

GRACES RECEIVED

We invite all our friends as "Witnesses of the Light" to join us in praying the PRAYER for the Year of Vocation:

Lord, you raised up St. Francisco Coll in your Church, who served the Gospel tirelessly and joyfully through his life and preaching.

Through his intercession, we ask that young women, moved by Your love, may find the strength and conviction to give a generous and determined yes, and be able to consecrate their lives to God as Dominican Sisters of the Anunciata.

Amen.

If you wish to share the graces you have received through the intercession of **Saint Francisco Coll, Martyr Sisters or Sr. Cristina Dominga Benito**, you may do so by getting in touch to equipotestigosdelaluz@gmail.com or with the Dominican Sisters of the Anunciata at any of the following addresses:

-  **CASA GENERAL**
C/ La Granja, 5 28003 Madrid (España)
pgeneral@dominicasanunciata.org
-  **PROVINCIA SANT RAMON DE PENYAFORT**
C/ Elisabets, 19 08001 Barcelona (España)
provsraimundo@dominicasanunciata.org
-  **PROVINCIA ROSA SANTAEUGENIA**
Av. Alfonso XIII, 160 dpdo.
28016 Madrid (España)
provsantaeugenia@dominicasanunciata.org
-  **PROVINCIA SANTA ROSA DE LIMA**
C/ Junín, 1223
1113 Buenos Aires (Argentina)
provsrosa@dominicasanunciata.org
-  **PROVINCIA SAN MARTÍN DE PORRES**
4ª Calle Oriente, 4-4 04104 Santa Tecla
(El Salvador, C.A.)
provsmartin@dominicasanunciata.org
-  **VICARIAT SAINT FRANÇOIS COLL**
Soeurs Dominicaines de l'Anunciata
B.P. 1160 Cidex-1
Abidjan - 28 (Côte d'Ivoire-Afrique)
vicariatsfcop@gmail.com
-  **DELEGAÇÃO PROVINCIA ROSA SANTAEUGENIA-BRASIL**
Rua Eneida, 358. Bairro N.S. da Glória
30881-520 Belo Horizonte M.G. (Brasil)
anunciatagloria@gmail.com
-  **SAINT RAYMOND PROVINCE IN ASIA
DOMINICAN SISTERS OF THE ANUNCIATA**
12 P Bernardo St. - Cubao Dist.
Quezon City (Philippines)
anunfilipinas@yahoo.com



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n° 30

WITNESSES OF the LIGHT

FATHER COLL AND THE VOCATION

In this Year of Vocation 2026, we are inspired by the experience of St. Francisco Coll. His life was a strong testimony of fidelity to his vocation despite all the setbacks.

Since he was a child, Francisco showed signs of firmness in his thoughts and actions. He felt the attraction to the priesthood and his idea persisted despite poverty and hardship. At the young age of ten he agreed to separate from his mother and siblings to enter the Seminary.

His new life would begin in an unknown environment, in the city of Vic, as a non-resident seminarian... He did not have a good time at first, until he was lucky enough to be welcomed into a house that turned out to be like his second family.

Before he completed his 15 years old, that phrase: "You, Coll, must become a Dominican", which was addressed to him by a stranger left a mark on him.



YEAR OF VOCATIONS

Dominican Sisters of the Anunciata

www.dominicasanunciata.org

«...He was so happy...»

FATHER COLL AND THE VOCATION

WITNESS & PROPHET

A story of light continues, be a torch!

He took some time to discern what God's will would be... And he left again... a new rupture for his heart which is still young, but mature to follow the will of God. At the age of 18, he knocked on the doors of the Dominican convent in Girona, made his novitiate and followed his religious profession. All this fills him with **happiness**: "He was so happy wearing the Dominican habit that it seemed to him that he was already in heaven, forgetting even to make the sign of the cross and to entrust himself to God; he told this with a smile on his lips." (Testimony of Sr. Sabina Morer, Testimonios p. 737). The forced exclaustation of 1835 destroyed his dream, took away his community life, but not his commitment. On the contrary, it took him to the summit of **fidelity**. He managed to be ordained a priest clandestinely and consecrated himself to the apostolic life, tirelessly traveling the roads of Catalonia, preaching in large and small towns, bringing peace, always faithful to the voice of his Lord. The difficulties did not manage to push him back.

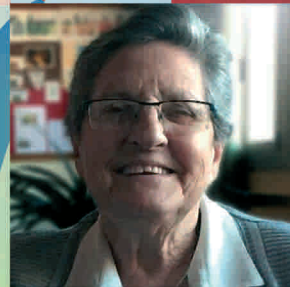
Perceiving the hunger for the Word and the needs of his people, he felt the need to offer him the best gift: the Sisters, Dominicans like him, who would dedicate to the care and education of children and young people. Recalling the difficulties he had experienced in his own vocation, **he sought to make religious life possible for young women without resources** who desired for it.

Since the age of 23, without a convent and without a habit, he overcame a seemingly an insurmountable obstacles but he responded throughout his life with unwavering **love and fidelity to the grace of the Dominican religious vocation**. Today we are grateful for this witness of life and holiness, and we ask St. Francisco Coll for the young people. May everyone this year hear the invitation: "**After a story of light, be a torch!**", and may each one discover and live with joy, love and generosity the vocation that the Lord gives them.

PRAYER

*O Lord, who made of **Saint Francisco Coll**, a tireless apostle of the Gospel and the rosary, enriching him with the virtues and the crosses of great souls, grant us through his intercession the grace which we ask of you...*

*Help us imitate the actions and work of his life and give us the strength to live the joys and sorrows of our Christian life with true peace of mind. **Amen***



What does the call to the **missionary vocation as Anunciata** mean to you?

Responding to God's call in the Anunciata is in itself a missionary response. It means giving oneself to God, saying YES to Him, like Mary, in order to dedicate oneself to living with Him and proclaiming Him to others.

At the suggestion of doing a service in Cameroon, I had a mixed feelings of fear and helplessness wrapped in a certain joy. Having put my trust in God, I let Him do His work in me.

Today, I can say that the specific missionary vocation of the Anunciata is a wealth, a gift, a commitment, an opportunity to grow and also to decrease. I needed openness, humility, and to go through the experience of personal poverty. It was a path of adaptation, of marveling at the values of others; to discover the value of integral education in other lands and other means as St. Francisco Coll requested. **The detachment that this response entailed has become a treasure of life that fills my old age.**

Sr. Argelina Álvarez,
Community of Navarcles - Barcelona

WITH ANUNCIATA VOCATION



What does the vocation of being an **Anunciata educator** mean to you?

It means having grown humanly and professionally under the inspiration of an ideology that I made it as my very own. My first steps as a teacher were taken in the company of many sisters, I was the first laywoman in the school. **The vocation is being cultivated in the process with that it is essential to be open to receive the message of St. Francisco Coll that is reflected in all the work and in the day to day life of the school.**

The vocation of being an Anunciata educator is to accompany our children and young people to discover respect and appreciation for themselves and in others. To provide a school environment where they feel welcomed and dignified and where they discover and enhance their capacities and gifts. To experience prayer, the Eucharist and reflection on the Word.

Sonia Villalobos Saavedra
San Francisco Coll School
La Serena - Chile