchanging gifts as a tradition of friars in Vietnam. There were many crazy stuffs and requests inside the gift that the friars gave to each others. Thanks be to God for we are a family. May the fraternal bond keep us and support in our journey and bear witnesses to world about peace and love.



**Merry  
Christmas and a  
Happy New year  
from Conventual  
Franciscan  
Friars at  
Vietnam Mission**

