



The Serra Club of Arlington
Minutes for Tuesday 02 May 2023 | Luncheon Meeting
The Portofino Restaurant | Arlington, Virginia



Guest Speaker

Sister Gioan Linh Nguyen, Daughters of St Paul. Pauline Books & Media manager, Alexandria, VA. Local and Regional Vocationist in Boston MA, Charleston SC, Chicago IL, Alexandria, VA, New York/New Jersey, Hawaii, California, and New Orleans!

GUEST SPEAKER – SISTER LIOAN LINH NGUYEN, FSP, DAUGHTERS OF ST PAUL

Sister Gioan Linh Nguyen was nine years old when her family left Vietnam on April 30, 1977. They were the first “refugees” accepted in Japan. She made her First Communion before being sponsored to the United States by her uncles who settled in New Orleans since 1975. She entered the Daughters of St Paul on July 10, 1984 and went back to Boston to receive her B.A in Psychology and History at Emmanuel College in 1996. Sr Gioan also received a Master Certificate in Media Literacy from Los Angeles. Right after college, she went to Rome to study Italian and spent the next six months preparing herself for perpetual profession of vows. On the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul (January 25, 1997), Sr Gioan Linh professed her Perpetual Vows. As a religious sister, she has served as a Pauline evangelizer, Pauline Books & Media manager, Local and Regional Vocationist in Boston MA, Charleston SC, Chicago IL, Alexandria, VA, New York/New Jersey, Hawaii, California, and New Orleans! She strives to grow closer to the Spirit of the Living God and encourages others to discover his or her gifts!

Highlights: Sister Nguyen’s talk centered around her journey from Vietnam and finding her life’s mission as a result of her Faith and trust in God. Below are some of the insights and examples:

- Spoke of her journey escaping Vietnam:
 - Her family escaped in boat off the coast of Vietnam and encountered a Russian merchant ship who rescued them. However, they were hesitant to eat the food thinking it was poisoned.
 - They were subsequently put on a Japanese ship who put them in touch with French missionaries and Japanese sisters where they were treated well.
 - Given her young age, she had her first confession and first Communion by a French priest but noted the humor in the language barrier.
 - An article in a paper with picture alerted her uncle that they escaped Vietnam
- Vocation path and reflection:
 - Wanted to be educated by the sisters in college and after two years made the decision to dedicate her life to St Paul.
 - Vocation, Grace & Mission – how one responds to their vocation; bear witness to Christ; and, life within the Communion of love
 - Call to vocation is there, but need to nurture through prayer and utilizing one’s gifts
 - No vocation without a mission. Vocation does not allow individual to remain silent

- Met Daughters of St Paul through a friend
- Encounter Christ, just like St Paul
- Moved many places as part of vocation (*see above*) and found it difficult to move from place-to-place, e.g., different people, priests and environment
- Pauline Book & Media Store
 - A medium to evangelize the Faith of the church and welcome and listen to the needs of the people
 - Books are vetted by theologians and aligned with the teachings of the church
 - Several books sited but the top two recommended are: *Five Loaves and Two Fish* (*Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan*); and, *Searching for and Maintaining Peace* (*Father Jacques Phillippe*)