



January 17, 2017

Sister Louise Nguyen
Our Lady of LaVong Community
PO Box 62
Walnut Grove CA 95690

Dear Sisters Louise & Rosa and Thomas:

I am pleased to welcome you to the Diocese of Stockton. You are most welcomed to purchase property and establish a house here in the Diocese. We are most grateful that you will provide a retreat setting for people to come and pray and that, in a special way, you will pray for the Bishop and the priests of our Diocese. That will indeed be a blessing. I am grateful that Father Hung Nguyen has agreed to be your spiritual director.

One of the concerns which was raised by our College of Consultors was the ability for your community to sustain itself in the Diocese. It is not possible at this time to conduct any fundraising either in the Diocese or in the Parish of St. Anne.

Thank you for your letter of November 24, 2016 in which you outline how the property, your daily living, and the ongoing maintenance, including insurances, will be provided.

As was discussed at our meeting, the number of priests available for ministry in our Diocese is quite limited and we would not be able to commit to providing a priest for the celebration of Mass at your Convent, at least not at this time.

There is a wonderful Catholic Vietnamese community in Stockton, which is part of St. Luke's Parish. I hope that you will have an opportunity to become acquainted with them.

Again, I am pleased to welcome you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Vicar General, Monsignor Richard Ryan or our Vicar for Women Religious, Sister Wanda Billion. Both can be reached at 209-466-0636.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Stephen E. Blaire
Roman Catholic Bishop of Stockton

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cc: Reverend Monsignor Richard J. Ryan, Vicar General
Sister Gloria DeJesus, Chancellor
Sister Wanda Billion, Vicar for Women Religious
Reverend Hung Nguyen, Spiritual Director
Reverend Brandon Ware, Pastor
Reverend Paul Tran, Vietnamese Catholic Community