



ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2020

1. Introduction

The Irish Dominican Sisters Foundation is a Private Institution of Social Solidarity, assuming the legal form of “Social Solidarity Foundation” approved by the Ordinary Diocesan of Lisbon, endowed with legal personality and constituted without any lucrative purpose, under the terms of the provisions of Statute of Private Social Solidarity Institutions, approved by Decree-Law No. 119/83, of 25 February and updated by Decree - Law No. 172-A / 2014 of 14 November, complemented by Law No. 76/2015. The Foundation was recognized as a Collective Person of Public Utility, by Declaration published in nº 267 of the “Diário da República”, III Series, on November 15, 1993.

It is a Foundation established by religious confessions, in this case by the Catholic Church, being regulated by the Law of Religious Freedom and by the Concordat between the Portuguese Republic and the Holy See, having been constituted with the purpose of giving organized expression to the moral duty of solidarity and of justice between individuals, especially in the area of education and in supporting the most disadvantaged.

Its Statutes were amended and approved by the Patriarchate of Lisbon, on July 24, 2014. The definitive registration was carried out on March 16, 2015, in accordance with the IPSS (Social Institutions) registration regulation, which confirmed that these statutes were in agreement with the new law of 2014. In a relevant way, only changes were made in the chapter of the Managing Bodies, accommodating the need for an Executive Administration and exercised mainly by lay people. At the end of 2019, the Board of Directors was reappointed for another 5-year term by appointment of the Congregation of Irish Dominican Sisters and was approved by the Lisbon Patriarchate.

All its activities are guided by the principles and rules of the Irish Dominican Sisters

2. Statutory Objectives and Activities

To fulfill its mission, the Foundation pursues, as main objectives:

- Education, namely in the answers Kindergarden, Pre-School and Basic Education;



V E R I T A S

- Professional Training and Support to Families and Community, through its project “Famílias com Alma”
- Promotion of Christian values with a focus on Dominican spirituality, through pastoral care adapted to the whole community, including its collaborators.

In relation to the social solidarity activities carried out by the Foundation, through the granting of free goods and services or through the payment of benefits adjusted to the respective income of each household, we highlight:

- Organization of education / training projects for children and young people;
- Implementation of professional training actions for people looking for a job and / or on socio-professional reintegration courses;
- Creation and development of leisure activities;
- Participation with other entities in projects aimed at improving the living conditions of the populations

3. Activities Carried on

There are several initiatives that are transversal to the various Centers of the Foundation, with emphasis on the organization of various training events and sharing of Christian values. In 2020, the various Centers had to adapt to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. However, the general guideline was to continue to try to do as many activities as possible, respecting all health security. Three conferences were held via Zoom by our Dominican chaplain, Friar José Nunes, in which more than 70 employees participated. On May 7, the cycle of “Introduction to the Bible” ended with the approach of the book of the “Acts of the Apostles” and the letters of São Paulo. On October 22, the cycle started approaching the four gifts of the Holy Spirit according to São Paulo, and was reflected the theme “The Love”. On December 3, the subject of the conference was “The Happiness”. It was also possible for the fourth consecutive year to bring together several Families, from the various Centers, and help them in preparing for their children's baptism. On February 26, the ceremony was held at the Church of São Francisco Xavier, belonging to our parish of Santa Maria de Belém, having been baptized 13 children. When it was possible, we continued with the Sunday Mass at 11 am in the Church of Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso, with great collaboration from the families of students of the College. In addition to these initiatives associated with Pastoral Care, the Social Project where all the Centers are involved and which we called “Famílias com Alma” continued to be developed. Especially in terms of food support, it was possible to



help many more families in this difficult period with additional assistance from the Municipal Chamber of Oeiras.

The activities are developed in 3 Centers, at the “Centro Sagrada Família” (CSF) in Algés, at “Colégio Bom Sucesso” (CBS) and at “Casinha de Nossa Senhora” (CNS), at the facilities of the Convent of Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso, in Belém. In the Convent facilities, there is also a Corporate Center, which is responsible for all accounting, reporting information to external entities, and promoting an integrated and efficient management of the Foundation's treasury.

In 2020, monthly meetings continued with the first heads of the Centers in order to share experiences, and help in decisions with a generalized impact on the Foundation.

