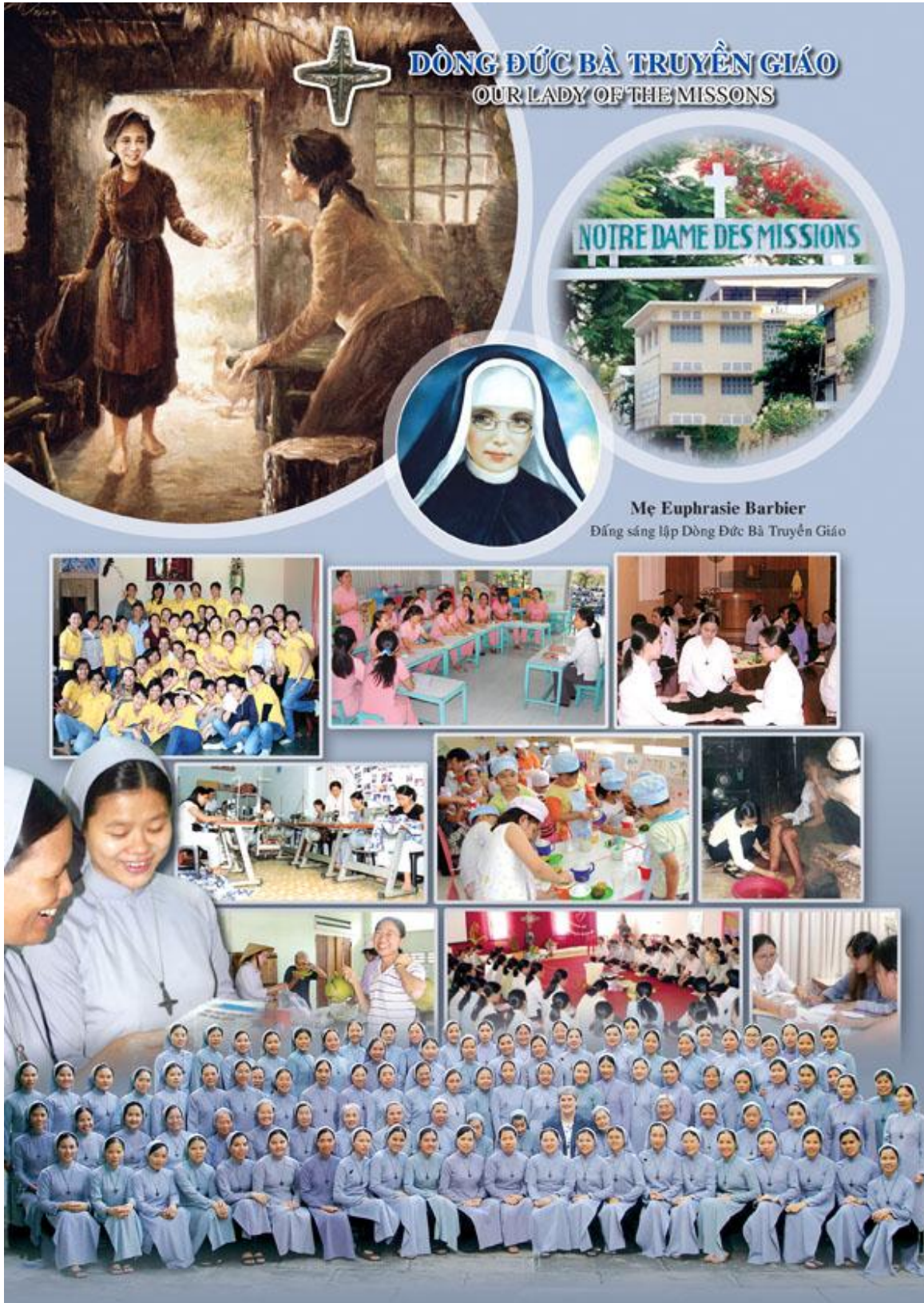


# RNDMs IN VIETNAM



## 1. The founding history of the Vietnamese Province

In response to the invitation of the vicar apostolic of Coastal Tonkin, Bishop Alexandre Marcou MEP (1856-1939), the first five RNDM missionaries from France arrived to Phat Diem on 23 October 1924. The Sisters began working in a school, a crèche, and a dispensary, all of which were previously run by the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres.

In 1926 the RNDM Sisters came to Thanh Hoa, and established a small boarding French medium - school for Vietnamese children plus some French and Eurasian students, and a Vietnamese medium – school. The Sisters also began caring for leprosy patients. Our missions then gradually developed in Lang Son, Sam Son Ha Noi, Vung Tau and Hue. Due to the political situation of the country, we had to move to the South in 1954.



