

Franciscan Formation in Da Lat

(Vietnam, 24.12.2025 – 1.01.2026)

From Dec. 24, 2025, to Jan. 1, 2026, Prof. Martín Carbajo-Núñez, OFM, delivered a series of lectures on the Cantic of the Creatures in the renowned city of Da Lat (Vietnam), home to the novitiate of the Franciscan friars (OFM). During his stay in Vietnam, Prof. Carbajo had lunch with H.E. the Archbishop of Hanoi, Joseph Vũ Văn Thiên. A day before, he had also had lunch with H.E. Bishop Peter Kiều Công Tùng, who facilitated his visit to the famous Phát Diệm Cathedral, guided by the diocesan financial administrator (Khánh) and by the Grand Chancellor.

Among the Franciscans, he celebrated the Christmas Mass with the Provincial Minister and later had dinner with Joseph Minh, formator of the post-novitiate friars; Paul Xuân Diệu, Dean of Theology; and Joseph Khánh, Secretary for Formation and Studies and, at the same time, Director of the Franciscan Institute of Theology. After his personal encounter, Joseph Khánh wrote to him by email, confirming that he sincerely hopes “that we may have the opportunity to collaborate and that I may count on your support in the future.”

Prof. Carbajo wants to express also his recognition to the novice master, Đinh Trọng Đệ (Francis Savior), and especially to the vice-novice master, Anh Tuấn Nguyễn (Joseph), his attentive, fraternal, and indispensable guide during all these days. His deep gratitude also goes to Fr. Anselm Nguyễn Hải Minh, OFM, guardian of the Phú Gia fraternity in Hanoi, as well as to the guardians of the fraternities in Hanoi and Da Lat.

This was Prof. Carbajo's first visit to Vietnam, and he therefore gladly accepted the opportunity to visit some of the country's most emblematic sites. A detailed account of his itinerary follows.

Formazione francescana a Da Lat

(Vietnam, 24.12.2025 – 1.01.2026)

Dal 24 dicembre 2025 al 1 gennaio 2026, il prof. Martín Carbajo-Núñez, OFM, ha tenuto una serie di conferenze sul *Cantico delle Creature* nella rinomata città di Da Lat (Vietnam), sede del noviziato dei frati francescani OFM. Durante il suo soggiorno in Vietnam, il prof. Carbajo ha pranzato con S. E. l'arcivescovo di Hanoi, Joseph Vũ Văn Thiên. Un giorno prima aveva pure pranzato con S. E. il vescovo Peter Kiều Công Tùng, che gli ha agevolato la visita alla celebre cattedrale di Phát Diệm, accompagnato dall'amministratore finanziario della diocesi (Khánh) e dal Gran Cancelliere.

In ambito francescano, ha celebrato la Messa di Natale con il Ministro provinciale e successivamente ha cenato con Joseph Minh, formatore dei frati del post-noviziato; Paul Xuân Diệu, decano della Facoltà di Teologia; e Joseph Khánh, segretario per la Formazione e gli Studi e, al contempo, direttore dell'Istituto Francese di Teologia. Dopo l'incontro personale, Joseph Khánh gli ha inviato un'e-mail nella quale ha espresso il sincero auspicio «di poter avviare una collaborazione e di poter contare sul suo sostegno in futuro».

Un riconoscimento particolare dal prof. Carbajo va anche al maestro dei novizi, Đinh Trọng Đệ (Francis Savior), e soprattutto al vice-maestro, Anh Tuấn Nguyễn (Joseph), guida attenta, fraterna e imprescindibile durante tutti questi giorni. Un sentito ringraziamento rivolge inoltre a fr.

Anselm Nguyễn Hải Minh, OFM, guardiano della fraternità di Phú Gia (Hanoi), così come ai guardiani delle fraternità di Hanoi e di Da Lat.

Si è trattato della prima visita del prof. Carbajo in Vietnam; egli ha pertanto accolto con vivo interesse l'opportunità di visitare alcuni dei luoghi più emblematici del Paese. Segue un resoconto dettagliato del suo itinerario.

Formación franciscana en Da Lat (Vietnam, 24.12.2025 – 1.01.2026)

Del 24.12.2025 al 1.01.2026, el prof. Martín Carbajo-Núñez, OFM, impartió una serie de conferencias sobre el *Cántico de las Criaturas* en la reconocida ciudad de Da Lat (Vietnam), sede del noviciado de los frailes franciscanos OFM. Durante su estancia en Vietnam, el prof. Carbajo almorzó con S. E. el arzobispo de Hanói, Joseph Vũ Văn Thiên. Un día antes había almorzado también con S. E. el obispo Peter Kiêu Công Tùng, quien facilitó su visita a la célebre catedral de Phát Diệm, acompañado por el administrador financiero de la diócesis (Khánh) y por el Gran Canciller.

En ámbito franciscano, cabe resaltar que el prof. Carbajo celebró la Misa de Navidad con el Ministro provincial y posteriormente cenó con Joseph Minh, formador de los frailes del post-noviciado; Paul Xuân Diêu, decano de la Facultad de Teología; y Joseph Khánh, secretario para la Formación y los Estudios y, al mismo tiempo, director del Instituto Franciscano de Teología. Tras el encuentro personal, Joseph Khánh le envió un correo electrónico en el que expresó su sincero deseo «de poder iniciar una colaboración y de poder contar con su apoyo en el futuro».

