

NUNNTIA

Newsletter
of the Congregation of the Mission

2021
AUGUST



Congregation of the Mission
Communication Office



Afghanistan, a place (not) far away

This month, the whole world witnessed the Taliban take over the city of Kabul. Images flashed around every corner and most of us watched amazed what was going on. Everyone drew their own conclusions and put responsibility in one place or another, but what is clear is that very few remained indifferent.



We have seen people fall from an airplane in an effort to escape from the area and the situation. Women gave their children (some of them newborns) to strangers in order to give them a chance of a decent life. We saw men fighting among themselves to see who could get on a plane.

As if all this were not enough, Kabul suffers from an attack resulting in the death of dozens of people.

But even so, for many of us all this remains a simple news item because, especially for the West, Afghanistan is very far away. Its reality, its pain, its culture, its politics, etc. everything is very far away and when something does not touch our skin, it is very difficult to really feel it.

With all this in mind, I ask myself one question... is it true Afghanistan is very far away?

Oddly enough, Afghanistan is much closer than we imagine. We can find it in every oppressed or sexually exploited woman, almost always deceived and kidnapped for the simple pleasure of some. We can find it in every migrant who, looking for a better life, left their homeland, culture and family in an attempt to find a more dignified life, even if that means getting on a barge to try crossing a sea and praying to get there alive.

We don't need to go that far to find villages or cities without electricity and what is worse, without drinking water, where their inhabitants experience in these basic needs the tremendous inequality between one and the other. We do not need to watch on internet or TV remote attacks, while in our own countries the lives of the "unborn", the poor or the elderly continue to be violated, while healthcare continues to be a privilege for those who can afford it and inaccessible to the rest. It is not enough to be astonished by Taliban rule or other policies when we continue to look the other way and allow the corruption, deceit and enrichment of the political class in each of our countries, at the expense of the people.

From our positions, many of us criticize the decision of the Taliban to require women to wear the "burqa", but aren't we the ones who put a burqa on each of these and other situations in order to not see them and cover their realities, their needs, even their looks?

Afghanistan is not too far away. It is right in front of our homes, in our squares, hospitals and workplaces, it lives among us wherever we are, it is enough to let it touch our skin, because only in this way, we can feel the pain of those who, even though we thought they were far away, are right next to us.

José Alfredo Delgadillo Padilla

Priestly Ordination

On August 24, 2021, Deacon José Alfredo Delgadillo Padilla, C.M., member of the Province of Mexico, received holy orders by the imposition of hands of Bishop Felipe Salazar Villagrana, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco. The ceremony took place in Saint Toribio Romo church, belonging to the Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, in the town of Jalostotitlán.



José Alfredo, was born on February 4, 1987, in Jalostotitlan, Jalisco, Mexico. He entered the Vincentian minor seminary in 2009, completed his philosophy studies at the Pontifical University of Mexico and was admitted to the Interprovincial Internal Seminary of CLAPVI NORTE in Guatemala City, Guatemala, in 2015. On April 12, 2020 he professed the perpetual vows in Mexico City and on November 24, 2020, was ordained deacon in the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption in Lagos de Moreno, Jalisco. He is currently assigned to San Vincent de Paul Parish, La Fama, in Monterrey, Nuevo León.

Therefore, members of the Province of Mexico of the Congregation of the Mission, rejoice and give thanks to God, who has granted us a new missionary and priest in the service of the poor, "our Lords and Masters", as well as to hear the pleas of his people, who in prayer have asked the Lord of the Harvest for laborers in his harvest.



“Communicating the charism today”

It has been 90 years since Pius XI's first radio message "To All Nations and Every Creature" on February 12, 1931.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIW61g829ZA>

Since then, the Church has always paid special attention to new technologies in the field of communication.

In 1998, in fact, St. John Paul II was portrayed sitting in front of a computer with the logo of the Holy See and pointed out how digital technology was the new frontier of evangelization. The same Pope Benedict XVI published his first tweet December 12, 2012 and Pope Francis in 2016 instead opened an account on a purely youth platform such as Instagram.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BDlgGXqAQsq/>



Every head of the Church has recognized in the technological tools in the field of communication a great possibility to communicate the Gospel to all so that the mission of the Church is always promoted with the ardor necessary to reach everyone in every corner of the earth and to give voice to the marginalized of this society.

Already in the Pastoral Instruction *Communio et Progressio* published by order of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council in 1971, the press, cinema, radio and television were recognized as "gifts of God," (1) destined, according to the plan of Providence, to unite men in fraternal bonds, in order to make them collaborators in His plans for salvation.

And 20 years later in the Pastoral Instruction "Aetatis Novae" we can read the concrete invitation to use the media as a pastoral tool:

"The work of Catholic media is not merely an additional activity added to all those of the Church: in fact, social communications have a role to play in all aspects of the Church's mission. Thus we should not be content to have a pastoral plan for communications, but it is necessary that communications be an integral part of every pastoral plan because they in fact have a contribution to make to every other apostolate, ministry or program."

