



**RNDM
INTERNATIONAL MISSION
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER
2017 #3**

**FOR RNDMS
ASSOCIATES
FRIENDS
SPONSORS &
PARTNERS**



**RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE – ROME**
PROMOTES MISSION THROUGH
COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE
MISSIONARY WORKS OF 1000
SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS
IN 21 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you from Rome.

Christmas is round the corner and we look forward to this great celebration. Christmas can be said to be the season of gifts. In fact, it was created by a 'Gift'. God did not give us the present of an object; He gave us the present of a person, Jesus, his priceless and everlasting gift. All we have to do is to open our hearts and remember that Jesus is the best gift anyone could ever receive.

'Joy springs from a grateful heart' says Pope Francis. Gleaning through the year, we have received many blessings through you: our mission partners, friends, benefactors, associates, well-wishers and our Sisters from across the globe. With deep gratitude we express our thanks to everyone who has been journeying with us through the year. This newsletter brings good news of joy and hope from the children and women who have been blessed by your gifts.

As you read, you will see how your generosity has made a great difference in the lives of the children and women in the missions of our congregation. It is a great joy for us to witness the growth and confidence they have gained as they look forward to a brighter future. We hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter and share it with your friends.

May the true spirit of Christmas be with you and your family throughout the coming New Year.

Blessings of peace, joy and hope



Sr. C. Sun

Crescencia Sun RNDM

Smitha Thomas Rndm

Smitha Thomas RNDM

Dear Benefactors.

My name is Nguyen Nhu Quynh, I am in grade 5; the last grade in primary school in Vietnam. I am one of the students studying at the class that is managed by the RNDM Sisters. This is the second year that the Sisters are teaching us.



For the last two years I have received your kindness and help. So, I write this letter on behalf of my friends to thank you for supporting us to come to school. Previously, because of the difficulties and struggles of life, I was afraid to go to school, but thanks to your support, I am able to attend my classes at the Sisters' community.

After two years of studying here, I have received sisters' love and patient teaching, so now I feel strong to overcome my difficulties. I gained knowledge of my culture and the lessons of human values and ethics. The environment here has also helped me to be more open, more sociable with people, more optimistic, love school, love my lessons and has created in me a desire for learning. I feel that I am growing up with confidence; less complex and shy. So far, my friends and I have the motivation to nurture our beautiful dreams by trying hard and studying well.

We have achieved these, because of your kindness and contribution as well as material support. We are deeply grateful to you all. We promise to continue to study hard and do well. We would like to grow into the best people we can be and contribute to the society.

I wish you good health, peace, joy and happiness.

Nhu Quynh

For

*Your little angels
of Chu Convent,
Vietnam*



Greetings from Vinh Trang indigenous girls home, Vietnam

We, the RNDM sisters and the indigenous girls at Vinh Trang community appreciate your generosity and support in providing us with funds that support the girls to find a home and to be successful in their studies. Your generosity has also encouraged the RNDM Sisters to be more confident in our missions. We have 23 girls in Vinh Trang indigenous girls' home. From the first day of the orientation, they expressed their desire to be at the residential home to study and to achieve success. After three months of living here they discovered that they have achieved beyond their dreams. They have had a true home where they receive a lot of support from the Sisters and the benefactors.

Mo Le, the orphan girl said: "I have found a loving mother and many siblings at the home". The home now is not only a place to share but also a place where spiritual and human development of the girls is a priority. Two girls requested to learn catechism and they have received their baptism at Easter. The girls enjoy their student life in the home with variety of activities: the day begins with Holy Mass, followed by yoga /exercise. They have meals together and go to school by bike. When they return from school, they do some manual work to make income for the home: such as string beads to make the rosary, prepare vegetables for meals, gardening and complete their homework. The day ends with evening prayer and meal. At the end of the school semester they share: "The challenge of going with the old bikes was over for we have received the reward. Ten of us achieved the honor of good students. The teachers of the school and the RNDM Sisters have been proud of us so much and we gave our best. We have truly experienced God's profound care for us."

