



Vincentian Solidarity Office

December 2008 Bulletin

Comments from the Director

Dear Confreres,

May the grace of Our Lord be always with us!

Since I last wrote to you, the VSO awarded another VSF Micro-Project Grant to the Tanzanian Mission of the Province of Southern India to purchase furnishings for Phase 6 (7 bedrooms and 4 common bathrooms for students, a chapel extension and sacristy) at De Paul Seminary in Morogoro. The generosity of confreres contributing to the Vincentian Solidarity Fund (VSF) made this grant possible.

At the end of this December, and after more than six years, I conclude my service at the VSO. My work at the VSO has been challenging. It has also been very rewarding. The work has allowed me to see creative and tireless efforts by confreres to provide for the needs of their own men and to assist the poor in developing countries. It has also allowed me to witness sacrificial and unending generosity of confreres around the world contributing from their personal resources to support VSO projects and micro-projects.

My years at the VSO have helped me to grasp the expansiveness of poverty. These years have also shown me to see the promising impact of people driven by their love of God and the poor on the world's problems and injustices. I leave the VSO edified and thankful. I also leave hopeful knowing that Father Miles Heinen, C.M. will serve as the new VSO Director beginning in January of 2009, and that Scott Fina will continue to serve as the VSO Associate Director. The VSO will be in talented and experienced hands under their leadership.

My confreres, thank you for the support, prayers and example you have provided for me during my service at the VSO!

Fraternally in St. Vincent,

Brother Peter A. Campbell, C.M.

Computer Equipment in Hungary

It has only been twenty years since the disintegration of the Soviet Union that the Catholic Church has operated freely in Hungary. During these years the Church, including religious congregations and our own Province of Hungary, has struggled to rebuild institutions and an infrastructure for Catholic formation and education. Computer technology is proving to be vital in this endeavor.

Until recently our confreres in Hungary were handicapped in their evangelization efforts because they lacked adequate technology. Their computers were eleven years old and could only support antiquated software. The confreres urgently needed new computer equipment for their houses in Budapest, Piliscsaba, and Szob.



Confreres working on their new computer equipment at the Provincial House in Budapest

The Province of Hungary obtained a VSF Micro-Project Grant from the VSO to purchase 3 desktop computers, 3 laptop computers, 3 printers, and a computer projector and screen. Our confreres use the equipment for popular missions and retreats at parishes and for members of the Vincentian Family, pastoral work with students at a university and high school, and for the administration of their province.

Water and Electricity in Tolagnaro

The Province of Madagascar has its provincial offices, internal seminary and postulants' formation program at the Marillac Provincial House in Tolagnaro in Madagascar. The Province also uses the provincial house for assemblies and retreats. The national utility company of Madagascar (JIRAMA) supplies the Marillac Provincial House with water and electricity. Provision of these utilities by JIRAMA is unreliable. Water stoppages occur daily during day and early evening hours. Electrical outages are frequent. Interruptions in the provision of water and electricity were negatively impacting all of the activities at the Marillac Provincial House. To remedy this situation, the Province of Madagascar decided to construct a water storage facility and purchase a diesel-fueled electrical generator for the Marillac Provincial House. The Province requested the assistance of the VSO in securing funding for these items.

The VSO obtained a grant from the World Church-World Mission Office of the Archdiocese of Cologne—which it matched with monies from the VSF—to enable the Province of Madagascar to construct a 32-cubic meter water storage facility and purchase a SDMO-T16K generator for the Marillac Provincial House. The new water storage facility enables the Province to draw and store water from JIRAMA during late night hours when water is regularly available, and distribute it during day and early evening hours when it is most needed. The electrical generator powers the entire facility of the Marillac Provincial House during electrical outages.



The new water storage facility and electrical generator at the Marillac Provincial House

A Football Field in Morogoro

Every confrere appreciates the importance of recreational and physical activities during seminary training. One of the newest seminaries in the Congregation is De Paul Seminary in Morogoro,

Tanzania. The seminary serves the Tanzanian Mission of the Province of Southern India. It currently houses 17 seminarians studying philosophy and theology, and their Rector, Father George Kannamkulath, C.M. De Paul Seminary lacked a playing field for all of its students to participate together in sports—especially football, the favorite sport in Tanzania. The Tanzanian Mission constructed a football field on the property of De Paul Seminary with monies from the annual African Appeal for Hope of Father Sylvester Peterka, C.M., which the VSO matched with funds from the VSF.



Deacon Anasgar Lugomi, C.M. blesses the new football field with seminarians at De Paul Seminary

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:

Bro. Peter A. Campbell, C.M., Director:

Telephone: +1 215-713-2432

E-mail: cmvso@yahoo.com

Scott Fina, Ph.D., Associate Director:

Telephone: +1 215-713-2433

E-mail: sfina@cmphlsvs.org

Fax: +1 215-843-9361

Our website: www.famvin.org/vso