Vincentian Solidarity Office  
Annual Report for 2017

“To serve the poor is to go to God!”

St. Vincent de Paul

Dear friends,
This short quote from St. Vincent may be his most radical. Is not “going to God” the very purpose and end of the Christian faith? Yet, Vincent de Paul claims that a path to God also puts one on the path to the poor. It was with this vision, that he helped to reform and refocus the Catholic Church during his time.

At the Vincentian Solidarity Office, we struggle to keep up with requests for help with projects from our priests and brothers in developing regions. Many of our missionaries face seemingly immeasurable needs and impossible challenges in serving the poor. At times, what our missionaries accomplish, and the untiring and loving spirit with which they do so, strike me as almost miraculous. Taking St. Vincent’s vision to heart, this should be no surprise. Vincent’s path to God through the poor is a deeply moving and powerful one!

Please know, then, how important your support has been to our missionaries, and that in giving it, you accompany them along the path to God. In this report, we present the projects of our missionaries you assisted in 2017.

Thank you!

In St. Vincent,

Fr. Gregory Semeniuk, C.M.
Executive Director
NEW AND EXISTING PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE VINCENTIAN SOLIDARITY OFFICE IN 2017

AFRICA

Burundi: Furnishing the Church of St. Vincent de Paul in Mugogo (see picture)
Central African Republic: Addressing malnutrition and childhood diseases in 32 villages of the St. Daniel COMBONI Parish in Boganangone
Chad: Construction of three rooms onto the Paroisse St. Jean-Baptiste presbytery in Bebalem (see picture)
Chad: Furnishing and equipping for the new Vincentian community house in Moundou
Democratic Republic of the Congo: Constructing a new classroom building for St. Vincent de Paul School in Kinshasa (see picture)
Ethiopia: Constructing an internal seminary at Jimma Town
Ethiopia: Providing funding for our Vincentian bishop to respond to the needs of the Apostolic Vicariate of Nekemte
Ethiopia: Constructing a church in the Bitta Village parish in the Apostolic Vicariate of Jimma Bonga (see picture)
Ethiopia: Increasing the capacity and services of the St. Vincent Youth Center in Mekele (see picture)
Ethiopia: Installing a rain water harvesting and storage system at the bishop’s residence in Apostolic Vicariate of Nekemte
Mozambique: Sponsoring scholarships for seminary students to attend the theology program of the Jordan University in Morogoro, Tanzania
Mozambique: Purchasing materials and equipment for the Ghebre Michael Seminary house in Matola
Mozambique: Constructing an irrigation system for the agriculture school in Magude
Mozambique: Purchasing a truck for the Magude Mission (see picture)
Mozambique: Purchasing of a van for the Ghebre Michael Seminary house in Matola
Mozambique: Renovating the Mission House at the MISSÃO SÃO JERÓNIMO DE MAGUDE
Nigeria: Startup of the DePaul Hope Social Center to empower widows with skills, computer literacy, and microloans for small enterprises (see pictures)
Nigeria: Financing scholarship for graduate theology studies for a seminary instructor
Nigeria: Purchasing computer equipment for the De Paul Centre in Enugu
Rwanda: Constructing parish offices for the Gitare parish (see picture)
Rwanda: Constructing and equipping a kitchen and dining room for a new seminary complex in Gahogo
Tanzania: Constructing a kitchen and dining room for the girls’ and boys’ hostels at De Paul Secondary School in Mbinga (see picture)
Tunisia: Constructing a house for an impoverished family (see picture)
INDIA
- Installing mosquito mesh on the boys' and girls' hostels in the Bapulapuda Mandal in Andhra Pradesh State
- Constructing a parish church with a Miraculous Medal Shrine in Keralapuram in Kerala State (see picture)
- Constructing and furnishing a convalescent home for aged and infirm priests and brothers at Ernakulam in Kerala State (see picture)
- Constructing a primary school for the children in the Bapulapadu Mandal in Andhra Pradesh State (see picture)
- Implementing a school evaluation and improvement program in 25 Vincentian schools in numerous states
- Constructing a three-floored toilet block at De Paul School at Kethapally in Telangana State (see picture)
- Purchasing a jeep for the Christnagar Mission in Odisha State (see picture)
- Purchasing a vehicle for the provincial central administration house at Mysore in Karantaka State (see picture)
- Purchasing motorbikes for the Jellilapalayam and Mariyapura parishes in Karnataka State
- Purchasing a jeep for the Vincentian OASIS social service agency in Andhra Pradesh State
- Replacing a presbytery roof at the Gunupur Mission in Odisha State
- Enhancing the capacity of the Vincentian OASIS Social Service organization in Andhra Pradesh State

