



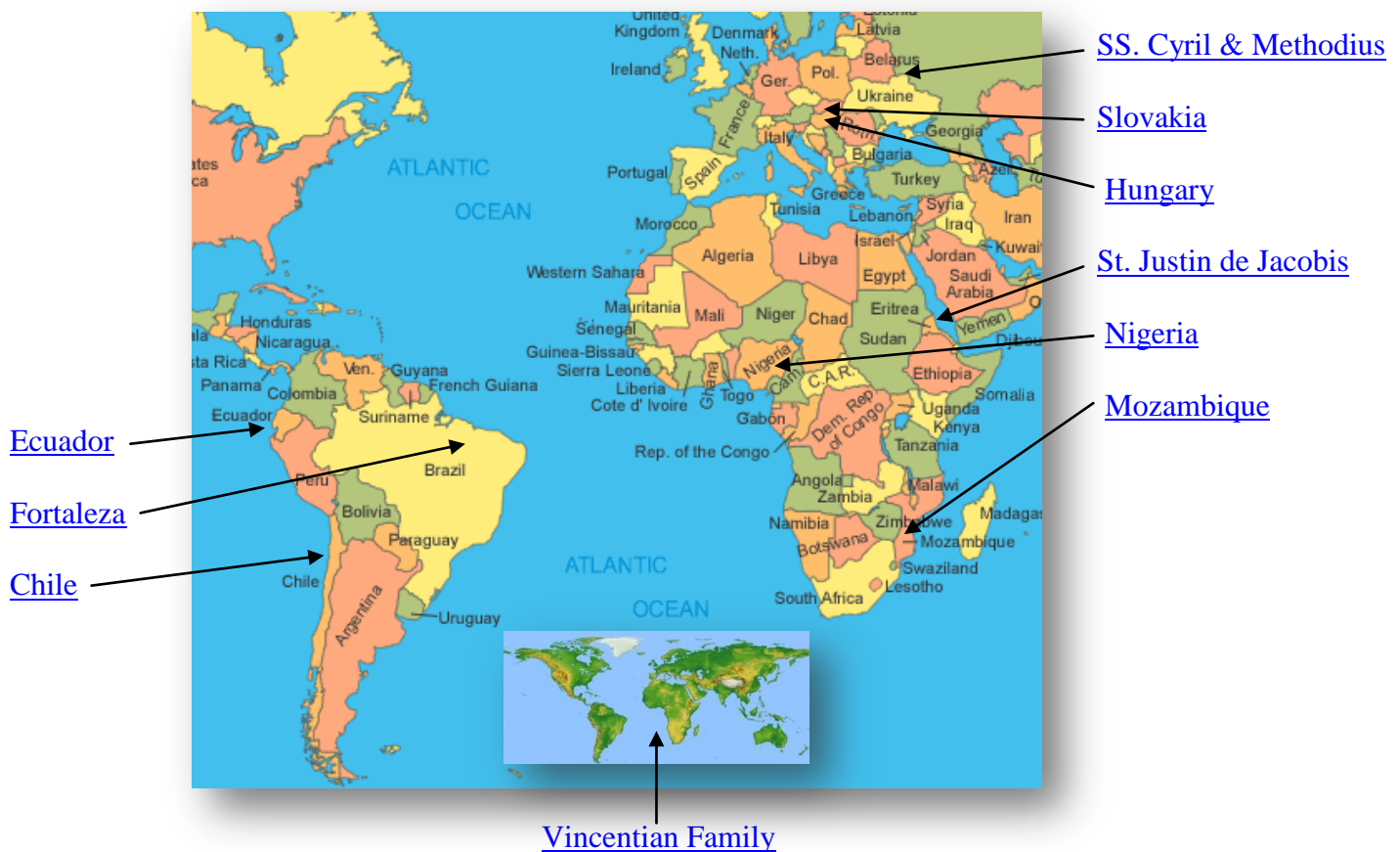
Vincentian Solidarity Office

March 2013 Bulletin



A Call for Confreres to Assist with the Patrimony Fund Project

Several issues of the VSO Bulletin have discussed the Patrimony Fund Project. A family foundation has presented our Congregation with a **\$5 million USD** challenge grant. The grant will create patrimony funds for several of our provinces and vice-provinces, and other organizations within the Vincentian Family. These beneficiaries will use the income from the patrimony funds (endowments) to support their members and ministries for many years to come. The challenge is for us to raise **\$5 million in matching monies** required by the challenge grant by the end of 2015, to generate a **total of \$10 million**.



We are calling the effort to meet the challenge grant the **Vincentian Endowment Challenge**. The beneficiaries of the project are listed above. Click on their names to learn more about them. Future VSO bulletins will also be highlighting their works and needs for evangelizing the poor. They are so deserving of our support!

So far the Congregation has raised almost half of the \$5 million challenge grant. That's good progress, but there is a long way to go—with a dwindling amount of time to reach our goal. ***We can only meet the challenge with the help of confreres.*** Please reach out to family, friends, and other people to ask for donations--small or large. Start with a few people you know best. The VSO can support and guide you in asking for donations.

Contribute here: [Donate](#)

Learn more here: [VEC](#)

Contact us here: [VSO](#)

(www.cmglobal.org/patrimony-en)

(Please feel free to share the VSO Bulletin with others.)

Farm Worker Empowerment in East Java

Farm workers in many areas of Indonesia suffer low wages, poor living conditions, lack of schooling for their children, and limited rights to gather and speak. Our Indonesian confreres have been working to train and organize workers in the East Java Province for some time, targeting large, unjust plantations. The confreres teach the struggling workers their rights according to Indonesian law, and develop leaders and cohesive groups to advocate for better working conditions and fair compensation.



Farm workers meeting for training and organizing

The Province of Indonesia sought and obtained a micro-project grant from the VSO to help advance the effort with farm workers. The grant covered: the costs of publishing a pocket manual of legal worker rights for distribution to farm laborers; rent for a house for two years to host organizing and training sessions for workers; materials, food and transportation for meetings and workshops; and the salary for a project coordinator. The project helped our confreres strengthen and expand worker unions and advocacy skills among their members, despite substantial intimidation by the plantation companies.

School Renovations in Szob

Our confreres in the Province of Hungary continue to rebuild their works and the Catholic Church following the many decades of suppression by the former Soviet regime. In their efforts, they are giving priority to educating youth within a Christian and justice-affirming environment. Their largest work, and most promising source of religious vocations, is St. László secondary school in Szob. St. László is the first Catholic school in Hungary to integrate students with learning disabilities into regular classrooms.

The Province acquired the school building from the Hungarian government. The building has needed improvements for some time. It has also been too small to accommodate the growing enrollment.



St. László during and after renovations

The Province of Hungary sought the help of the VSO for funding to renovate St. László. The VSO obtained grants from a private European foundation, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Koch Foundation, and applied matching funds from the Vincentian Solidarity Fund to the project. The monies enabled the construction of a new roof, classrooms in the unused basement (expanding instructional space), and the installation of an elevator (creating wheelchair access), a new heating system, thermal insulation, a new exterior covering, and furnishings and computer equipment. The project has helped to improve instruction and raise enrollments at St. László.

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

Scott Fina, Associate Director:
Telephone: +1 215-713-2433
E-mail: scottfina@gmail.com

Teresa Niedda, Associate Director:
Telephone: +1 215-713-3983
E-mail: tniedda@cmphsvs.org

Fax: +1 215-843-9361

Our websites: www.cmglobal.org/vso
www.cmglobal.org/patrimony-en/