In relation to investments in general, there was a decrease compared to the budgeted values, but an increase in investments in information technology and distance communication. The Foundation requested all the assistance from the public sector that it was entitled to in this period of many economic and financial uncertainties.

On the 16th of July, a distance meeting was held with all the Foundation's collaborators, commenting on and offering Pope Francis' book "Life after Pandemic". It was an important moment to thank all the availability and sense of responsibility in difficult times, but also to reflect on the future following the leads of our Pope Francis. As usual, the commemorative medals of 25 years of work at the Foundation were handed out and the Foundation's Anthem: Laudare, Benedicere and Praedicare was sung.

There was a concern for investment in internal and external communication, namely through the timely updating of the various sites: Centro Sagrada Família (www.csagradafamilia.pt), Colégio Bom Sucesso (www.colegiobomsucesso.pt), Casinha Nossa Senhora (www.casinnanossaSenhora.pt), and the website of the “Fundação Obra Social das Religiosas Dominicanas Irlandesas” (www.fosrdi.pt). On these sites, there is all the relevant information, often accompanied by photographs and films. Below we present some of the more relevant information on the activities of each Center in 2020:



V E R I T A S



The Centro Sagrada Família (CSF) develops its activity in two major areas: the Educational area, with the activities of Kindergarden (for children from with 4 to 36 months), Pre-school (for children from 3 to 5 years) and free time suport, and the Social Support area (Famílias com Alma) which includes Community Support and Professional Training. The Center's activity is governed by Dominican principles, and aims to help in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely: Eradicate Hunger (SDG 2), Quality Health (SDG 3), Quality Education (SDG 4), Production, and Sustainable Consumption (SDG 12).

It is located on the grounds of “Quinta do Leonel” and “Quinta de Santa Marta”, in which an area with green spaces and playground stands out. There are five prefabricated buildings, with kindergarden rooms including nursery and corresponding support structures, and a 3-storey building, with auditorium and garden, where the pre-school rooms, the area of vocational training, technical offices, and other spaces for events open to the community take place. Investments in conservation works continued, especially those associated with the licensing of Quinta de Santa Marta.

It has 42 active employees and it had the support of an average of 14 employees working in volunteer programs. The decrease relative to the previous year was due to the declaration of the beginning of the state of emergency and the beginning of confinement. Many volunteers have suspended their activity because they belong to groups at risk. On the other hand, some young university students and adults with greater availability came to the Center to provide support for the “Famílias com Alma” project.

During the period from 16 March to 18 May, the Center faced a major challenge following the closure of teaching activities with part of its employees working remotely. In person, all social support was maintained, especially food support. On May 18, and on June 1, Kindergarden activities and pre-scholl, respectively, restarted in a face-to-face manner.

At the end of 2020, 99 and 97 children attended the Kindergarden center and preschool, respectively, with the fourth room for preschoolers remaining on an extra agreement basis, in order to provide a continuity response to the children who transit from the



V E R I T A S

Kinde garden center. Despite the closure of school activities, the number of children remained stable.

The educational project “Playing with learning” continued, seeking to promote the importance of playing in the formation of identity, in the capacity for autonomy, in memory, and especially in the evolution of the imagination.

Throughout the year, the following dates / events were experienced: World Food Day, Bread for God, St. Martin, Christmas, Kings Day, and Carnival. During the confinement period (March to May), the Center maintained at distance the activities and follow-up of children and families, with the educational team sending weekly proposals for activities, stories, songs, and many games.

The program of complementary activities was suspended between March and the end of the school year, having been restarted with much adhesion in October. Thus, babies and children aged 1 year attended Physical and Music Education, and children aged 2 to 5 years attended, in addition to these two activities, the English activity. It should be noted that in this special year, the attitude of Families in general was very positive and constructive.



In the area of Social Support, the “Famílias com Alma” (FcA) project developed its activity in the inclusion and training axis in the following ways:

In food support, 1328 baskets and 21168 meals were delivered, on average, to 58 families representing 112 people, mainly with the help of the “Food Bank against Hunger” and the “Food Emergency Program- Social Canteen”, from the Social Security Institute. In addition, in March, with the first confinement, the Center was part of the Social Emergency Network of the Municipality of Oeiras, cooking over 39000 meals, during 2020, which allowed support for up to a maximum of 150 families who were facing economic difficulties and health issues inherent to Covid-19. The support of the Municipality of Oeiras was also very important in the improvement of the kitchen equipment, with the offer of a tipper, a stove and a lunch box.



