



# Vincentian Solidarity Office

## December 2012 Bulletin

### Comments from the Executive Director

Dear Confreres,

May the Christ come to life in our flesh!

The micro-project for the new mission in Benin, Africa, announced in the last bulletin, was funded in November, and produced a motorcycle and house repairs. This brings the micro-project fund almost to an end. If generous donors can give us \$6,550 USD, we will automatically receive another \$6,550 USD in matching monies and there will be enough in the fund for 3 more projects. May hearts be moved!

And was it not to move hearts that the Word came among us in the flesh?

Our charism takes flesh in the context of an active presence of the Congregation of the Mission. Nothing is perfect, but it is the presence of confreres that creates the possibility for what began with St. Vincent to become the fire of love he wanted it to be. This presence takes funding, as St. Vincent well knew and provided for by wisely managing the resources of the Congregation.

There are three years and one month left where donations we receive, up to \$5,000,000 USD, will automatically call forth an equal amount from a private foundation. The results will become endowments and help financially stabilize nine provinces / vice-provinces for generations to come. For the next three years could you commit to a monthly donation and ask people you know who love St. Vincent, to give an equal amount? If 20% of the Congregation could give € 10 monthly and invite 7 people to join them in giving an equal amount, we would reach the goal. (In dollars, \$10 monthly and invite 9 others.) If you ritualized this monthly giving using shared reflection on the experience, this could be a wonderful way to promote conversion!

In St. Vincent,

Fr. Miles Heinen, C.M.

### A New Kindergarten in Bubuka

In April of 2011 our confreres working in the Dembi Dollo Mission started a kindergarten in the Bubuka Village. The village is located in western Ethiopia near the border with South Sudan. The kindergarten serves 180 children coming from impoverished families. The program focuses on developing basic literacy skills for the children. Without this preparation, impoverished village children in Ethiopia generally do not succeed in primary school and fail to go on to secondary school, remaining captive to their poverty. The Bubuka Village kindergarten also provides the children with a daily meal to help meet their nutritional needs.

The Bubuka Village kindergarten had been housed in a local church hall since its establishment. The hall lacked appropriate and adequate space to support the learning of the children.



*The new kindergarten in Bubuka Village*

The Ethiopian Province sought the assistance of the VSO to raise funding to resolve the space problem of the Bubuka Village kindergarten. The VSO obtained a grant from the Moviment Missjunarju Gesu fil-Proxxmu in Malta, which it matched with monies from the Vincentian Solidarity Fund (VSF), to finance the construction of a dedicated kindergarten building with two classrooms, a storeroom, office, and hall. The new building promises to greatly enhance the

learning of the kindergarten students. At this time the VSO is working to raise funds to construct a toilet block and kitchen for the kindergarten, and also a modest, two-room building to house the qualified teachers at the kindergarten who come from substantial distances.

### **Church Repairs in Omoa**

Vincentian missionaries from the Province of Zaragoza (Spain) serve the Catholic community of San Fernando in the coastal town of Omoa in northern Honduras. The region was struck by a strong earthquake in May of 2009. The quake severely damaged the Church of San Fernando and made it unsafe for use by its 3,400 members. Needed repairs included the demolition and replacements of large parts of the church's walls, reinforcement and replacement of other structural components including foundation footings, columns, archways, patching of cracks, repairs to the roof, ceiling, flooring, and painting. The cost of these large repairs exceeded the meager means of the church community.



*The newly repaired Church of San Fernando*

The Honduran Mission of the Province of Zaragoza requested the VSO to obtain funding for the church repairs. The VSO secured a grant from the World Church-World Mission office of the Archdiocese of Cologne for the project, which it matched with monies from the VSF. These monies were combined with contributions from the local Catholic community of San Fernando and the Province of Zaragoza to finance the extensive repairs to the church. The members of the Catholic community of San Fernando have joyfully returned to their beloved church.

### **Promotional Materials for the Vincentian Family in Eastern Europe**

The confreres of the Province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius labor to rebuild the Catholic Church in the aftermath of decades of suppression of Catholicism by the former Soviet regime in Russia, Belarus, and the Ukraine. Promotion of the involvement of laity in evangelization is essential to this endeavor, since the region lacks enough clergy and religious to reach the populace. To reach a greater number of people, our confreres decided to use promotional materials inviting people to participate in the Vincentian Family, especially the youth.



*Promotional materials for the Vincentian Family*

The confreres obtained a micro-project grant from the VSO to produce 2,000 Vincentian Family calendars and 2,000 Vincentian Marian Youth brochures, which they distributed in the three countries.

**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:**

**Fr. Miles Heinen, C.M., Executive Director:**  
Telephone: +1 215-713-2432  
E-mail: [cmvso@yahoo.com](mailto:cmvso@yahoo.com)

**Scott Fina, Associate Director:**  
Telephone: +1 215-713-2433  
E-mail: [scottfina@gmail.com](mailto:scottfina@gmail.com)

**Teresa Niedda, Associate Director:**  
Telephone: +1 215-713-3983  
E-mail: [tniedda@cmphlsvs.org](mailto:tniedda@cmphlsvs.org)

**Fax:** +1 215-843-9361

**Our website:** [www.cmglobal.org/vso](http://www.cmglobal.org/vso)