



# Vincentian Solidarity Office

## March 2011 Bulletin

### Comments from the Executive Director

Dear Confreres,

May we believe!

Instead of the recounting of the micro-projects funded this past quarter, I am changing the format in this bulletin to move to a more pressing concern.

The VSO works to foster solidarity in our international Congregation. It seeks to build relative equality in the capacity of each province and vice-province to evangelize the poor. The VSO does not pursue these aims on its own. Provinces donate matching funds for projects. The VSO successfully uses these matching funds to encourage grants from funding agencies and contributions from donors. Individual confreres also assist the VSO in important ways. Some help solicit donations for specific projects. Many donate monies to build the fund that finances micro-projects. These micro-projects enable the VSO to respond more quickly to funding requests, especially from confreres who would find a larger project harder to design.

Now our top priority is the Patrimony Fund Project. A private foundation has challenged the Congregation with a \$5 million USD challenge grant. To receive the grant, the Congregation must also raise \$5 million USD. The combined funds will build endowments for 9 selected provinces / vice-provinces and one for the Superior General to help support the AMM, JMV and MISEVI. There are already \$2,240,000 USD in hand or promised. We have until December 31, 2015 to acquire the remaining \$2,760,000 USD in matching funds. Our provinces and vice-provinces have been generous to their limit and cannot donate further for this project. This means we must rely heavily upon the help of confreres to raise the matching funds.

There are many ways Confreres can participate. I would like to consider today these three:

#### **1. Help us obtain modest gifts for the Patrimony Fund Project**

Millions of lay people have come to appreciate the charism of St. Vincent—often through their personal connection to confreres. Many of these lay people will want to contribute to the Patrimony Fund Project, but someone must ask them to do so. The VSO can assist confreres in asking lay people and organizations they know to contribute to the Patrimony Fund Project. For example, the VSO can help confreres compose and mail letters of appeal and acknowledge donations. The VSO can also directly ask these lay people and organizations to contribute to the Patrimony Fund Project if confreres will provide their names and contact information. Modest donations can add up quickly. For example, if we find 2,760 donations averaging \$200 USD annually for five years, we will have obtained all the monies we need.

#### **2. Help us find donors who can make large gifts and ask others to do the same**

Some confreres know people of substantial financial means who are capable of making large gifts to the Patrimony Fund Project. We would like to invite these potential large donors to participate in a committee that will seek other large donations for the Patrimony Fund Project from their associates and friends. We are hoping confreres will provide the names and contact information for these donors, and possibly serve on a committee to encourage other large donations from among the donors' peers.

#### **3. Remember the Patrimony Fund Project in our wills**

Confreres can designate the Patrimony Fund Project in their wills and encourage their families and friends to do the same.

If you can help with the Patrimony Fund Project in one or more of these ways, please contact the VSO. We welcome your collaboration and prayers!

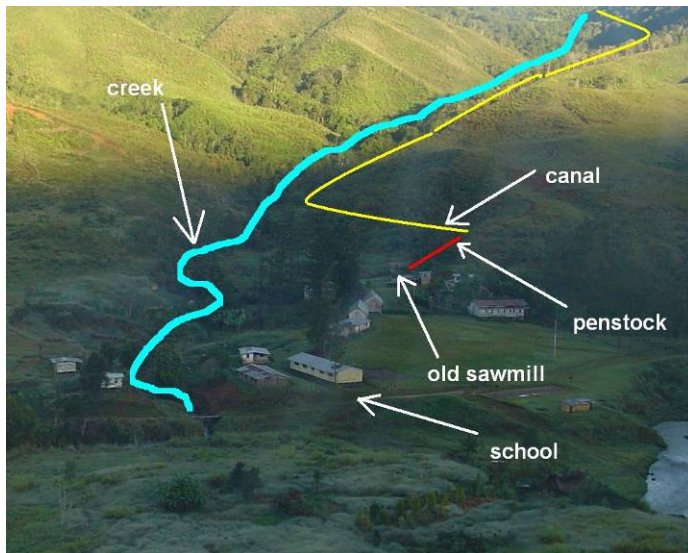
Fraternally in St. Vincent,

Father Miles Heinen, C.M.

## **A Power Station in Woitape**

Evangelization has been in decline in the Goilala Mountains in southern Papua New Guinea for decades. When our confreres arrived in the region in 2009 to assume responsibility for Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Woitape, they found villages that had never seen a priest. They were also confronted with extreme poverty and a gross lack of infrastructure. The parish had no reliable source of water or power. At one time, a canal delivered potable water to the parish from a mountain spring. Water from the canal also turned a waterwheel for a saw mill. The canal and mill no longer functioned. A public hydropower station that once served the area was abandoned. The parish and its school had no lighting or electricity.

In response, our confreres employed creativity and “the sweat of their brows and strength of their arms” in making the mission station functional. They devised a plan to repair the water canal and convert the old saw mill into a hydroelectric power house.



*The power station project in the Goilala Mountains*

The project would require building materials (cement, wood, steel and new gear wheels) and electrical components for a generator (a motor, alternator, and batteries). The generator would be driven by the water wheel that previously ran the saw mill. The International Mission of Papua New Guinea requested the assistance of the VSO in finding funding to purchase the project materials. The VSO obtained contributions from donors in the United States, which it matched with monies from the Vincentian Solidarity Fund, to help finance the project. Our confreres and 300 parishioners provided most of the

labor to implement the project. The project, now fully implemented, has truly been transformative.



*New and old components of the power generator*

The parish now has a constant source of safe water and electricity. New lighting in the church facilitates liturgical and catechetical programs in the evening and has remarkably raised participation by parishioners. The school has enhanced its instruction with multimedia, including video and television via satellite. The electricity has enabled the use of more sophisticated power tools, enabling ongoing improvement to the school and other parish facilities.

**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: [tniedda@cmphsvs.org](mailto:tniedda@cmphsvs.org)

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

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