



Vincentian Solidarity Office

October 2012 Bulletin

Comments from the Executive Director

Dear Confreres,

We are called to listen to the Holy Spirit!

Three new micro-projects were funded in September: office equipment for the regional mission in Cameroon; repairs on a Toyota Land Cruiser for the new mission in Angola; and a generator for Slovakia's Divine Mercy Center in Sangrelaya, Honduras. A fourth micro-project is in planning for the new mission in Benin, Africa. These grants will exhaust the funds for micro-projects--**but a matching \$8,600 USD donation will be given if we receive \$8,600 USD in donations from other donors....**

I have a wonderful ministry in the Congregation since I see many inspiring works of our confreres around the world. The Gospel is being preached in word and deed by confreres whose commitment has changed their own lives. This "being evangelized" by our ministry is key to understanding the spirituality of St. Vincent. The process is one of learning to love in the context of an all too material world where there is seemingly never enough.

Part of this process is to spread the message of solidarity among ourselves in a way that motivates action on behalf of confreres in a province different than our own. Will your belief in our Vincentian charism take you beyond yourself into action for your confreres in the Ukraine or Chile or Mozambique? The Patrimony Fund Project could use your help. Could you tell people you know about our great works, inflame in them a love for our charism, and invite them to join us by donating to the Patrimony Fund Project? (learn more at <http://bit.ly/PeGFoM>) (in English) Every donation helps! So far this year some \$590,000 USD has been donated. Altogether 46% of the \$5,000,000 USD goal is collected! Over three years remain..... Please, be creative and **ON FIRE!**

In St. Vincent,

Fr. Miles Heinen, C.M.

A Used Vehicle in Bafoussam

Confreres from the Regional Mission of Cameroon (of the Province of Paris) administrate Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Bafoussam, the capital of the West Province of Cameroon. The parish was recently established in 2005 but is growing quickly. The main part of the parish is located in the outlying Banengo Quarter of Bafoussam. Approximately 600 parishioners live in this quarter. The parish also includes a remote mission station with 400 additional parishioners in the Kyenengo Quarter of Bafoussam, located 5 kilometers away from the main church.

Most parishioners of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel are poor and lack transportation means. This can prevent them from fully participating in parish activities. It is necessary for our confreres to travel to parishioners residing in more distant parts of the parish to bring them pastoral services.



The Honda Civic purchased for confreres at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish

The confreres working at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish lacked a good vehicle for traversing the parish territory. In response to this problem, the Cameroon Regional Mission applied to the VSO for a micro-project grant to purchase a used vehicle. With the micro-project grant monies the Mission obtained a used Honda Civic for the confreres, enabling them to

travel throughout the parish territory.

Computers and Furnishings in Conocoto

One of the important works of our Province of Ecuador is St. Vincent de Paul School in Conocoto. The St. Vincent de Paul School serves indigenous and low income students at the basic and secondary levels, ranging in age from 5 to 17 years. It provides the students with high quality and affordable schooling. For some time the school only had six computers available for its students, limiting their access to technology—an essential element of effective education in today's global economy. In response to this need, the school constructed a new computer center facility in 2011 with the support of the local community. The school and community, however, lacked the funds to equip and furnish the new center.



Students using the new computers and furnishings at St. Vincent de Paul School

The Province of Ecuador requested the assistance of the VSO in obtaining monies to outfit the new computer center at St. Vincent de Paul School. The VSO obtained a grant from Kindermissionswerk, which it matched with monies from the Vincentian Solidarity Fund (VSF), to enable the school to purchase 40 computers, a printer, projector, 20 tables, and 40 chairs to fully equip the new computer center.

A Retention Wall in Antananarivo

The Maison Saint Vincent, located in Antananarivo in central Madagascar, serves as a residence and apostolic center for five confreres of the Province of Madagascar who oversee several important works. These include the vast Akamasoa Association, a center for vocational training, a mission chapel, and

the national directorship of the Vincentian Marian Youth in Madagascar. Part of the property of the Maison Saint Vincent borders on a public road. The property along the road was demarcated by a collapsing retaining wall. The situation created a public hazard and improper drainage for the property.



The new retention wall at the Maison Saint Vincent

The Province of Madagascar sought the help of the VSO to fund the construction of a new retention wall and drainage system on the property of the Maison Saint Vincent. The VSO obtained funds from the Archdiocese of Cologne, which it matched with monies from the VSF, to finance the project.

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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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