

# Vietnamese Apostolate of Brooklyn Diocese

## Our Lady of Mount Camel Church

### *Saint Andrew Dung Lac – Vietnamese Apostolate*

A summary of the history of the Saint Andrew Dung Lac –  
Vietnamese Apostolate

Website: <http://www.megaalliance.com/sites/cdadl/>

After the historical events of 1975 when South Vietnam fell to Communism, refugees began fleeing the country. The people of South Vietnam used all means and ways possible to escape - by sea, by land - to find a new life with freedom, democracy and happiness.

At that time in the Diocese of Brooklyn, NY, there were a few Catholic Vietnamese families. They had difficulty adjusting to their new life in America; it was difficult to participate in religious activities because of the language barrier, and there were no masses in Vietnamese. Fortunately, there was a Vietnamese priest in the Diocese, Father Luke Du Anh Pham, who overcame many hardships to offer mass in Vietnamese for the families living in Brooklyn and Queens. Father Luke Du used his old car to pick-up the 4 or 5 families so they can attend mass together.

In 1987, at St. Alosious Church in Ridgewood, Brooklyn, the Vietnamese Apostolate was officially formed with the name *Saint Andrew Dung Lac*, in honor of one of the 117 martyrs of Vietnam. The Diocese appointed Father Luke Du as coordinator of the Apostolate. Under his guidance, the Apostolate flourished even though there were only a few families compared to other ethnic Apostolates.

In 1999, the Apostolate suffered a great loss with the sudden death of Father Luke Du. While vacationing in California, Father Luke became ill and died on November 13, 1999. Also that year, the Apostolate was challenged with having to find a new location to gather and worship.

The Apostolate was blessed with Father Joseph Tan Tri Pham. He introduced the Apostolate to his Pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Astoria, Queens. Pastor Frank Lynch agreed for the Apostolate to gather and worship at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. With the assistance of Monsignor Marino at the Catholic Migration Office a new coordinator was appointed to lead the Apostolate, Father Joseph Truong Xuan Vu.

After a short period of time under the guidance for the Apostolate coordinator and assistance from Father Joseph Tan, regular Sunday mass in Vietnamese was offered at 3pm and many groups and activities were formed, such as Catholic Mothers, Choir, Dance, Prayer Group and Religious Education. There were many celebrations for special days: Apostolate's Patron Saint, Christ the King, Christmas, Easter and Vietnamese New Year.

At the end of 2001, due to the need of the Diocese, Father Joseph Truong was transferred to another parish and Father Joseph Tan Tri Pham was appointed by the Bishop as the new coordinator for the Apostolate. As coordinator, Father Joseph Tan invited many Vietnamese priests from within and outside the Diocese to con-celebrate Sunday mass with the Apostolate. This was a great honor for the Apostolate.

A special event for the Apostolate is Christmas Midnight Mass. Families from the greater New York City area would gather to celebrate mass and share the love and joy of the birth of Christ. This was the dearest wish of the Apostolate from its first beginning.

In June 2008, the Diocese appointed Father Peter (Vitus) Hoa Trung Nguyen as the new coordinator for the Apostolate.

1987 – 1999: Father Luke Du Anh Pham; RIP 11/13/1999

1999 – 2001: Father Joseph Truong Xuan Vu

2001 – 2008: Father Joseph Tan Tri Pham

2008 – : Father Peter (Vitus) Hoa Trung Nguyen

The following are the Apostolate Chairmen who assisted the Apostolate Coordinator:

Mr. Chien Dinh Vu

Mr. Minh Van Vo

Mr. Khuong Huu Luu

Mr. Ban Xuan Dang

Mr. Tu Vu (current)

The Vietnamese Apostolate will always remember those far and near who have shared in the formation and making the Apostolate what it is today. May God bless you all.

The Vietnamese Apostolate especially remembers and is ever grateful to the late Father Luke Du Anh Pham for his life-long sacrifice even to the last moment, ever caring and concern for his flock. As while you were here with us and now with God, please continue to pray for us so that we are worthy to be the children of God.

The Birthday of the Virgin Mary, September 8, 2008, Diocese of Brooklyn, New York  
Saint Andrew Dung Lac – Vietnamese Apostolate Coordinator  
Father Peter (Vitus) Hoa Trung Nguyen