This year, 11 girls who completed grade 12 have passed the national examination. Four girls got high marks to enter to the College in Nha Trang. They are going to take their next step of student life in higher education. Two girls have been learning English for entering the vocational training center. One of them expressed her desire to become a religious sister and she has joined the congregation as an aspirant and one left for Saigon to attend the Pre-University program. The others returned to their villages to help with their families. The girls have their own dreams and God helps them to achieve these dreams through your kindness and support.

We would like to express our gratitude to all of you for your generosity and good will which provided more time, energy, materials and food for us. Thank you for giving us a lovely home.



By Maria Thuy Pham RNDM

Nutrition program for the poor children at Aung Shan Tha Quarter, Pyay – Myanmar

The RNDM Sisters from the formation community Pyay, has a number of candidates who are in training to become religious sisters. The Sisters and candidates visit the poor families regularly and are involved in the nutrition program for 59 poor children of Aung Chan Thar village. They are given nutritious food and support in their studies. The Sisters and the candidates work hard to help in this program and it is very much appreciated by the people.

In this school term (2017-2018), we are able to provide each child with a school uniform, text books, exercise books, pens, pencils and other school supplies through the generous support of our donors. Every day after school, the children come to our center and enjoy the homemade food, like boiled rice with milk and other nutritious items. Sometimes their parents also come to join the program. They are happy and grateful to the Sisters and to our generous donors for this great support.



The Sisters often give talks to the children on various topics like, the importance of education, cultural values, respect for religion, health, cleanliness, personal hygiene and caring for the environment. The Sisters encourage them to relate well with one another and grow up as good persons, respecting and loving one another thus helping them towards holistic development.

On behalf of these children and their parents, our formation community is very grateful to you for your kind support towards these poor children. This also gives an opportunity for our Candidates to understand the mission needs and to experience God's missions in their formation period. We are grateful to all our benefactors and mission partners and assure you of our prayers. May God bless your compassionate hearts!

By Josephine Moses

Empowerment of Women and Children at Bidar, North Karnataka – India

The RNDM Sisters mission in Bidar, organizes many programs for women and children. They concentrate more on skills training for women and educating the young children- especially girls. As the women in this area have had no alternative occupations, a skills training program was held for them and 70 women participated and benefitted from it. There were three kinds of training programs-namely doll making, food preparation and flower arrangement. The women were supplied with materials needed for the training. They had both theory and practical lessons and at the end of the training, the women were awarded with certificates to boost their confidence and skill.

Another training was organized for children of the tuition center on 'Child Rights' in which 55 children participated. The resource persons explained to them about child rights through group activities and examples. These children attend government schools and are empowered to stand up for their rights. They are now able to speak about their right to education as well as against child marriage. At the end of the seminar the children were given notebooks and writing materials to encourage them in their studies. Recently in one of these villages they managed to stop a child marriage. Children were given child help-line numbers and were made aware of how to get the support. Summer camp was also organized to encourage and empower the children through

various competitions. Many of them participated with great enthusiasm and enjoyed the camp. The Sisters organized a Women's Day celebration on the theme 'Be Bold for Change' in which 400 women participated. They encouraged the women to stand up for their rights and fight against exploitation from their male counterparts and in-laws.

The Sisters and people appreciate the support of the generous benefactors who share their gifts with us to improve the lives of our people in these remote areas. Our deep gratitude to all our Sisters and mission partners.

By Oliva Saldana RNDM



LAND DEVELOPMENT, KULAMAN, SULTAN KUDARAT- MINDANAO

An agriculture project is a new initiative of the RNDM Sisters in Kulaman, Mindanao. In 2014, a piece of land was purchased by the RNDM Sisters to create some income to assist in the sustainability of the education and health programs offered in Dalesan Kailawan Center. It has been a blessing to have received funds to develop the water resource in the land, especially after experiencing an "El Nino" year. The land has a variety of terrain, with one feature being the ability to capture water from a slope. Two water catchment areas have been constructed which secure water for the farm. These areas are also home to some fish ponds. In addition, two wells have been excavated to ensure irrigation sources for the farm. A pumping system has been installed in one well which distributes water for the vegetable garden as well. A road has been carved out on the side of the hill to enable easier access for people and water buffalo to enter the property. This access route provides the opportunity for water buffalo to carry ploughs, and also provides easier access to neighboring farms, especially during the wet season.

