



# Vincentian Solidarity Office

## October 2011 Bulletin

### Comments from the Executive Director

Dear Confreres,

Christ is our hope!

Your exceptional generosity has allowed the VSO to respond to 8 Micro-project requests: a water well for Central America; formation of laity for the Panama Mission of the Eastern Province USA; pews for Hungary; street children for the Colombian Mission in Rwanda; Diaspora confrere visitation for Ethiopia; center house furnishings for the Mission of Tanzania of Southern India; a used vehicle for Southern India; and school chairs for the Mission of Vietnam of Paris.

And is it not exceptional generosity – love – what we are about in Evangelization? Solidarity, a persistent commitment to the common good of each and all, which we are building by this generosity, is a huge element of our identity.

The challenge to be who we are is always before us as the multiple decisions of every day are brought to particular and common examine. *Can I grow in my ability to promote solidarity?* The VSO asks you to make this level of reflection because many of our provinces, vice-provinces and missions struggle to put flesh on St. Vincent's desire to light a fire of charity.

St. Vincent was a practical man. He developed the means of funding the mission. Today we have, in the Patrimony Fund Project, an opportunity to help build a means that will provide some of that necessary funding for years and years to come. Many of you have, or will receive, a letter from the Superior General and myself asking for help. Please take the request to prayer and let your spirit become inventive!

The amount (2,750,000 USD) that we still need in order to reach the 10,000,000 USD goal seems astronomical to many of us. But if there were 275 agents (confreres, parishes, clubs, prayer groups...) each finding a way to contribute 2,000 USD per year from 2011 to 2015, we would reach the goal. Once

you begin searching, who knows what might happen?

In St. Vincent,

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 Water Facility in Ogobia

Confreres in Nigeria operate Fr. O'Brien High School in the impoverished village of Ogobia. The school serves 700 children and has two hostels that board students living too far away to commute to classes.



*Students draw water at Fr. O'Brien High School*

A lack of potable water has been an ongoing problem for Fr. O'Brien High School and its hostels. The school and local village have depended upon a stream for water. The stream only provides water during the rainy season. At other times the school must purchase water from a town located 20 kilometers away.

A remedy for this problem came from Gibault Catholic High School in Illinois in the U.S.A., where our Nigerian confrere, Fr. Urban Osuji, C.M. serves as chaplain. The students and staff at Gibault Catholic High School raised funding to enable Fr. O'Brien High School to construct a fresh water facility. The VSO matched the funding with monies from the Vincentian Solidarity Fund (VSF) to complete the financing of the project. The water

facility at Fr. O'Brien High School has two wells and provides safe water year round not only to the school and its hostels, but also the local villagers.

### **A Poultry Cooperative in East Wollega**

Our confreres staff the Nekemte Kidanemhired Parish in East Wollega Village in western Ethiopia. The parish has been providing 30 impoverished women and their 100+ dependents with financial and nutritional support and child care. The women either lack work or conduct physically demanding, low paying labor. Under the guidance of Fr. Mebratu Haile Giorgis, C.M., the parish decided to establish a poultry cooperative for the women it was supporting. The women would operate the cooperative and share revenue generated from the sale of eggs and chicks.



*The cooperative chicken house*

Nekemte Kidanemhired Parish requested the help of the VSO in financing the start-up costs of the cooperative. The VSO obtained a grant from the Raskob Foundation, which it matched with monies from the VSF, to enable the parish to construct a hen house and store, and purchase 450 chickens, laying cages, perches, feed and other supplies for the new cooperative. The cooperative began operations in early 2011 and progresses toward its revenue goals.

### **Mission Infrastructure in Willong Circle**

Our North Indian Province carries out much of its evangelization work by operating mission stations in remote, forested regions. Typically the residents of these regions lack schooling, health care, and pastoral services. This was the case when the province began its mission station in 2002 at Willong Circle in

Manipur State, in northeastern India. Willong Circle comprises 7 tribal villages situated in mountainous terrain. The province planned to develop the infrastructure of the mission station and requested the help of the VSO to secure the needed funding.



*The new school with the hostel in the background*

The VSO obtained funding from a European foundation (that requests to remain anonymous), which it matched with monies from the VSF, to enable the North Indian Province to construct a school, rectory, and a new floor on an existing school hostel at its Willong Circle mission station.

**Vincentian Solidarity Office**  
500 East Cheltenham Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144  
United States of America

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

#### **How to contact us:**

**Fr. Miles Heinen, C.M., Executive Director:**  
Telephone: +1 215-713-2432  
E-mail: [cmvso@yahoo.com](mailto:cmvso@yahoo.com)

**Scott Fina, Associate Director:**  
Telephone: +1 215-713-2433  
E-mail: [scottfina@gmail.com](mailto:scottfina@gmail.com)

**Teresa Niedda, Associate Director:**  
Telephone: +1 215-713-3983  
E-mail: [tiedda@cmphlsvs.org](mailto:tiedda@cmphlsvs.org)

**Fax:** +1 215-843-9361

**Our website:** [www.cmglobal.org/vso](http://www.cmglobal.org/vso)