V E R I T A S

Mention should also be made to other food collection campaigns carried out by the F.O.S.R.D.I. community, namely by Colégio Bom Sucesso, “Continente Bom Dia”, from Restelo, and by Auchan Alfragide, through daily collections of food surpluses.

Throughout the health area, 40 people benefited from specialist ophthalmology consultations or purchase of free lenses and ophthalmological frames.

In the employability area, 8 sessions of the Active Job Search Assistance Group (GEPE) were held, which were attended by 7 users throughout the year. Participation in the “RedEmprega do Vale de Alcântara” continued, through clarification workshops for technicians and by promoting users' access to the Employment and Recruitment fairs carried out by the partners.

Within the scope of Vocational Training, 2 certified training actions were carried out in the areas of Training for Trainers and Personal Development. The recognition of the advantages of distance learning, even after the pandemic, provoked a reanalysis of training plans and investments in new technological platforms.

In the second axis of the “Famílias com Alma” project, the objective was to reduce isolation. Two important partnerships should be mentioned:

With the “Aprender, Brincar e Crescer / Sala Aberta” Groups, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and with the support of the Municipality of Oeiras, it was possible during the year 2020 to have 3 groups in operation. 59 participants directly benefited from this project. In a pandemic context, it was necessary to adapt the project, and it continued online.

The “Avós e (m) Companhia” project with the Senior Academy “Oficina de Saberes” consolidated intergenerational relationships through workshops and activities, coordinated by a team of professionals, who work together with seniors, children and people with disabilities. The reality of daily participation in the first two months foresees a growth in this academy with more than 60 participants and with theoretical and practical classes, namely English, gymnastics, Pilates, choral group, information technology and traditional European dances. It was necessary to interrupt these activities, but a very frequent relationship was maintained, with communication at distance. This project is part of “RUTIS - Network of Senior Universities and NAUS” - Core of Academies of the Senior Universe and everyone wants to return to normality.

Within the scope of the project “Aldeias que Tocam, Povo que Clama”, as a result of the pandemic COVID-19, the scheduled initiatives were postponed to the year 2021, with



V E R I T A S

the adaptation of the project to the digital format, according to the existing technological means in both regions.

In the area of volunteering / social responsibility, 3 programs were carried out in partnership with companies and schools, with a total of 59 participants.

Since 2017, the Center has had the Join4Change Volunteer Seal - Commitment level, with the Portuguese Volunteer Confederation. It's involved in the "Infante Dom Henrique" Award, in the EDP Foundation Solidarity Schools Network and in "GRACE GIRO 2.0", integrated in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Center also continued its Lean project, with the participation in another Lean Day in January, and continued to apply the road map for project implementation.

In order to raise funds and publicize the "FcA" Project, investment in communication and social marketing was reinforced. A detailed report was prepared at the beginning of the year with all activities and all the many partners who were involved (see the report in detail on the Foundation's website).

The most relevant events were the public presentation of the Senior Academy Project and "Sala Aberta" project at the beginning of the year.

Centro Sagrada Família was part of the "BNI Sucesso" group. This Business Network International allows integrating a network of partners in different business areas, in a perspective of profitability of resources and solutions that are more effective.

CSF applied for 13 awards and lines of credit. Of the applications submitted, CSF was one of the entities included in the financing of the "Adapt + Program - Incentive Scheme" for the Adaptation of the Activity of Social Responses.

In the area of quality and continuous improvement, the Center continued to maintain the processes implemented in the Integrated Management System. Once again, we highlight the evaluation of customer satisfaction in the educational area, where 97% of the responses to the Satisfaction survey stated that they are satisfied or very satisfied.

With regard to children's personal, social and spiritual development, playful and educational activities continued to be implemented within the scope of the Pastoral, promoting values of solidarity, sharing and respect for others. Among the employees, the weekly reflection meeting on spiritual topics was held, with the use of Zoom, when necessary.