A vegetable garden containing thirty-three large garden plots has been completed. Our sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the RNDM Solidarity and enabled us to organically develop this piece of earth's creation in Mindanao. It will assist us tremendously for years to come in sustaining our programs at our Center in Kulaman.

By Delma M. Barrientos RNDM



WOMEN'S PROJECT, MUUO - KENYA

The RNDM Muuo Centre accommodates every year a new group of women who come to learn here. Each batch faces new but familiar challenges and expectations. Based on our past experiences we as staff members, prepare to walk with them with peace, love and care. The women show great interest and eagerness to learn.



These women have gained basic knowledge in knitting and sewing/ tailoring. They are now capable of designing, cutting and making different garments and are ready to sit for the national Trade examination. The same is true for the knitting students, they too are now able to make sweaters, hats and scarves using various patterns. Learning other creative skills like tie and dye, soap making, beads work etc. were real challenges but the students have persevered. They are now capable of making these items by themselves. These are some of the life changing experiences among the women learners and these activities have certainly transformed their lives from feeling unable to being able and confident.

We are grateful to the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions and to all our benefactors for all the financial support that has given us opportunities to gain stability within ourselves and our families.



By Salota Aimalefoa RNDM

RNDM Child Sponsorship Programme

Locally and globally the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions are called not only to love all peoples especially those who are needy, deprived and struggling to survive but to show their compassion and do all they can to relieve the suffering and bring joy and hope into the lives of people. Sadly throughout many countries countless children are at risk and in great need. More often than not their parents, because of their extreme poverty are helpless to ease the burdens imposed upon themselves and their children.

Thanks to the help and compassion of many generous donors we are able to relieve the suffering and provide education to a number of children. Through our Sponsor a Child initiative which has been operating for five years we are able to divert funds and support children in the Philippines, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Kenya and India.

Presently 55 children are being sponsored from donors in New Zealand, United Kingdom and Ireland, Canada and Australia. Each child has his/her own story to tell and a brief synopsis along with a photo is sent to the donor. Often it is the parent or grand parent of the child, or the Sister in Charge who writes and speaks of their gratitude to the giver.

Most of those sponsored are in our two orphanages, St. Benedict's and St. Peter's in Bangladesh. The sisters care for almost 100 children from infants to teenagers. These children are happy and loved. We are often heartened by 'good news' stories, one recently of a girl left on the orphanage doorstep as an infant who has just begun her nursing training. Another young girl in India found walking the railway tracks is now trained as a nurse and is working alongside the sisters in a dispensary. Two other young women who were sponsored are also trained nurses.

We would also like to acknowledge with gratitude our generous donors who rather than sponsor a particular child give on a regular basis to various projects. These being the Afternoon school in Kolkata for Street children, the disabled children of N'dondol, Senegal, the Tei Wa Ngai centre for the disabled in Matuu, Kenya, the anti-trafficking sewing and bag making project and HIV Clinic in Kawthaung, Myanmar and the Sudanese Mission where the sisters teach, nurse and manage an agriculture project.

Many of our schools and colleges have raised funds and have partnered with overseas schools and projects. To mention just a few: partnerships have been formed with Kulaman, a hostel for Menobo tribal girls; projects and hostels are regularly funded in Vietnam. Myanmar which recently opened its first Primary school in this new era has benefited greatly from large donations as has Siliguri in Central India and Kawthaung, in Myanmar.

The RNDM Sisters operate often in very remote areas working alongside grass roots people. We endeavour to answer the call to establish the Reign of God through building communities, serving peoples need and giving them the opportunity for a full, enriched life : physically and spiritually- regardless of race, religion or gender while acting for justice and creation and adopting child and women-focused developments.

By Maureen Dwan RNDM

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE - ROME

For further information contact: Srs Crescencia or Smitha Thomas RNDM
Suore di Nostra Signora delle Missioni, Via di Bravetta 628, Roma 00164, Italy

Phone: 06 6615 8400; Email : imdo@rndmgen.org

Please view our RNDM Website: www.rndm.org

