



RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018

FOR RNDMS
ASSOCIATES
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PARTNERS

**RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE - ROME**
PROMOTES MISSION THROUGH
COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE
SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS
IN 22 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Rome. We are here again to share with you about our missionary journey. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter that gives you some glimpses of the developmental projects from various missions of our congregation.

It was a golden opportunity for our Congregation to be invited by the Pontifical Mission Aid Societies in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA, USA. We were assigned three parishes to share about the RNDM worldwide mission during the Mission Appeal program. Rev. Fr. Truc Nguyen, Parish Priest of the Cathedral Parish Chapel of St. Vibiana, was a great host who organized everything possible for our accommodation, food, visits to the places of interest and transportation.

We appreciate the parish priests and the parishioners who graciously welcomed us and were eager to listen to our presentations. Some of them came up to us and said,



"I have never been so moved by a mission presentation! Your sisters do such fantastic work! I really appreciate that your sisters empower and educate women and children! I would like to support you more! We have never heard such moving stories! We want to support real people like you who directly work with those in need..." It was the first time for most people to hear about our congregation, and we were glad that many more people have come to know of our missions.

The LA Archdiocesan Mission Office dinner for the participants of Mission Appeal was a good venue to meet with Monsignor Terrance Fleming, the Director and the staff, other bishops, priests and religious who came from different countries for this purpose. We also visited The Loyola Foundation in Washington and had a very fruitful meeting with Gregory McCarthy, Director and Annmarie Glaize, Grants Manager. They assured us of their support and collaboration.

Our mission to the US would not have been successful without the assistance of many people out there who welcomed and extended their help in every possible way. We thank our sisters, donors, agencies, benefactors and well-wishers for your continued support and accompaniment in our missionary journey.

May Euphrasie Barbier our foundress bless and intercede for us all.

Sr. C. Sun *Smitha Thomas*

Crescencia Sun and Smitha Thomas RNDM



Computer Laboratory brings joy to the students of St. Martha's School, Sreemongal – Bangladesh

St. Martha's High School, Sreemongal would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your support in setting up a computer laboratory for the students and staff of our school. We appreciate your loving concern and generous donations towards the school. The Solidarity grant has enabled us to purchase computers, printers, tables and chairs, a projector and other accessories needed for the computer lab. The students are very enthusiastic to use the new computers and they are now able to practice their lessons on computer applications that are required by their curriculum. This added skill helps them to qualify themselves to getting computer based jobs in the future. This Computer lab is also significant for the teachers and is well utilized by them for preparing lessons and power point presentations for their classes. Since Computer studies is a compulsory

subject for the students from class six to ten, about eight hundred students and twenty-one teachers benefit from this project. We thank our sisters and the generous benefactors for your support and cooperation in giving this new opportunity to the students of St. Martha's High School.



Sr. Margaret Rebeiro R.N.D.M

Educating the Indigenous girls, Vinh Trang –Vietnam

Dear Sisters and friends

I am Sr. Maria Pham Thi Nguyet, from Vinh Trang Community. On behalf of the sisters and the indigenous girls at Vinh Trang home, I am very grateful for the solidarity support and your collaboration in the mission of education of fifteen young girls. The grant has enabled us to take care of and help the girls continue their studies. Now they are not only educated academically, but also have gained knowledge in life skills, human values and faith formation. They have become more confident, humane and especially, improving in their studies. There are a few girls to be complimented. One of them named Mo Nuong Van Kieu, from ethnic group finished her high school last year. Once she thought that she would stop her dream of becoming a kindergarten teacher and half way through the course, she lost her father. Her family is so poor that she could not afford to continue her schooling. After receiving financial support from us, she was delighted to pursue her studies. Thankfully, our

support opened a new horizon for her bright future. She can follow her dream. Mo Nuong is very grateful for the support received.

On behalf of all sisters and students, I would like to send you my sincere appreciation. May God of Love grant you and your family a good health, peace and happiness.

