



# Vincentian Solidarity Office

## December 2005 Bulletin

### Comments from the VSO Administrator

Dear Confreres,

May the grace of Our Lord be always with us!

I am happy to announce three more recipients of Vincentian Solidarity Fund (VSF) micro-project grants. The Vice-Province of SS. Cyril and Methodius received a micro-project grant to install a well water treatment system at its Social Pastoral Center for Children in Kharkiv in the Ukraine. The water treatment system will provide the orphaned and neglected children served by the center with potable water. The Province of Central America was awarded a micro-project grant for the formation of pastoral agents for St. Anthony Parish in Laguna Seca, Nueva Concepción, Chalatenango, El Salvador. The Vice-Province of Nigeria received a micro-project grant to finance urgent repairs to the St. Vincent de Paul Vice-Provincial House in Maryland, Enugu, Nigeria. These micro-projects were made possible by the generosity of individual confreres, community houses, and provinces, through their ongoing contributions to the VSF, and their response to the most recent request of the Superior General in his October 31, 2005 Mission Appeal letter.

The infancy narratives in the Gospels wonderfully portray Jesus as truly among--and for--God's poor. I pray that this Christmas Season also brings you and the people you serve the peace of God's presence!

Fraternally in St. Vincent,

Brother Peter A. Campbell, C.M.

### Popayán's First Shelter for Homeless Men

The Comité de Pastoral Universitaria (CPU) is the Catholic student association at the University of Cauca and a ministry of the Colombian Province, in the City of Popayán in southern Colombia. CPU was

founded to foster spiritual growth among the university's students and staff. Under the guidance of Rev. Luis Jenaro Rojas, C.M., CPU's general coordinator, the students and staff have also sought solidarity with the poor.

Since 1998 CPU members have provided poor residents living near the university with hygienic care, clothing, meals, and friendship at monthly gatherings. While conducting these programs CPU members became especially concerned with the plight of the dozens of homeless men in the city. No shelter exists for homeless men in Popayán. The lack of shelter for these men compounds their poverty as they fall into a vicious cycle of substance abuse, marginalization, and despair. With the encouragement of Rev. Luis Jenaro Rojas, C.M., CPU members decided to establish and operate the first shelter for homeless men in their city.



*The Albergue para Destechados "Julia Chaux de Rojas" Shelter*

The Colombian Province secured the service of the VSO to raise funding to purchase an appropriate house to convert into the shelter. The VSO obtained the assistance of the Raskob Foundation which granted funds (that were matched with monies from the VSF) to purchase a house in Popayán. The house is large enough to comfortably hold 22 homeless men overnight. The Federación Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia and many friends of Rev. Luis Jenaro Rojas, C.M. have contributed the monies needed to make necessary renovations to the house and to cover operating expenses for the shelter's first year.

CPU will obtain possession of the house in late December of 2005. After renovations are completed, the homeless men of Popayán will be able to sleep, shower, and wash their clothes at the new Albergue para Destechados “Julia Chau de Rojas” shelter. CPU has also obtained the cooperation of private and civic organizations to provide these men with social services to address their deeper problems. Please pray for Rev. Luis Jenaro Rojas, C.M and the CPU members as they undertake this important but challenging project!

### A Vehicle for Southern India

Infirm and aged members of the Southern Indian Province reside at the Priests’ Home in Belwadi, in Karnataka State in India. The home lacked a vehicle to transport ill confreres for critical treatment to the nearest hospital located 18 kilometers (11 miles) away over rugged roads. The lives and welfare of ill confreres were jeopardized by a lack of dependable transportation.



*The new Mahindra Scorpio Jeep in Belwadi*

The Province sought the assistance of the VSO. The VSO obtained a donation from the CWR Electronics Corporation, and a contribution from private donors (matched by VSF monies) that enabled the Province to purchase a new Mahindra Scorpio Jeep to transport its ill priests and brothers to the hospital.

### A Second Floor in Morogoro

In 2001 the General Curia entrusted its Mission in Tanzania to the Southern Indian Province. The Mission, which currently has 8 missionaries, has quickly taken root and already established its own formation program. To accommodate its growing vocations, the Mission initiated a six-phase project to build De Paul Seminary in the City of Morogoro.

After completing Phase 1 of the seminary, which includes 8 bedrooms with common bathrooms, a kitchen, storeroom, and dining room, the Mission requested the service of the VSO in acquiring funding to complete the remaining phases. The VSO was able to match a grant from the Koch Foundation with monies from the VSF to finance Phase 2, which was constructed on top of Phase 1 and includes another 7 bedrooms and common bathrooms.

Currently De Paul Seminary houses 1 rector and 11 seminarians: 5 in theology, 4 in philosophy, and 2 candidates. The VSO continues to work at finding funding for the remaining 4 phases (2 additional wings). Once completed, the seminary will hold 28 seminarians, 2 rectors, and 2 guests.



*Phases 1 and 2 of De Paul Seminary in Morogoro*

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**Our goal:** To assist the poorer provinces, vice-provinces, missions, and visitors’ conferences of the Congregation of the Mission with obtaining funds for their works and needs.

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