

# DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DIOCESE OF ORANGE WELCOMES SANTA ANA COMMUNITY TO ITS' NEW 16,000 SQ. FT. OUR LADY OF LA VANG CHURCH**

**SANTA ANA, Calif., (August 10, 2006)** - After more than five years of construction, The Most Rev. Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange will dedicate the nearly \$10 million structure located at 288 S. Harbor Blvd., in Santa Ana, August 20 at 10:00 a.m. Our Lady of La Vang is the Diocese's first rotunda church with seating for more than 1,000 parishioners encompassing the altar. The edifice seeks to incorporate design elements representing the parishes' predominantly Hispanic and Vietnamese communities.

"We are blessed to dedicate this beautiful new structure in the heart of Santa Ana to serve this vibrant and faithful community. Our parishioners have worked very hard to make their dream a reality and I look forward to sharing this incredible experience with them," said Bishop Brown.

The construction of Our Lady of La Vang began on July 31, 2001 by building contractor Illig Construction of Los Angeles and was designed by Cocoran, Cocoran & Botich of Newport Beach. The architectural design and color motif integrate common elements from both the Vietnamese and Hispanic cultures. The round on square architectural structure of the building, for the Vietnamese people, is a familiar representation of heaven and earth, divinity and humanity. Within the Hispanic culture, the same architectural structure resembles ancient Iberian and Roman style, which also represents these ideals. The exterior tri-level appearance topped with a cross and the interior cruciform axis is a traditional Catholic design. The Baptismal Font, Altar, Ambo, and Presiding Chair are all designed to match these overall architectural elements.

"Our new church is representative of this diverse portion of Santa Ana and will invite all to worship together as one. The sheer size of the facility will more adequately serve our growing community. I am delighted to join Bishop Brown and all of our parishioners in dedicating our new home," said Rev. Joseph Son Nguyen, pastor of Our Lady of La Vang.

### **About Our Lady of La Vang:**

Our Lady of La Vang first appeared to the Vietnamese people when King Canh Minh issued an anti-Catholic edit and order to destroy all Catholic churches and seminaries in 1798. During this great suffering, many Catholics from the nearby town of Quang Tho sought refuge in La Vang's forest. One night the people of the town were visited by a figure of a lady surrounded by many lights dressed in a long cape, holding a child in her arms, with two angels at her sides. Later she was known as Our Blessed Mother. All who would congregate on this site to pray would be heard and their petitions granted.

Our Blessed Mother eventually became known among people in the region and other places. After the persecution officially ended, Bishop Gaspar ordered a church to be built in her honor, known as Our Lady of La Vang. The Bishop proclaimed Our Lady of La Vang as the Protectorate of the Catholics. In 1928, a larger church was built in Santa Ana to accommodate the rising number of pilgrims which was destroyed in 1972 during the Vietnam War.

For more information regarding Our Lady of La Vang Church please contact the parish office at 714-775-6200.

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