



Vincentian Solidarity Office

June 2011 Bulletin

Comments from the Executive Director

Dear Confreres,

We are reborn in the Spirit!

And as a sign of that new life, and the solidarity among us, I am pleased to announce that generous provinces and confreres have extended the Micro-project fund perhaps to the end of this year! The most recent project is with our confreres in Lebanon responding to the needs of emigrants from Ethiopia.

Another sign of the new life is the VSO doubling the energy it applies to the patrimony fund project. Letters are on their way to many of you suggesting how you can enhance the life of the charism by partnering with 9 of our provinces / vice-provinces to more adequately meet their financial needs.

The call is to reflect deeply on the needs of the Kingdom and the charism of St. Vincent and to invite those you know to join you in promoting a spirituality of abundance and hope. It is not enough to just ask people for money. We want the very act of asking or giving to become a personal experience of the presence of our loving God. We do this by reflection, prayer and personal contact (the method of St. Vincent). There are many who have St. Vincent deeply embedded in their hearts and they want to become active with us in the evangelization of the poor. They just need an opportunity!

The motivation is not some ideal world of perfect confreres. The motivation is hope and trust in the particular realization of St. Vincent's charism today. To quote a famous theologian, we are promoting an instance of "the condition of the possibility" that the poor will have the gospel made real for them.

Read the letter if it comes to you. Let the love that called you to take your vows become creative unto infinity as you realize solidarity with your confreres.

In St. Vincent,
Father Miles Heinen, C.M.
(information on the patrimony fund can be found at www.cmglobal.org/patrimony-en/.)

Renovations in Banda de Shilcayo

For the last seven years, confreres from the Province of Peru have administrated the Parroquia Virgen María de los Remedios: the only parish in the city of Banda de Shilcayo in northeastern Peru. When our confreres arrived, they found the parish center had deteriorated, and could no longer accommodate the growing number of parishioners and programs. Working with the local St. Vincent de Paul Conference, our confreres led the parishioners in planning major renovations to the parish center to meet the pastoral needs of residents in the city and surrounding region. The plans called for converting an existing hall into six rooms for meeting space, and the creation of a new auditorium to seat 100 people. The renovations would more than triple the center's capacity, and improve its facilitation of spiritual formation, training workshops, and other services.



The Virgen María de los Remedios parish center under reconstruction

The Province of Peru requested the assistance of the VSO in obtaining funding to renovate the parish center of the Parroquia Virgen María de los Remedios. The VSO obtained grants from Adveniat and the Archdiocese of Cologne, which it matched with monies from the Vincentian Solidarity Fund (VSF), to finance the renovations to the parish center.

A Minibus in Wailoku

St. Vincent's House of Formation in Wailoku, Fiji accommodates Vincentian novices, and philosophy and theology students from Tonga, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Fiji. The house lacked an appropriate vehicle to transport its seminarians. The students especially struggled to attend their classes at the Pacific Regional Seminary located 10 kilometers away in Suva. The seminarians then started raising funds to purchase a new minibus for the house, by growing and selling vegetables. The Fiji Region also requested the assistance of the VSO to help find financing for the new minibus.



Seminarians in front of the new minibus

The VSO was able to match two generous contributions for the project with monies from the VSF. Fr. Greg Cooney, C.M. obtained the contributions from individuals in Australia. With these monies, and the funds raised by the seminarians, the Fiji Region was able to purchase a new, 15-seat Toyota minibus for St. Vincent's House of Formation.

Completing a New Postulancy in Oraifite

For some time, the Province of Nigeria has been turning away promising applicants to its religious formation program because of a lack of seminary space. In response, the province has gradually been increasing its seminary capacity. Its most recent efforts have concerned a new postulancy building: the James Cahalan Memorial Seminary in Oraifite. The Eastern U.S.A. Province provided funding to construct the main structure of the new seminary. The Province of Nigeria then requested the assistance of the VSO in financing the installation of windows,

doors, plumbing, a septic tank, electrical fittings, tiling, painting, water and electrical hook-ups, and furnishings in the new seminary building.



The newly completed postulancy building

The VSO obtained grants from the Archdiocese of Cologne, and the Koch and Loyola Foundations for the project. Fr. Sy Peterka, C.M. also assisted by obtaining donations from individuals in the U.S.A. The VSO matched all these contributions with monies from the VSF, enabling the Province of Nigeria to complete and occupy its new postulancy building.

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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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