RNDMs at Thanh Hoa in 1932

2. Presently there are 25 RNDM Communities in 7 Dioceses: Sai Gon, Phu Cuong, Xuan Loc, Dalat, Nha Trang, Ban Me Thuat, Kontum and Laos

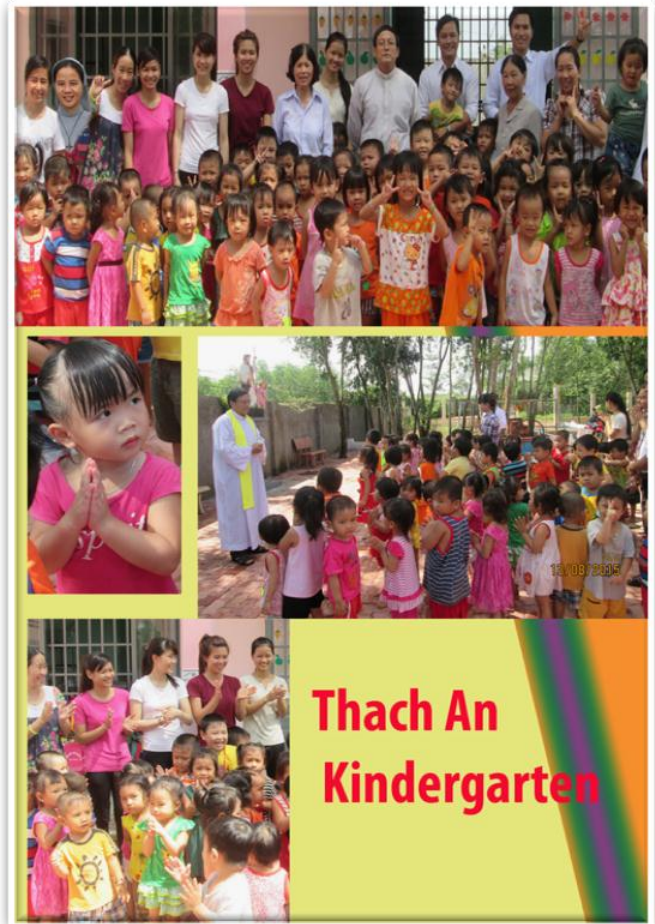


### 3. Current missions

#### ❖ Formal Education and Informal

**Education:** Kindergarten, Tutoring of individual students, Teaching English for Aspirants, Students' Hostel, Hostel for Tribal children at Primary and Secondary level.

**Kindergarten:** We have a big Kindergarten at Thu Duc and small ones in different communities such as Thi Nghe, Minh Hung, Xuan Loc, Thach An, Dalat and Nha Trang.

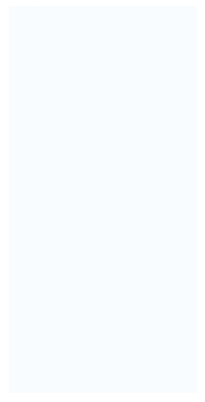


Besides that, in Thach An, Cu Chi and Quang Lam we have some free classes for poor and migrant children who do not have an opportunity to attend school.





*Charity class  
in Cu Chi & Quang Lam*





# Hostel for University Students

In response to the need in society for migrant students to have a safe place to stay whilst

pursuing their studies at universities in Ho Chi Minh City, we opened a hostel in Thu Duc in 2005. This hostel can accommodate 70 young women. Besides their time spent studying, these students are assisted in their development of the whole person, in terms of spiritual, intellectual, human and social development.



The Sisters help to promote their faith by teaching them the Catechism. Some students discover more about their vocation by taking the retreat each month. They attend Mass every day, pray together at the end of the day, and





