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## *2025 Romarias Report*

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### **Acknowledgment of Festeiros**

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Festeiros for the year 2025. Their dedication and contributions were crucial to the success of our celebration.

- Angels: Natalie A. Virissimo
- Children: Samantha Camacho-Garces & Janessa Goncalves
- Pastoras: Maribel Garces Silva, Mary Luz Perreira
- Paulense: Gorete V. Silva in memory of Zeca Rodrigues
- Promesa: John & Esther Peterson
- Barca: Pete Garces, Augie Rodrigues, Chanel Virissimo in memory of Philip Virissimo, Roland Virissimo & Florencio Vieira

### **Event Highlights**

The auction was held on December 26<sup>th</sup>. During the event, Romarias were sung, and the band 20Animar delivered an outstanding performance. Their music energized the crowd, and everyone danced and enjoyed themselves until the end of the celebration.

### **Auction Results and Community Involvement**

The auctioneer, Daniel A. Silva, did a remarkable job. The Barca was successfully purchased by Miles & Jocelyn Doughty and Mike & Annette Gafa for \$25,000.00. Donations from the Finete Family for \$ 5,000 and from Ryan Williams for \$ 2,000 made it even more special. The Romarias event was well attended, with every table filled. It was especially uplifting to see many young adults participating, continuing the cherished traditions established by our founders, Veronica & Jose Falante, who hailed from the small village of Paul do Mar, Madeira.

### **Donations and Planned Improvements**

The Romaria committee is pleased to announce that a total of \$33,000.00 was donated to St. Agnes Church. These funds will be utilized for several important projects, including installing new windows in the church hall, implementing a security and camera system for the church hall, rectory, and School, and adding new door locks to help protect the Church from vandalism. Any remaining funds will be allocated toward essential remodeling needs at St. Agnes School.

### **Committee Members**

- Therese Garces
- Rosemarie Silva
- Daniel A. Silva

- Diana Balelo
- Manuel Joseph Balelo

### **2026 Festeiros**

- Angels: Natalie A. Virissimo
- Pastoras: Diana & Manuel Joseph Balelo
- Children: Samantha Garces, Craig Telo, Marla Soares
- Descendants: Daniel A. Silva, Marla Soares, & Felicia Coito
- Paulense: Gorete Silva & Zulmira Virissimo in Memory of Zeca Rodrigues
- Barca: Falante Cousins
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Respectfully submitted:

Therese Garces