UKRAINE
Installing geothermal and solar heating at the Vincentian parish center in Kharkiv

SOLOMON ISLANDS
Purchasing a truck for the Good Shepherd Parish in Red Beach

SYRIA
Providing care to refugee students and their families at the Alfajer Ecole in Damas
**LATIN AMERICA**

**Brazil:** Purchasing a vehicle for the Paróquia de São Francisco in Novo Oriente *(see picture)*

**Central America (regional project):** Purchasing equipment and food for workshops for formation of parish leaders in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama

**Chile:** Purchasing a jeep for the mission in Punta Arenas *(see picture)*

**Colombia:** Purchase furnishings, equipment and food for a program assisting destitute Venezuelan immigrants

**Cuba:** Remodeling a kitchen and dining area for the elderly served in the Casa de Abuelos in the Parroquia San Joaquín in Santiago

**Ecuador:** Constructing the 2nd floor onto the Centro de Formación S. Vicente de Paúl, Parroquia N. S. de la Medalla Milagrosa *(see picture)*

**Honduras:** Conducting a three-year, Catholic formation program for indigenous groups that helps sustain their culture *(see picture)*

**Honduras:** Funding in support of the general needs of Slovakian Mission

**Panama:** Organizing and preparing the 2019 World Indigenous Youth gathering in Panama *(see picture)*
2017 FINANCES

In 2017, the Vincentian Solidarity Office (VSO) distributed $1,310,415 USD in support of 49 projects. The cash operational expenses of the VSO in 2017 amounted to $.08 per dollar distributed. The projects supported were located in 22 different countries. The table below organizes the projects supported by the VSO in 2017, by type and activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Administration</th>
<th>Religious Formation</th>
<th>Pastoral Projects</th>
<th>Socioeconomic Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>114,000</td>
<td>144,077</td>
<td>261,239</td>
<td>272,751</td>
<td>792,067</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>20,349</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>39,501</td>
<td>74,850</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>37,835</td>
<td>44,200</td>
<td>179,865</td>
<td></td>
<td>261,899</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>14,991</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24,991</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>47,808</td>
<td>75,800</td>
<td></td>
<td>156,608</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>199,835</td>
<td>227,225</td>
<td>391,239</td>
<td>492,116</td>
<td>1,310,415</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15% | 17% | 30% | 38% | 100%

**Administration**: projects directly supporting the Vincentian priests and brothers in the missions

**Religious Formation**: projects for the initial or ongoing training of priests and/or brothers

**Pastoral Projects**: projects supporting the laity’s religious instruction, spiritual growth and worship

**Socioeconomic Projects**: projects supporting the material needs and development of people and communities

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**Monies Distributed by Project Type**

- Administration: 38%
- Religious Formation: 17%
- Pastoral Projects: 30%
- Socioeconomic Projects: 15%

**Monies Distributed by Project Activity**

- Construction: 60%
- Programs: 20%
- Equipment: 12%
- Vehicles: 6%
- Scholarships: 2%
We thank our collaborators in 2017:

Archdiocese of Cologne
Eastern U.S.A. Province of the C.M.
Estate of Fr. Jaap Zwarthoed, C.M.
Estate of Fr. Thomas Hynes, C.M.
Fr. Sy Peterka’s African Appeal for Hope
Franz Foundation
International Association of the Miraculous Medal, Spain
Kirche in Not
Loyola Foundation
Maternity of Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Philadelphia, PA
Merion Memorial Park, Inc.
Mildred McDonald Trust
Missio Aachen
New England U.S.A. Province of the C.M.
Our Lady of Peace Parish, Providence, NJ
Papal Foundation
Province of Central America of the C.M.
Province of Colombia of the C.M.
Province of Indonesia of the C.M.
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St. Joseph Parish, Emmitsburg, MD
St. Mary Parish, Schwenksville, PA
St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Cresskill, NJ
Seton Heritage Ministries
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U.S.C.C.B. Office for Central and Eastern Europe
Vincentian House in Belfast, Ireland
Vincentian House in Panningen, the Netherlands
Western U.S.A. Province of the C.M.

-and many individual contributors (confreres, family
and friends of our Congregation)