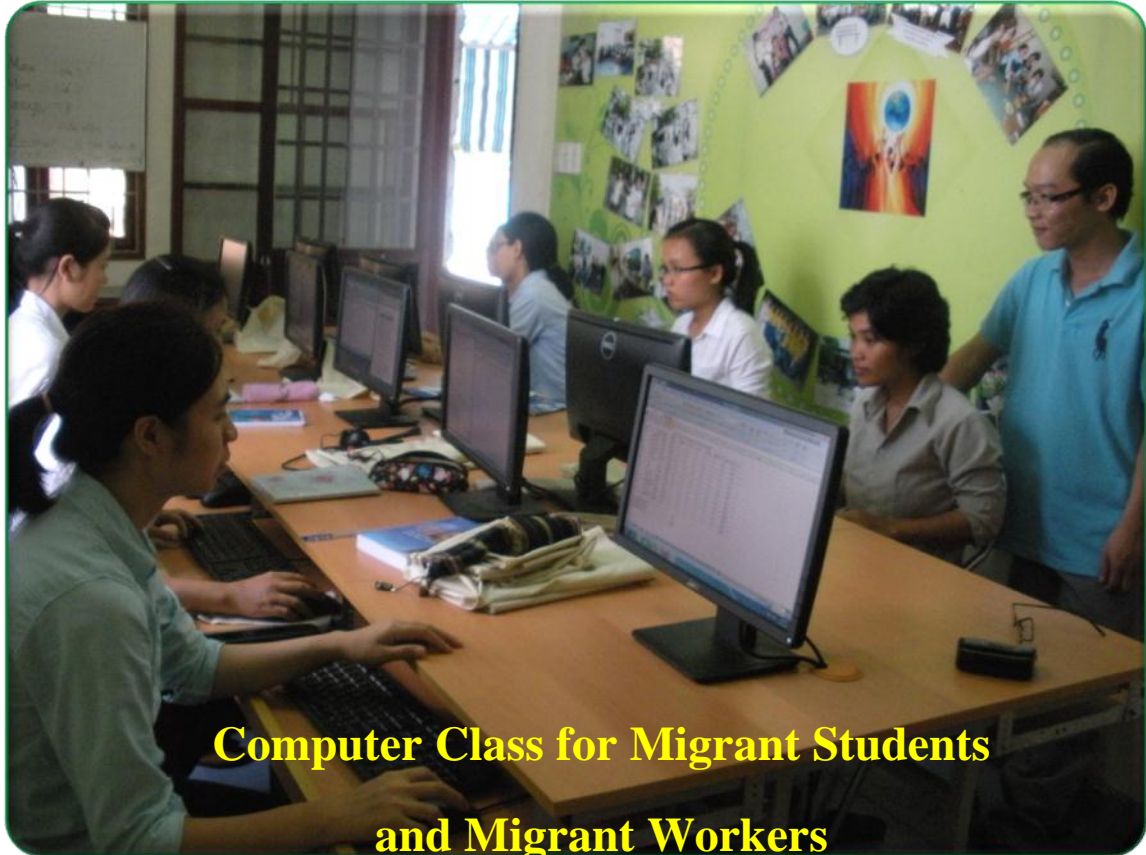
share the Word of God once a week. In this wholesome environment, they not only develop in human life but also in faith. Every year, there are several students who join the Aspirancy and we hope that we can continue to welcome more.

Recently, we conducted free language and computer classes at night time to assist

students and migrant workers. This provided them with some basic and essential skills and knowledge for their careers.







**Computer Class for Migrant Students  
and Migrant Workers**

## **Hostel for Tribal Children**

We are running two hostels for tribal children. One is located in Long Dien community and another one is in Minh Hung. There are 101 children in the Hostel in Long Dien and 50 in Minh Hung. We started this mission in Long Dien in 1990 while the hostel in Minh Hung is relatively new, having started on July 19, 2010. Most of the children come from very poor families. As a result we provide them with food, clothes, medicine, books and tuition fees, thanks to the generous financial support of many benefactors.

Hostel in Long Dien



Hostel Minh Hung

Hostel Minh Hung





❖ **Pastoral:** We carry out pastoral work in most of our communities as it is an important part of our missions. Recently, we fostered our mission for ethnic people in Kontum. Training catechists and providing the youth with opportunities to continue and to better their basic education are our main concerns. In addition, we provide health care services and micro credit to support unemployed women and improve their families' lives.

## Mission in Kontum





## Early Childhood Education

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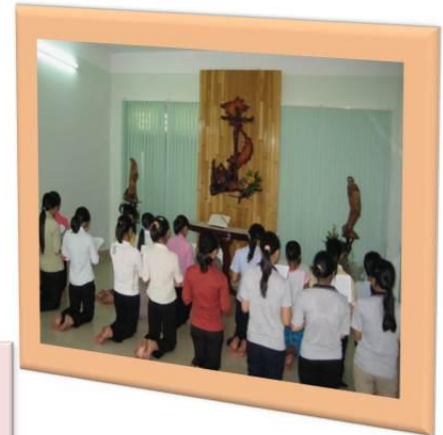
### ❖ Empowering young women and single mothers

**Young women:** The main Mission of Nha Trang community is to positively promote young women's issues. **“Educate a woman, you educate a nation,”** (Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka). Therefore, since 1985, we have opened our doors to welcome young women who are from poor or large families, many of whom have lost their father or



mother. They are from poor areas in North Vietnam and in the Highlands where there are ethnic minority groups. We work with them in order to raise their education level, to give them faith education, vocational training, and human development.

## Vocational training at Nha Trang



**Single mothers:** We have two houses which are located in Tan Binh and District 7 to welcome rejected young pregnant women and be somewhere that they can stay until their babies are born. Normally these unwed mothers would have chosen to abort their unexpected babies. At these shelters, they are helped to respect their own dignity and be aware of the value of life. They are also assisted to learn a trade in order to earn their

living. Moreover, the Sisters help the young women's parents to become more ready to welcome them back home after the birth of their babies.

## Thanh Tam Shelter



#### 4. RNDM ASSOCIATES

The RNDM Associates have been invited to share the Charism of Our Lady of the Missions either in prayer or apostolates. They participate in an annual three-day retreat directed by RNDM Sisters on a particular group's feast day. They are offered opportunities to better understand and appreciate the RNDM charism of contemplation, mission and communion.



Today there are 493 members who have participated in the activities of their local Church and have assisted us in visiting and distributing food to the poor and the lepers.



## 5. Contact

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