



Vincentian Solidarity Office

October 2014 Bulletin



The Province of Slovakia: A Beneficiary of the Patrimony Fund Project



The origins and development of the Province of Slovakia reflect the turbulent history of central Europe. The province's territory was once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, occupied by Nazi Germany, part of a single nation under Soviet rule, and

invaded by the Polish military prior to becoming the independent Slovak and Czech Republics it comprises today. Our confreres, who first came as missionaries to the region in 1762, have known and overcome much



oppression, the most recent which involved their exile to prison labor camps in 1950 by the Soviet regime. The Gospel, and St. Vincent's charism, however, can never be fully constrained. The former Vice-Province of Slovakia arose again as an independent province of our Congregation in 1989.

Today the Province of Slovakia has 33 priests and 4 brothers undertaking a plethora of works in rebuilding Catholicism and reaching out to the



Confreres of the Slovakian Province

poor in central Europe. Their ministries in Slovakia and the Czech Republic include several parishes, numerous popular missions, works serving the homeless, chaplaincy at hospitals,



Garifuna children of the Honduran Mission

nursing homes, and prisons, and teaching in seminaries and at a Catholic University. Their evangelization efforts have especially focused upon the youth—such as the Vincentian Marian Youth movement--and involved collaboration with other organizations within the Vincentian Family. For the last 6 years our Slovakian confreres have also operated a mission in Honduras, where they



Fr. Marek Porubcan, C.M. with prisoners

work in 12 parishes and serve the marginalized and deeply impoverished Garifuna people. And while our Slovakian confreres are steeped in zeal for the

Gospel and love for the poor, and offer great promise for the people they serve, they are lacking in financial resources. For these reasons, the Province of Slovakia will greatly benefit from the Patrimony Fund Project.

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Learn more about the Patrimony Fund Project: [VEC](#)

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(www.cmglobal.org/patrimony-en)

Classrooms in Jimma

SS. Peter and Paul Catholic School in Jimma in western Ethiopia is owned by the Apostolic Vicariate of Jimma Bonga and administrated by our Ethiopian Province. Since its establishment in 1984 as a lower primary school, SS. Peter and Paul has grown steadily and expanded to include all primary and secondary grades. The school mostly serves families from among the marginalized peoples in Jimma who survive by petty trades and labor.



The new classrooms at SS. Peter and Paul School

Although the student census at SS. Peter and Paul had reached nearly 900 girls and boys and was causing overcrowding, more poor families were pressing the school to accept their children. The Province of Ethiopia requested the VSO's help in raising funds to add more classrooms onto the school. The VSO obtained a grant from the Koch Foundation, which it matched with monies from the Vincentian Solidarity Fund (VSF), to finance the construction of three new classrooms. The classrooms each hold 50 students, and have eased the overcrowding and allowed SS. Peter and Paul to accept more students.

Chapel Renovations in Mejdlaya

Our confreres at St. Joseph's House in Mejdlaya, a village in northern Lebanon, have experienced the suffering of a horrific 30-year war (1975-2005). The war affected their missionary work. St. Joseph's House was partially destroyed during the violence.

Our Mejdlaya Mission has been, and is now, open to people of all faiths. The confreres teach a gospel of tolerance and mutual respect, in truth and charity. St. Joseph's House is an important Christian presence in

a predominantly Muslim environment.



Liturgy in the newly renovated chapel

The chapel of the house was destroyed by fire in 1975 and repaired in 1981. Unfortunately, the reconstruction was done poorly, so the chapel needed substantial improvements. The Province of the Orient requested assistance from the VSO. The VSO obtained a donation from Kirche in Not which was combined with contributions from L'Oeuvre d'Orient and the VSF. This funding financed major work in the chapel, including plastering, painting, tiling, waterproofing, and updating its electrical system.

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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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