V E R I T A S

**COLÉGIO DO
BOM SUCESSO**
DOMINICAN COLLEGE



“Colégio do Bom Sucesso” is a Dominican school that operates on the premises of the Convent of Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso, in Belém. Aware of the importance that training and global education have in the integral development of young people, the College invests in different activities intended to complement the student's cognitive, social, emotional and spiritual learning. In this sense, the school promotes projects that cover different areas of knowledge / growth / living, consolidating learning in a holistic and current way.

“Colégio do Bom Sucesso” as a Portuguese Catholic school develops an evangelizing mission with its students, families and collaborators. Maintaining a close connection with the Irish Sisters is important for the continuity of this Institution's charism. In 2020, 729 students from pre-school to the 9th grade were enrolled. This year, 58 students were included in the Decree-Law 54/2018, whose processes are centralized by the Psychology Office.

In 2020, the number of active employees rose to 107, being distributed in the following categories:

Headmistress	1
Teachers	57
Administratives	8
Auxiliars/ Maintenance	38
Pastoral	1
Psychologists	2



V E R I T A S

Service providers are also relevant, namely those related to extracurricular activities, advocacy services, and communication.

The academic activities of the year 2020 were unexpectedly interrupted by the emergence of the pandemic of Covid 19, which forced a rapid change in the face-to-face operation for distance learning. From March onwards, the topic of the pandemic became central and affected the rest of the year. We can distinguish 4 moments: Jan-Mar (classroom teaching); Mar-Mai (online teaching for everyone); May-Jul (return from preschool to on-site) and Set-Dez (on-site teaching for all). Numerous efforts have been made to adapt flexibly to all situations that have arisen, developing contingency plans, new schedules, adapting spaces, teaching methodologies and assessment criteria. By using the Teams and Zoom platforms it was possible to give classes and work with students, hold meetings with teachers and make contact with parents and candidates for new applications. The “inovar” platform was widely used for both pedagogical and administrative support (new registrations and renewals). There was a very important involvement of the entire teaching staff and computer technician in overcoming the new and varied problems that were happening.

Educational activities to highlight:

- English Week - (17 to 20 Feb. “Made in the USA” theme)
- “ConVida Sciences” Project - (Feb)
- “Disco Party” Carnival Party - (Feb)
- Christmas film “A light that does not go out” written by Cristina Salvador and directed by Telmo Prodições - (ten)
- Ateliers, workshops, study visits (Jan-Mar and Sep-Dec), sports activities (ex: Marists 14 Jan)

Related to the Department of Psychology:

- Elaboration of processes Decree-Law 54/2018,
- Training for sexuality - Decree-Law 60/2009,
- Vocational orientation
- Creative Writing / Hit the Letter
- Monitoring of in-person and online students in the confinement period

Pastoral Program / Social Program:



V E R I T A S

- Preparation and celebration of the First Communion (October)
- Rosary in October in stream,
- Food collection project “Famílias com Alma” Christmas campaign.
- Thematic videos participated among the entire school community during the online period
- Lent and Easter celebration in an online form.
- Thanksgiving Mass in streaming from the Church, with the delivery of Diplomas to the 9th grade finalists.
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Advent Masses.

Awards and Distinctions

54 prizes were awarded to 2nd and 3rd cycle students, the Honor and Excellence Framework and the “Aluno Bom Sucesso” Award. The ceremony took place at the Church in the month of September and was broadcast on YouTube to the entire school community.

Professional qualification:

Throughout the year, various training courses for teaching and non-teaching staff were promoted and supported. There was massive adherence to online training (webinars) by the Faculty. We highlight:

- Virtual school
- Leya formations (Webinar)
- Porto Editora Formations (Webinar)
- Training in Etwinning Projects
- Webinars (various pedagogical themes)

Partnerships developed with some entities:

- “Banda da Armada” - canceled from March
- Domus (Senior Citizens' Residence) - canceled from March
- Centro Cultural de Belém - Christmas party canceled in December



V E R I T A S

- AEEP (Association of Private Education Establishments)
- “Os Maristas” College
- Visit the club “Os Belenenses” to talk about rugby

Investments:

Some of the planned investments had to be postponed, at least in relation to the start of construction phase. However, significant investments were made in adapting the College in the computer area and in the communication platforms taking into account the requirements of distance learning.

