



Vincentian Solidarity Office

October 2010 Bulletin

Comments from the Executive Director

Dear Confreres,

Blessings on this special feast of our founder!

Since I last wrote in June, the VSO has awarded eight micro-project grants. These include micro-project grants for: (1) the Province of Colombia for economic aid to CM seminarians during their first year of study of philosophy; (2) the Vice-Province of Costa Rica for the purchase of computers, a photocopier, and furniture for the formation house in Ipis de Goicoechea; (3) the Honduras Mission of the Province of Zaragoza to replace the roof on the rectory of Santiago Apostol in Cuyamel; (4) the Cameroon Region of the Province of Paris to purchase a used vehicle for the St. Jean Marc community of Yaounde-Mvog-Betsi; (5) the Vice-Province of Mozambique for startup funds to raise rabbits and make candles as an income generating project for the CM formation houses; (6) the Tanzania Mission of the South Indian Province to fund an inter-congregational workshop in honor of the 350th anniversary of the deaths of St. Vincent and St. Louise at DePaul Seminary in Morogoro; (7) the Province of Ethiopia for financial assistance for university students distributed by Abba Fanta Getahun, C.M.; and (8) the Province of Hungary to purchase computer equipment for the Szent László Gymnasium School in Szob. I remain deeply grateful for contributions from confreres to the Vincentian Solidarity Fund (VSF) that make these micro-project grants possible.

St. Vincent often signed his letters as the “**unworthy priest of the Mission.**” These words grow ever more real and personal for me as I witness the labor and sacrifice of confreres working in developing regions. Such zeal for the poor is both humbling and uplifting. May our embrace of the charism of St. Vincent on this 350th anniversary of his death bring about an effective solidarity among us.

Fraternally in St. Vincent,

Father Miles Heinen, C.M.

A Girls' Hostel in Rayagada

The North Indian Province operates 27 school hostels at its numerous mission stations. The children at the hostels mostly come from remote and mountainous tribal villages lacking schools. The hostels enable the children to attend schools located on or near the mission stations. The children living in the hostels receive lodging, food, tutoring, recreation, and catechetical instruction.

The province's Rayagada Mission Station located in Orissa State had a hostel for boys, but lacked a hostel for girls. The province requested the help of the VSO in raising funds to construct a hostel for girls living in the villages served by the mission station.



The front entrance to the new girls' hostel

The VSO obtained a grant from Kindermissionswerk in Germany, which it matched with funds from the VSF, to finance the construction of the girls' hostel. The new hostel has two floors and can accommodate over 60 girls with its 2 dormitories, 2 dressing rooms, 2 toilet-bath blocks, 3 warden rooms, kitchen, dining room, study hall, infirmary, classroom, common room, and chapel. The new hostel serves girls from Kui and Soura tribal families. The girls are now able to attend the school operated by the North Indian Province at the Rayagada Mission Station.

A Water Tank in Morogoro

The recently constructed DePaul Seminary in Morogoro houses most of the seminarians of the Tanzania Mission of the South Indian Province. The underground water in the Morogoro region is saline, making dependence on tube wells unfeasible. As a consequence, DePaul Seminary must capture rainwater from its roofs during the rainy season and store it in underground cement tanks to last throughout the dry season (August to December). For some time the two underground tanks at the seminary were sufficient for its seminarians and staff. The growth in the number of students and a requirement to share water with local families, however, created a need for a third water storage tank.



The new water storage tank nearing completion

The Tanzania Mission obtained a micro-project grant from the VSO to cover the costs of constructing the third water storage tank at DePaul Seminary. The new water tank can store 50,000 liters of rainwater, enabling the seminary to meet its water needs.

A Church in Santo Domingo

Confreres from the Province of Puerto Rico staff the Parroquia San José Obrero in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. Since its establishment in 1955, the parish had used a multi-purpose hall as its church. In recent years the hall became too small to accommodate the parish's growing membership. The hall had also deteriorated from decades of severe, tropical weather. Consequently, the parish decided to demolish the hall and construct a larger church on its site. Although mostly poor, the parishioners of the Parroquia San José Obrero raised nearly 60% of the

funds needed for the new church. The parish obtained the services of the VSO through the Province of Puerto Rico in acquiring the remaining funds to complete the construction of the church.



The sanctuary of the new San José Obrero Church

The VSO obtained grants from the Raskob and Koch Foundations in the U.S., which it matched with monies from the VSF, to complete the financing of the construction. The new church has 550 square meters of space and is constructed with materials that can withstand hurricane-force winds. The church's capacity is more than double that of the former hall.

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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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