

i do



Hang & Tri

From the design of the invitation to the location of their honeymoon, Hang Nguyen and Tri Le had planned their wedding down to the details, but there was one element that they left for their parents to take over.

The Vietnamese tradition of Le Xin Dau, which roughly translates “requesting of the bride,” is held at the bride’s family home. The ceremony typically is held the day of the wedding, but due to time constraints, it was conducted the day before Hang and Tri got married.

For Le Xin Dau, the groom and his family come to the home with gifts, always an odd number for luck, to ask permission to receive the bride. Hang and Tri received seven gifts, including a roast pig, the most important element. Gifts also were wrapped in red for good luck.

“The Le Xin Dau is an important part of the wedding ceremony in Vietnam as well as important to both of our parents,” Hang said. “We were very honored to be able to carry on our heritage by having this ceremony here in New Orleans.”

The couple had a traditional Catholic ceremony on Sept. 30 at Holy Name of Jesus Church, where the Rev. Dominic Nghiem Van Nguyen, of Mary Queen of Vietnam Church in New Orleans, and the Rev. Hung Viet Nguyen, of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Baton Rouge, officiated.

Nghiem, the main officiant, had known Tri’s parents back when they lived in Vietnam, while Hung was Tri’s family priest growing up.

At the reception, the couple integrated more Vietnamese traditions. The dinner had seven courses, a nod to odd numbers, and instead of receiving gifts, the bride and groom walked to each table to greet guests, who then gave them money in an envelope.

For Hang and Tri, it’s their shared heritage, cultural and religious, that drew them together. The couple met one Sunday when they were attending services at Christ the King Catholic Church on LSU’s campus. Hang, then a freshman, was running late, as was Tri, then a sophomore, and they bumped into each other in the parking lot. Ultimately they sat next to each other in the back of the church. They had mutual acquaintances, including Tri’s sister, who he was meeting after Mass for lunch. Impulsively, Tri asked Hang if she wanted to meet them.

Equally as impulsive, she said yes.

The couple hit it off, and after college graduation, they landed in New Orleans. Tri, a Baton Rouge native, is a field operations manager with Boh Brothers; Hang is an interior designer with Curve Hospitality.

In October 2015, Tri had planned to propose to Hang in San Francisco. “Hang is into the arts so I wanted to pick a place that was beautiful,” he said.

Along for the trip were two of Hang’s sisters, her best friend and one of Tri’s close friends. The only one who didn’t know about the proposal was Hang.

After she said “yes,” the couple returned home to plan wedding festivities that blended their heritage, culture and family in a perfectly New Orleans way.

— Sue Strachan, Social Scene Columnist



Tri Le's parents greet the bride during the Le Xin Dau ceremony the day before the wedding.

INVITATION

Designed by the bride

WEDDING DRESS

Ceremony: Custom by Mae Me's Bridal Boutique

Reception: Aidan Mattox, BHLDN

BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES

Lulus Bridal

GROOM'S TUXEDO

Ike Behar

GROOMSMEN'S TUXEDOS

Tuxedos to Geaux

RINGS

H&Q Jewelers (Orlando, Fla.)

FLOWER GIRL DRESS

Bow Dream

RING BEARER SUIT

Black N Bianco

CEREMONY

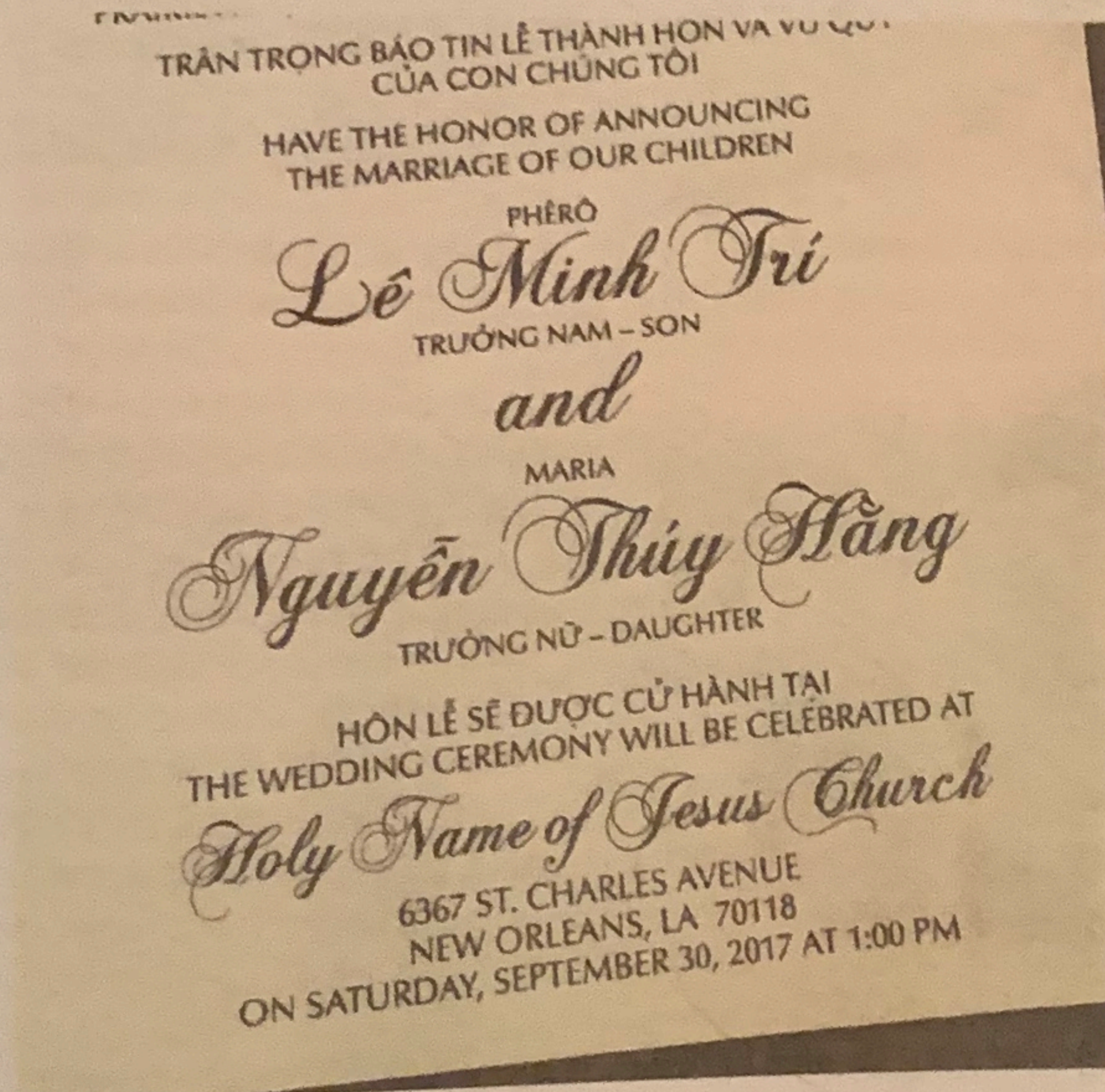
Holy Name of Jesus Church

RECEPTION & FOOD

Crystal Palace Ballroom

FLOWERS & DECOR

Crystal Florals



WEDDING CAKE

Chasing Wang Baking Studio

MUSIC

New Orleans Quartet; DJ Babyboi

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Le Xin Dau: Photo by Huongraphy
Reception: Beebe Tran/ Studio Tran Photography

VIDEOGRAPHER

Andrew Bui Films