Health standards also required adaptations of various kinds and corresponding investments, namely those related to entrances and exits, routes, signage, disinfection, adaptation of timetables, and various operating rules.

Together with the Parents' Association and because of the “Participatory Budgeting” activity, some improvements were made to the playground and new acquisitions of outdoor equipment (for instances: tables, dustbins)

Another project developed during the confinement was the “Hino do Colégio” (film “to the little squares”) made by Clave de Sol, with the collaboration of many students and teachers.

In July, Paula Moura Pinheiro's program "Guided Visit" (RTP2) was filmed at the Convent's facilities, guided by the Director of CBS and commented by the historian Dr. Miguel Soromenho of the National Museum of Ancient Art.



**CASINHA
DE NOSSA
SENHORA**
DOMINICAN CENTRE

The “Casinha de Nossa Senhora”(CNS) is a Center with Social Response of Kindgarden area, and it was launcg in 1997. Open from Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, during working days, except for the month vacation in August and Christmas, Carnival and Easter school breaks - to clean and disinfect the facilities and to train technical and support staff.



V E R I T A S

The Kindergarden center had a frequency of 44 children (total capacity) between 0 and 3 years old, organized in 4 groups and distributed in 4 rooms. It includes a Cooperation Agreement with the Social Security Institute that covers 27 users.

The number of online registrations in 2020 was 129 and remains very relevant, bearing in mind the scarcity of social responses with 4 institutions, and the sharp demand because of the good quality patented by the good results in the Parental Satisfaction surveys. In relation to extra vacancies to the social security agreement, the relationship with Colégio Bom Sucesso continues to be important, both via the employee's children, and because of a teaching proposal that begins at "CNS" and continues through the College.

The service is provided by professionals, with specific training, under the guidance and supervision of the Institution's Technical Director. The staff is established in order to guarantee the quality and effectiveness of the services, observing the following requirements: to have the necessary and adequate training to perform the functions that they perform in the set of services provided; have knowledge that guarantees an adequate intervention in specific situations; have communication skills and an easy relationship that allows them to adopt an attitude of listening and observing the needs of children.

Each of the three activity rooms had an Early Childhood Educator and an Educational Action Assistant, except the Nursery room, where there was the supervision and support of the Pedagogical Coordinator and, permanently, two Educational Action Assistants. There is also a Cook and a General Services Assistant, with a team of 11 full-time professionals.

As part of the Kindergarden pedagogical Project, activities with children are previously scheduled, taking into account the age group, level of development and socio-cultural reality of the environment in which they operate, and are in accordance with the pedagogical project defined annually, subject to periodic evaluations. The daily activities ensured the physical, affective and cognitive needs of the children, namely, with regard to physical and emotional security, food, rest, preventive health and hygiene care, comfort, sensorimotor, social and intellectual stimulation and playful activities.

On March 12, 2020, extraordinary measures of an urgent nature were approved by the Council of Ministers in view of the epidemic pandemic situation of COVID-19, with Kindergarden activities suspended, under the terms of Decree-Law no. 10-A / 2020 of March 13. With the urgent need to reinvent what would be the reality of educating such small children, at a distance, during the closing period, alternative forms of



V E R I T A S

communication between employees were established in the team and new communication strategies with children were created, ensuring support for children and families, on a distance way . E-mail was used daily as a way of connecting the team in each room - educator and assistant - and the families of each group of children. In the emails, proposals for activities were sent with educational content appropriate to the age group, such as videos with stories, songs, games and suggestions for themes or shows online, as a way of continuing to support parents. It was difficult to educate and care for their children, while they often kept on teleworking.

Weekly meetings were held, with support on the zoom platform, with Families and for the children to remain close to their peers and caregivers of reference in the kindergarden center. These meetings had a greater or lesser frequency and duration, depending on the age of the group.

With the reopening of the Kindergarden center on May 18, the guidelines of Circular 025/2020 of the General Health Directorate were fulfilled and a questionnaire was sent to families with the expected return of students to the Kindergarden center. We reorganized the groups and daycare spaces, so that there were no intersections, reinforced the hygiene and cleaning plan, the use of a mask by all adults, employees and families became mandatory, and the team was tested to screen for COVID-19.

