



# Vincentian Solidarity Office

## December 2011 Bulletin

### Comments from the Executive Director

Dear Confreres,

Prepare the way of the Lord!

What better way for us to prepare the way than to be engaged in mission? The one micro-project funded by the VSO this period is helping our new mission in Chad buy a generator. This will enable the mission to use technology in moving forward.

The new mission in Chad is the fruit of many other missions to Africa and Madagascar that have taken root. As the Advent letter from our Superior General reminds us, this mission is, as all missions are, beginning with very little in place. The mission depends upon help from somewhere else. What will come of this mission is hoped for, but not yet known. The help is given in this hope.

And the hope motivates the help. The VSO is currently meeting with groups of former students from CM preparatory seminaries and colleges, and former confreres. Their hope for the mission continues. The relationship of these men and women to the mission has changed. But the hope in their hearts that was ignited by St. Vincent and his embodiment in our confreres, who were their teachers and mentors, is very much alive. We are organizing ourselves to solicit funds for the Patrimony Fund Project. The methods vary from websites to small community celebration of the Eucharist, but the common thread is spreading the invitation to join the Congregation of the Mission in its efforts to give a more solid financial footing to the mission.

Many of you have received a letter inviting you to reflect on how very practical the father of our Charism was. That practical nature found expression in invitation to people to join in the effort at the level each one was called to. Not all took the soup to the sick poor, but all participated in the effort that eventually materialized that reality. Ignite your creativity in Love and call forth the hope in people

you know who are moved by St. Vincent. Help them design practical ways to support the mission. Perhaps you can influence someone of means to make a large donation to the Patrimony Fund Project? Maybe you know ten people who would gather with you for an evening of prayer and discernment about helping this cause? Or maybe you will remember this cause in your will and invite others to do so? Once the activity begins, help them to reflect on what they do and to hear the voice of God fanning their hope into flame.

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Father Miles Heinen, C.M.

(information in English on the patrimony fund can be found at [www.cmglobal.org/patrimony-en/](http://www.cmglobal.org/patrimony-en/).)

### A School Bus in Nedumpara

Confreres of the South Indian Province staff a newly established parish in the mountainous town of Nedumpara in Kerala State. Most residents in the parish work as laborers on rubber plantations.



*Students board the bus of the Mount Carmel School*

The confreres at the parish also administrate Mount Carmel primary school. The school serves 127 students, including children living in two parish substations. One substation is located 12 kilometers from the school; the other is 8 kilometers away. The school lacked a bus to transport children from the substations. Public transportation is not available in

the area. This situation compromised the learning of children living at distances from the school. In response, the South Indian Province applied for, and received, a micro-project grant from the VSO to purchase a second-hand bus for the school. The school bus now makes it possible for the children living in remote areas to attend school regularly.

### A Well in Ambo

Our Ethiopian confreres have a compound in Ambo Town that includes a minor seminary and day care center serving hundreds of impoverished children. The compound and local villagers have lacked a dependable source of water. Water that is collected in a storage tank during the rainy season does not last throughout the year. At times our confreres have had to purchase water from other towns.



*The new well in Ambo Town*

The Ethiopian Province requested the assistance of the VSO with funding to construct a well to create a reliable water source in Ambo Town. The VSO received funding from the African Appeal of Fr. Sy Peterka, C.M., which it matched with monies from the Vincentian Solidarity Fund, to finance the construction of a well with a submersible pump and reservoir. The well now provides the Ambo Town compound and villagers with water year round.

### Cisterns in Yunnan Province

Confreres of the China Province serve the impoverished Miao tribal people of the mountainous Pingtoushan and Nandong Villages in Yunnan Province in Southern China. The Miao people lack many basic services. This is largely because most of the Miao lack national identity documents. Our confreres have been helping the Miao to organize and

improve their living conditions. One of the most pressing needs has been to construct cisterns to gather and store rain to provide the villages with safe water.



*One of the new cisterns under construction*

The China Province requested the assistance of the VSO with this project. The VSO matched monies raised by Fr. Pawel Wierzbicki, C.M. from parishes in Poland, with monies from the Vincentian Solidarity Fund, to finance the construction of 16 cisterns. The cisterns provide 140 villagers with potable water.

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**Our goal:** To assist the Congregation of the Mission with obtaining funds for its evangelization and service of the poor.

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