Maria Pham Thi Nguyet, R.N.D.M





Your Generosity Nourishes and Shapes Future

At the core of our Delesan Kailawan ministry is our solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples from the Dulangan Manobo Tribe, one of the most marginalized groups in the Philippines, who have been dispossessed of their lands. The particular focus of the center is to make access for the Dulangan Manobo girls to formal education possible and provide tutorial assistance, cultural education and personal accompaniment. We believe that education helps develop future leaders who will contribute to self-determination and a better future for the tribe in the long run.

A Dulangan Manobo family is usually large and extremely poor which means that each child does not get its most basic needs, such as food and clothing. Living in remote areas and with no financial means, the children are usually not sent to school, and girl-children are married off at a very young age because there are no other opportunities for them. When they come to Delesan Kailawan, adequate nutrition is

essential for them to be able to cope with the academic demands and activities in the school.

We ensure that the Manobo girls who come to us are supported in their personal, emotional, educational, cultural and spiritual needs. The staff of Delesan Kailawan are committed to providing a space for these children to grow wholistically. We are truly grateful to our RNDM partners and friends for your interest. Your generosity has been supporting the ongoing education of Dulangan Manobo indigenous children.



Delma Barrientos RNDM

Thankyou!



On behalf of the children of Mariam Niketan School, Belvai, I come with grateful heart for the gift of furniture for our students. We purchased desks, benches and cupboards for the school and the kids' joy was boundless, when they saw the new furniture in their classrooms.

one of the children named Rifaz from grade 2 exclaimed saying, "Wow! I am so happy, we got new desk and benches" and ran to thank us. Sandria, another little girl from the same class could not express her joy and felt speechless and later exclaimed, "I feel so happy today". She recalled her experience of sitting on the floor and doing activities. Other small kids went around the classes to see all the new furniture and were thrilled.



The sisters had also shared their need for financial support for school equipment during

on her way back home that the sisters need money for the school. The little girl Prapthi, a student of grade 1, ran to her saving box and took three currency bills and gave to her mother saying, "I have a little more money, but when they build the park I shall give it".

The students and staff of Mariam Niketan School are deeply grateful for the support of the solidarity funds. They are happy now that they need not sit on the floor anymore for their lessons. Coming to school is a joy for these kids, because they get lots of opportunities and the sisters take personal care for them, unlike the public schools where students get dropped out of school. In return we pray for you every day!



Jacintha RNDM

Alternative Medicine and Herbal Soap making Project for Women Pikit, Mindanao, Philippines

After the declaration of martial law in Mindanao and with many criminal activities, the barangay leaders expressed their desire to partner with the OMF-IRD. Sr Schola Mutua RNDM works in this project and helps to strengthen the relationship of the people and minimize biases and prejudices. The alternative medicine and herbal soap making processing for women was focused on three communities.

The women who are involved in this program belong to both Muslims and Christians communities. These women are affected by the armed conflict during the time of war and some also host internally displaced people (IDPs). In spite of such uncertainties, the women were willing and open to continue with this program. While meeting with the women, they shared that this is the first time they have had an opportunity for this kind of training and have been able to utilize it. Even though they have received input from others before, it seems there was no monitoring and accompaniment to ensure that new projects could be sustained. Since the OMF-IRD is committed to the communities for two more years, continued monitoring and technical support will be provided for the women.



Sixty women received the training from a resource person who has expertise in organic products. After the training, the women were able to repeat the process, replicating it in their communities. While they joined the actual training, women from their respective communities were able to also acquire knowledge of the process when it was shared with them. In this way, the knowledge and skills base in each of the communities is expanding, and the women are taking great pride in their new learning and capacities.

For the first liniment preparation, each community was able to produce about 66-70 products respectively and later on two communities produced again the same number of items. There are more than two hundred other women and men using the products now, so indirect beneficiaries continue to be served every time the women prepare a new batch. The herbal liniments and ointment are prepared with natural /medicinal leaves, coconut oil, scent and eucalyptus. For herbal soap, ripe papaya or avocado is used.

During the organizing of the women, OMF-IRD staff feel it has boosted and enhanced other projects of the OMF-IRD. There is a sense of ownership and commitment on the part of the women, and they have renewed interest in participating in other activities that can contribute to the development of the whole community.

*Our sincere thanks for
the contribution towards
the flood relief for the
people of Kerala, South
India.*

Schola Mutua RNDM



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