Un reconocimiento especial merece también el maestro de novicios, Đình Trọng Đệ (Francis Savior), y de manera particular el vice-maestro, Anh Tuấn Nguyễn (Joseph), que fue su guía atenta, fraterna e imprescindible durante todos estos días. El prof. Carbajo está también muy agradecido a fr. Anselm Nguyễn Hải Minh, OFM, guardián de la fraternidad de Phú Gia (Hanói), así como a los guardianes de las fraternidades de Hanói y de Da Lat.

Se trató de la primera visita del prof. Carbajo a Vietnam; por ello, acogió con gran interés la oportunidad de conocer algunos de los lugares más emblemáticos del país. A continuación se ofrece una relación detallada de su itinerario.

24.12.2025 (Saigon Arrival)

20:00 — From Tan Son Nhat Airport to the provincial curia at 5 Mai Thị Lựu (Đa Kao, District 1)

25.12.2025 (Saigon City)

- City Bus tour from Notre-Dame Cathedral
- Tan Dinh Church (Sacred-Heart) founded in 1876 by a Franciscan missionary
 - It was built in a striking Neo-Gothic/Neo-Romanesque style, and is famous today as the iconic "Pink Church" for its vibrant pastel-pink exterior and interior, attracting both worshippers and tourists for its unique architecture and history.
- Jade Emperor pagoda
 - (<https://vinpearl.com/en/jade-emperor-pagoda>) known in Vietnamese as Chùa Ngọc Hoàng is a historic temple blending Taoist, Buddhist, and Confucian traditions. It was

founded in the early 20th century by a Chinese merchant named Lư Minh (Liu Daoyuan) and remains one of the most atmospheric sacred sites in the city.

- Dinner at the Franciscan theological institute
 - (<https://franciscanmissions.org/the-franciscan-institute-in-saigon-vietnam-expands/>)
It is a combined center for philosophy and theology for the simply professed. Adjacent to it is the aspirancy house. Originally founded in 1958 as a seminary for priestly formation, it has become one of the oldest and largest Catholic centers of study in Saigon. Since 2002, it has also welcomed students from local parishes and other religious institutes.
 - The Institute offers a comprehensive academic program consisting of three years of philosophy and four years of theology. In the 2024–2025 academic year, it enrolled 222 students and was staffed by 60 professors. It is currently in the process of seeking affiliation with the Pontifical Antonianum University in Rome.
- 20:30 — Limousine Saigon → Da Lat

26 December (Đà Lạt)

- Stay at 16 Huyền Trần Công Chúa Convent
- Visit Noviciate's surrounding gardens and eremetories

27 December (Đà Lạt)

- Morning: talks to the novices
- Franciscan parish Nhà Thờ Du Sinh (<https://giothanhle.net/gio-le/nha-tho-du-sinh/>)
- Dalat Flower Garden (<https://vuonhoathanhphodalat.com.vn/>)
- Linh Phuoc temple (<https://vinpearl.com/en/linh-phuoc-pagoda-dalat>)
- Cao Dai temple (syncretism of catholic, muslim, new)

28 December (Flight to Hanoi)

- 13:00 — Arrive, transfer to Phú Gia Convent (Hanoi: Số 17, ngõ 361 An Dương Vương, Phú Thượng, Tây Hồ)
- Hoan Kiem lake and Ngọc Sơn temple (<https://vinpearl.com/en/ngoc-son-temple-a-long-standing-historical-and-cultural-relic-of-hanoi>)

29 December (Ha Long Bay)

- 05:30–06:00 — Depart Hanoi → Ha Long (limousine)
- 08:00–12:00 — Half-day Ha Long Bay Cruise (<https://www.halongbaycruises.com/>) with a visit to Thiên Cung, Luon Cave

30 December (Celebration of Christmas with friars)

- Chùa Bà Già Pagoda
 - Ba Già Pagoda is one of Hanoi's oldest Buddhist temples, located in Phu Già village (Phú Thượng ward, Tây Hồ district). Founded during the Trần dynasty (13th–14th century): The pagoda's roots trace back to when Phú Già village (also called “làng Gạ”) was a settlement for Trần kings.
- Lunch: Christmas and New year celebration with all friars in Hanoi
- Old Quarter, Hanoi
- Thăng Long Water Puppet show
 - *The most representative art form of Vietnamese folk culture.* Hanoi's water puppet shows are a unique cultural experience featuring wooden puppets performing traditional Vietnamese legends and daily life scenes on a water stage, accompanied by live music.

31 December (Tam Cốc / Ninh Bình Day Trip)

- 06:30 — Limousine from Hanoi →
- Phat Diem Cathedral
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ph%C3%A1t_Di%E1%BB%87m_Cathedral)
 - Private lunch with the Bishop of the diocese, His Excellency Peter Kiều Công Tùng. First the chancellor and then Khanh, the diocesan financial administrator, guided us through Phát Diệm Cathedral and the remarkable Stone Church, explaining their significance as outstanding examples of inculturation even before the Second Vatican Council.
- Tam Cốc boat ride (1.5 hours)
 - One kilometer of the route runs beneath the mountain, with us ducking our heads to avoid hitting the rock (<https://vinpearl.com/en/tam-coc-boat-tour-a-not-to-be-missed-activity-in-ninh-binh>)

01 January

- Mass at Saint Joseph Cathedral, Hanoi, followed by lunch with the archbishop, S.E. Joseph Vu Van Thien
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=aDV8zXnaFko&t=103s>)
- Shopping and transfer to the airport.