



## Youth Vocation Ministry

Did you know that the purpose of pastoral vocation, promoted by our Hospitaller Institution, is to guide and prepare youth who feel called to follow Christ through the charism of hospitality?

Discover how this area of activity is developing in the Delegation of Vietnam.

**November 2017** 



## **Hoang My Linh**

My name is Hoang My Linh. I am 22 years old and I am a volunteer for the Delegation of Vietnam's Youth Vocation Ministry (YVM) area. I have been actively collaborating with the Sisters Hospitallers on this work for five years.

Although I do not intend to consecrate my life to God, I want to be with them, helping them in any way I can. I am sure that, **through my own experience**, I can help many other young people in Vietnam to participate in the Delegation's YVM activities and to see first hand how the sisters dedicate their lives to caring for sick people and those in need in the area.

I was 17 years old the first time I went to the YVM. At that time, I was a very stubborn girl. I used to disrespect and be resentful towards my family. Since I did not like going to school, and I almost never went, I felt I was below the level in classes; my mother was very worried and scolded me often, comparing me with my sister who was a very good student. I used to spend my days wandering around with my friends through the streets of the city. I felt alone and empty, I did not find meaning in my life...

In June 2012, one of my friends started participating in the Sisters Hospitallers' YVM and thanks to her inviting me, I also participated in the same programme. I must admit that, at first, my real motivation was to get away from my family for a few days, to be on my own. And that is how I decided to spend five days living with the sisters of the Delegation. **That experience changed my life!** 

From that moment, I decided to collaborate, in a committed and voluntarily way, with all YVM related activities. The sisters explained to me that the YVM programme had started eight years ago

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Volunteer for the Delegation of Vietnam's Youth Vocation Ministry area.



and its main activities were, and continue to be to this day, the following:

- An annual meeting at the CHU HAI house lasting between three and five days in which around 70 youth participate. Religious and congregational issues are addressed while human relationships and some values like fellowship, devotion, generosity, etc. are strengthened...
- Weekly meetings, specifically every Sunday, at the HO NAI house with young women who take a greater interest in getting to know the Congregation. Currently, seven young people participate in these meetings and issues related to the hospitaller vocation are addressed.
- Living together with the community of sisters and participation in the hospitaller mission of the Delegation's centres for a week for the youth who are eager to take part in this experience.

The sisters also collaborate with the nearby parishes, either teaching catechism and/or helping to give communion. Also, on the diocese of the region's website, they have set up a space where they explain what the main characteristics of hospitaller work and charisma are. Through this space, many young women get to know about the congregation and get in touch with the sisters, interested in obtaining further information.

For all matters having to do with YVM, the sisters try to evolve in line with Vietnamese youth's lifestyle and way of thinking. They guide us and accompany us during our transition to adulthood, helping us to have noble life goals.

Personally, collaborating with the Sisters Hospitallers is a privilege, I have great admiration for them. I try to be there every time they need me, helping young women discover the hospitaller vocation.