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.

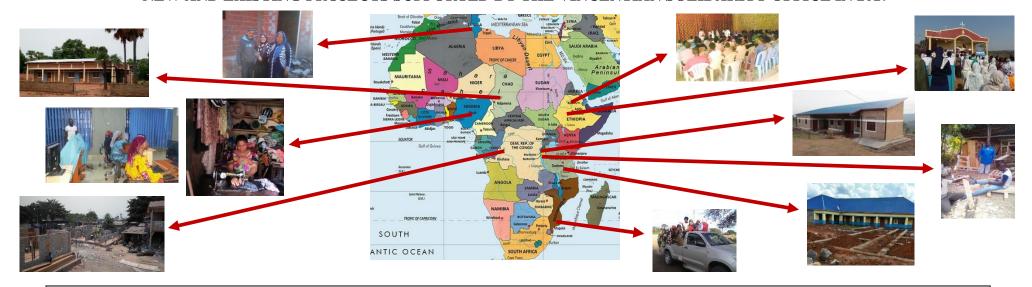
Thank you!

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*)

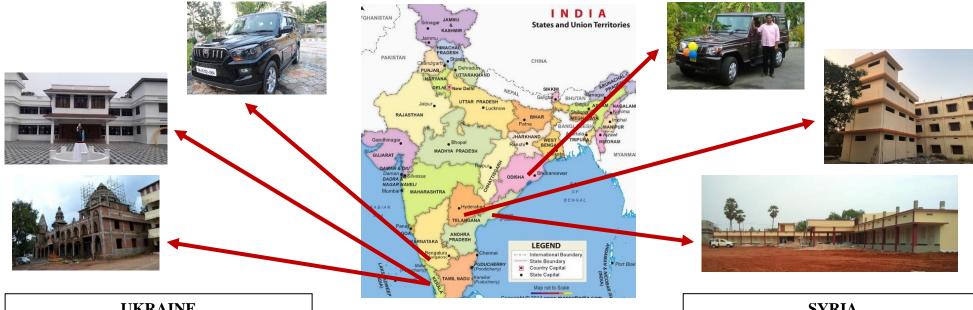
Rwanda: Constructing and equipping a kitchen and dining room for a new seminary complex in Gahogo

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 Jellipalayam 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













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 Joaquib 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

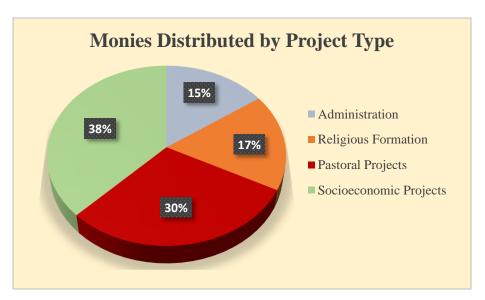
Panama: Organizing and preparing the 2019 World Indigenous Youth gathering in Panama (*see picture*)

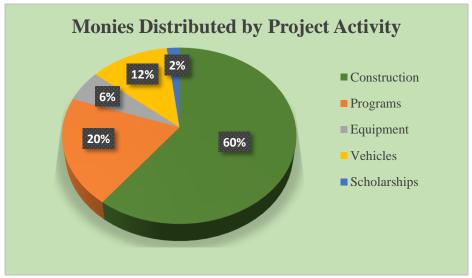
2017 FINANCES

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.

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





We thank our collaboraters 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.

Province of Ireland of the C.M.

Province of Peru of the C.M.

Province of Poland of the C.M.

Province of St. Vincent de Paul (Spain) of the C.M.

Province of Zaragoza (Spain) of the C.M.

St. Adalbert Parish, Philadelphia, PA

St. Joseph Parish, Emmitsburg, MD

St. Mary Parish, Schwenksville, PA

St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Cresskill, NJ

Seton Heritage Ministries

Tara Di Cesari Memorial Charitable Fund

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)



Children served by De Paul Hope Social Center in Nigeria

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A 501 (c) (3) organization in the U.S.A.



Students from De Paul Secondary School in Tanzania