For this reason, the Little Company has also equipped itself with the digital tools necessary to spread the charism in an effective and renewed way. Not only through the website and its newsletter *Nuntia Express*, but also through social profiles such as the institutional *Congregatio Missionis* and that of the Superior General, but also and above all with the *Vocational Culture* project that has involved many confreres for some years now.

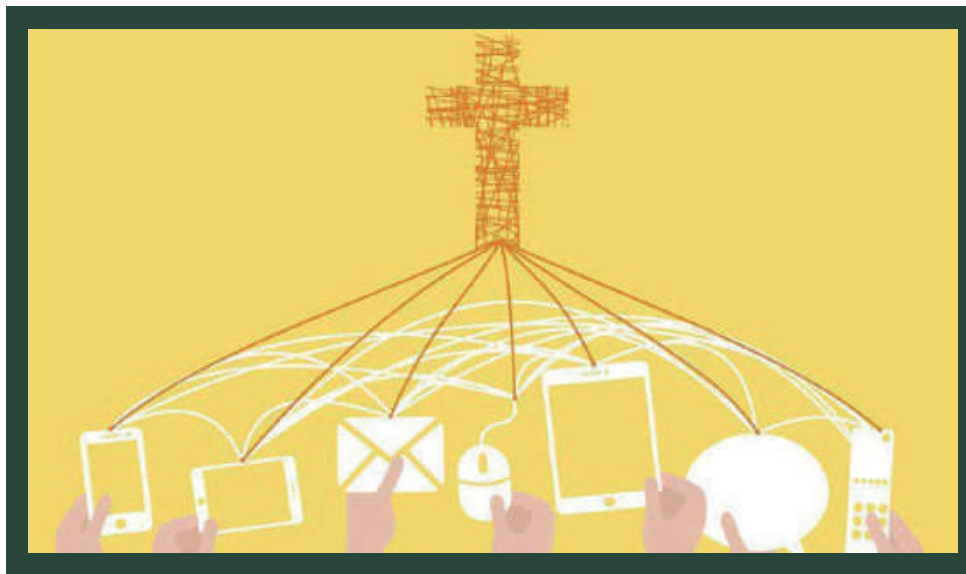
After all, St. Vincent himself used the means of communication of his time to ensure that the Congregation remained united and kept alive the mission to the poor. It is thanks to his numerous letters that today we can know the thought of our founder and draw on his holiness.

Let us think about how useful social networks have been during emergencies such as Covid19 or the recent earthquake in Haiti. Without today's communication tools we would have had difficulty in reaching many isolated and needy families or in making our support felt by missionaries in the most distant missions.

Obviously, it is not the intention of this article to place undue enthusiasm on the virtualization of relationships. On the contrary, it is precisely the accurate knowledge of the medium that allows us to understand its merits and defects. Often the excessive use of communications based only on the use of the keyboard lowers the levels of empathy. Empathy is the necessary quality for a compassionate heart, but at the same time today it is useful to bear witness to charity through social media.

These tools invoke our responsibility both in knowing how to use them, as a "gift of God" and as a means useful for something deeper: namely, the possibility they give of reaching the hearts of strangers and inviting them to have a direct experience of God's love.

In fact, a conscious use of digital tools does not aim to replace the encounter in the flesh, on the contrary: they aim to facilitate it by overcoming, at first, the barriers of space and time. Pope Francis guides us in this great balance between the digital Gospel message and embodied responsibility, in fact in his Message for the 55th World Communications Day he tells us that "The good news of the Gospel spread throughout the world thanks to encounters from person to person, from heart to heart. Men and women who accepted the same invitation: 'Come and see,' and were struck by a 'more' humanity that shone through in the gaze, word and gestures of people who bore witness to Jesus Christ. All tools are important, and that great communicator by the name of Paul of Tarsus would certainly have made use of email and social messages; but it was his faith, his hope and his charity that impressed the contemporaries who heard him preach and had the good fortune to spend time with him, to see him during an assembly or in a one-on-one conversation."



It is only by putting the person and God's plan for them at the center that we can best understand the opportunity given by technologies, but we need to engage personally not only as users, but also as promoters and knowers of a world that has now become real and pervasive. If we want everyone to have access to Salvation, it is important that each one of us witnesses to Jesus Christ on the digital continent!

GIROLAMO GRAMMATICO

Haiti EARTHQUAKE

Contribute to the needs of God's people,
and welcome strangers into your home" ROMANS 12:13



Supporters, Friends, & Fellow Vincentians,
By now you have heard about the devastating earthquake, we suffered this past weekend. We first want to say that our staff on the ground are safe, as we are located several kilometers away from the devastation.

Many of you are familiar with the South as just five years ago, with your assistance, we responded the devastating effects of Hurricane Mathew. We did what we do best and focused on systemic interventions, by assisting thousands of farmers with replanting & reforesting their gardens & construction of nurseries, some that are still operational 5 years later.

While it may seem that we often find ourselves amid disasters, these are the times when the work you help us do is so important. Focusing on long-term system change, building soft skills, literacy, job creation are all part of the tool kit we need to see in ensuring recovery & preparedness for these types of predictable shocks. As always, you can support us by donating to our various activities here.

