



Vincentian Solidarity Office

June 2012 Bulletin

Comments from the Executive Director

Dear Confreres,

Let us listen to the Holy Spirit!

The call to solidarity has been heard! A total of \$14,350 USD has been donated for the micro-project fund and matched! This period, micro-project grants went to Tanjomoha in Madagascar to buy a tiller to help them grow their own food, to Indonesia to organize workers on plantations, and to North India to add a room onto a rectory so that community life will be more accessible. Another \$21,300 USD will go to this program IF the VSO receives \$10,650 USD in donations to be matched for micro-projects.

We have broken into Ordinary Time -- the time of Mission. The VSO was founded to remind us that our way of spreading the Good News includes being faithful to "the kingdom, that is to say, the new world, the new order, the new manner of being, of living, of living in community, which the gospel inaugurates" (EN, 23) (Constitutions 11). Solidarity "...then is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all." (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* 38)

Some of our provinces and vice-provinces need a more solid financial foundation to bring the mission to life. Can you be one of 650 confreres who, in each of the next 43 months, seeks ways to create community with the people you know so that \$100 USD per month comes through you to the Patrimony Fund Project? (Visit www.cmglobal.org/patrimony-en/ to learn more.) Having celebrated the second Eucharist with a small group of laity invited to this task, I have seen much enthusiasm for the Mission!

In St. Vincent,

Father Miles Heinen, C.M.

A Computer Room in Restrepo

Confreres of our Colombian Province administrate and staff the Seminario Mayor Nuestra Señora del Carmen in Restrepo. The major seminary accommodates over 50 students preparing for the priesthood for several dioceses and religious orders. The students complete seven years of philosophical and theological studies at the seminary.

For some time the students at the seminary were sharing two aging computers to conduct their studies. They also lacked adequate access to the internet. This situation impeded their learning. The students needed more computer time for their writing. Improved internet access would enable them to use online philosophical and theological articles, and broaden their knowledge of socioeconomic realities.



Seminarians work at the new computers

In response to this situation, our confreres at the Seminario Mayor Nuestra Señora del Carmen planned to create a computer room with high speed internet access. They requested the assistance of the VSO with the project. The VSO obtained a grant from the Archdiocese of Cologne, which it matched with monies from the Vincentian Solidarity Fund (VSF) for the seminary to purchase 10 computers, a multi-purpose printer, and the equipment necessary to obtain radio-link access to the internet.

Jeeps for Three Missions in North India

Our North Indian Province operates 39 mission stations. Each mission station typically serves a number of remote and dispersed tribal villages. Our confreres must traverse rough roads to bring pastoral and other services to the villages. During rainy seasons the unpaved and steep roads can become treacherous, requiring 4-wheel drive vehicles for passage. The Bodopoda, Padangi and Rayagada Mission Stations in Odisha State lacked such vehicles. This made many villages inaccessible to our confreres for much of the year—cutting their residents off from the spiritual guidance and the socioeconomic benefits offered by the faith communities of the missions.



One of three new jeeps in North India

To remedy this situation, the North Indian Province and VSO collaborated in obtaining grant monies from MIVA Austria and Kirche in Not. The VSO matched these grant funds with monies from the VSF, enabling the North Indian Province to purchase a new 4-wheel drive, seven-passenger Mahindra Bolero jeep for each of the three mission stations.

A Parish Church in Buba

Our Ethiopian confreres have been serving the Buba Catholic Community since 2000. Buba is a village located 26 kilometers outside Bonga Town in the Kaffa region of southwestern Ethiopia. The Buba villagers are mostly impoverished tribal people who survive by subsistence farming and micro-enterprises. Catholics, while growing in number (currently over 900 members), constitute a small minority of the Buba Village populace. Evangelization opportunities in the Buba Village are great. The Buba Catholic

Community, however, lacked parochial infrastructure, including a church and a rectory. The parish was using a thatched hut for its worship space.



The new Catholic Church in Buba Village

The Buba Catholic Community hoped to construct a permanent church. The Ethiopian Province requested the help of the VSO to raise the necessary funding. The VSO obtained a grant from the Archdiocese of Cologne, which it matched with monies from the VSF for the project. The Buba Catholic Community now has a 140 square-meter church which includes an assembly hall, choir-sanctuary area, and sacristy.

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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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