A COVID19 contingency plan was drawn up, sent to families and posted on the "Casinha de Nossa Senhora" website. Our action was thus based on three pillars, as a way to slow down the spread of the infection : Sick adults and children cannot be at the Kindergarden center and in case of becoming ill, they should remain at home, until they present themselves well; Good personal hygiene, materials and space practices; Reduced contact between groups;

With the purpose of streamlining and making communication with families and the registration of entries and exits of the whole Kindergarden community ,and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation, we proposed the creation of an alternative channel through a platform digital called - EDUCABIZ - so that families could continue to have important information on a daily basis from their students, with private access, via cell phone or computer, receiving the sharing of photos, videos, description of routines and activities.

Throughout 2020, the objectives foreseen in the activity plan and the schedule of pedagogical activities were revised and adapted. As usual, two parties took place during the year: one in the summer, celebrating the end of the school year; another in winter, with the celebration of Christmas - both exclusive for the children of each group.



V E R I T A S

There continued to be Team and Parent Meetings, most of which were held in a distance form.

Within the scope of internal training, with the support of APEI (Association of Childhood Education Professionals) and CSF (Centro da Sagrada Família), some of the actions already foreseen in the training plan, also carried out remotely, were subordinated to various topics in the area of child development, hygiene and food security and health.

Although in beginning of 2020 three complementary weekly activities (Gymnastics, Music and English) were in full operation, taught by teachers in the area, always with the presence of the educator of each group, after restart, it was not possible to go ahead with these special activities.

Some investments were made to allow better communication in a distance way. We highlight a video for the presentation of the institution and which can be seen on the website. Work on the floor layout of the orange room was completed.

4. Meetings of the Board of Directors

5 meetings of the Board of Directors were held. The first one at the beginning of the year and the new five-year term, to approve the Delegation of powers / execution of the tasks attributed by statute to the Board of Directors. In the remaining meetings, the quarterly accounts were analyzed and approved. The main activity and investment management indicators of each center were monitored, making comparisons with the information from the previous year and the budget, approved in detail and with the involvement of the entire Management Team.

5. Accounts for the year

The Balance Sheet, Net Income Statement and Appendix, correspond to the set of accountability documents for 2020.

The financial statements of "Fundação obra Social das Religiosas Dominicanas irlandesas" were prepared in accordance with the accounting principles recommended in the SNC-ESNL. In summary, the accounts for the year were:

Values in Thousands of Euros	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Non-current assets	1 917.9	1 948.2	2 001.8	2 077.2	2085.2
Current Assets	1 855.9	1 882.3	1 884.3	1 811.5	1762.2
Total Assets	3 773.8	3 830.5	3 886.1	3 888.7	3847.4



V E R I T A S

Total Liabilities	1 231.4	1 187.0	1 255.2	1 206.9	1142.1
Total Equity	2 542.4	2 643.5	2 630.9	2 681.8	2705.3
Net Results	- 147.5	14.5	4.7	50.0	37.9

5.1 Net Results

The net result was positive at € 37,942.30, which will increase the Retained Earnings.

6. Relevant facts

Due to the pandemic, the Foundation's educational establishments in the various Centers were closed from the 16th of March to the 15th of May 2020. Afterwards, the Kindergarden reopened and on the 1st of June the activities of the pre-school. Only in September did all teaching return to being in person. In the area of social support, the Foundation has always been present, especially in support through food. These facts had relevant impacts on the Life of the Community with economic and financial impacts. The Foundation requested state support, namely those related to the simplified lay-off and there is the possibility of paying Social Security within terms that are more advantageous. In 2021, the teaching activity ended again on January 22, with the prospect of a 2021 year with many uncertainties.

Similar to previous years and according to the implementation of the code of conduct - anti-fraud measures, there was no occurrence in 2020. There was also no complaint against the General Data Protection Regime

7. Acknowledgments

The Board of Directors would like to thank:

- The Supervisory Board for its dedication and competence in the exercise of its functions
- To users, students and Families, their confidence in our ability to meet their needs as users of the foundation's services.
- And expresses its appreciation to all employees and service providers for their performance and very positive attitude.

Lisbon, March 16, 2021