We aren't in a position to do immediate medical & disaster response; this isn't our expertise. For those of you who have asked, we would like to direct you to some resources that can. Below you'll find a list of organizations with a track record of doing this type of work in the affected areas.

Hôpital St Boniface: The largest and most reputable hospital in the affected area.

Hope for Haiti: With deep roots and ties to the region for the last 32 years

Fonten Haiti long-term, professional rehabilitation services to the people of southern Haiti.

FOKAL: is crowd-sourcing economic assistance for local grassroots partners (particularly agribusiness focused).

onkoze : One of our trusted partners who has been working in Haiti since 1994.

Lastly, If you are living in Haiti or know people that are, the Haitian Red Cross has launched an emergency campaign for additional blood. Please direct to those that can& are health to donate

Vincentian Family Haiti Initiative

In 2020 the VSO supported 37 projects in 20 countries with \$944,705 USD.

The charts below show the distribution by project activity and type.

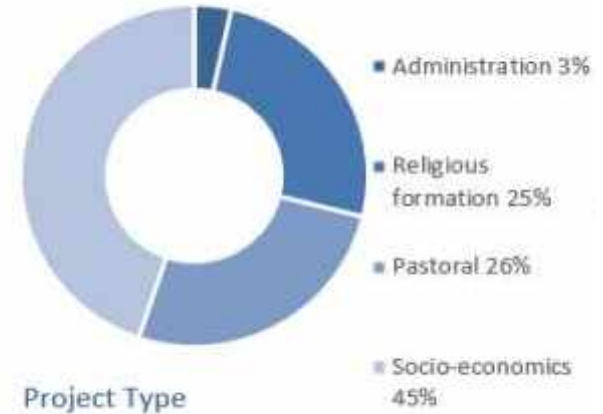
PROJECT TYPES:

Administration: projects directly supporting the Vincentian priests and brothers in the missions
Dollars Spent: \$32,562

Religious Formation: projects for the initial or ongoing training of priests and/or brothers
Dollars Spent: \$240,168.

Pastoral Projects: projects supporting the laity's religious instruction, spiritual growth and worship
Dollars Spent: \$248,841.

Socioeconomic Projects: projects supporting the material needs and development of people and communities
Dollars Spent: \$423,134



PROJECT ACTIVITY:

Construction	\$630,751
Equipment	\$19,600
Materials	\$28,732
Programs	\$73,613
Vehicles	\$192,009
Total	\$944,705



Total VSO operating costs in 2020: \$214,348.19
VSO operating costs per dollar distributed in 2020: \$0.23

In all, with the help of our supporters and collaborators:

- We were able to help 5 provinces with transportation needs that included 2 pick-up trucks, 2 small buses and a boat
- We helped with the furnishings or construction projects at 11 schools
- We helped 1 parish furnish its presbytery
- Three projects helped residents with either better quality or quantities of water
- Several parishes were helped with their revenue generating projects
- Five seminaries were aided with either furnishings or building renovations
- We completed projects in 20 countries: 19 in Africa, 6 in Asia, 8 in Latin America and 1 in the South Pacific.

Please continue to read about all the VSO projects on these pages and for more information, please visit our website: <https://cmglobal.org/vso-en/>.

NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

GATTI Juan Carlos	16/08/2021	Visitor Argentina (Reconfirmed)
MARTÍNEZ LEGUIZAMÓN José Miguel	01/09/2021	Regional Superior Rwanda- Burundi

ORDINATIONES

JAMES AYALA Stephen Chukwu	Sac	NIG	23/07/2021
EKWEM JohnPaul Chibugo	Sac	NIG	23/07/2021
EZEANUNA Collins Olisaemeka	Sac	NIG	23/07/2021
NWADINOBI Emmanuel Chidiebere	Sac	NIG	23/07/2021
OBOT Patrick Joseph	Sac	NIG	23/07/2021
OKACHE Felix Michael Ogar	Sac	NIG	23/07/2021
RAMBOASALAMA DIMBISITRAKA Larzulín Cuellar	Sac	MAD	01/08/2021
RAZAFINDRAKOTO Nicolas Lucien	Sac	MAD	01/08/2021
CHICAS MEDINA Wilfredo	Sac	AMC	14/08/2021
DELGADILLO PADILLA José Alfredo	Sac	MEX	24/08/2021

NECROLOGIUM

Nome	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
DAÏMBO Irénée-Adolphe	Sac	02/08/2021	CAM	50	23
SOTEM Joélson César	Sac	04/08/2021	CUR	57	37
SCHREIBER Alois	Sac	12/08/2021	AUG	83	62
AGUSTÍN BENITO Aurelio	Sac	15/08/2021	COL	81	62
ZÚÑIGA DUARTE Diego de Jesús	Sac	22/08/2021	COL	77	54
AGUIRRE SOTO Jorge René	Sac	23/08/2021	CHI	84	64
PEJRETTI Antonio Giuseppe	Sac	28/08/2021	ITA	89	72