



RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

FOR RNDMS
ASSOCIATES
FRIENDS
SPONSORS &
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 Sisters and Friends,

We are delighted to share with you yet another newsletter from the Mission Office, Rome. Greetings to all of you who have been part of our RNDM Mission worldwide and those who read this newsletter.

The season of spring is a beautiful time of the year. Around here, we see fruit trees and ornamental trees decked with colourful flowers in countless varieties. The daffodils, tulips and other flowers are up in their arrays of beauty all over. Spring unfolds new life and growth. As we look back to the last few months, in many ways new life and growth have taken place in different ministries of the RNDM Mission.

This newsletter brings some of the activities and projects that have been significantly life changing experiences and growth promoting for the people we work with. Your generous contribution has made it possible to experience a spring time in their life. We are happy to see them budding, blossoming and growing as good human beings as they try to stand on their feet and face their future with courage and confidence. Enjoy reading the good news of the people in our missions.

We wish all our readers a holy season of Lent- a time of renewal, reconciliation and conversion. May God who loves us unconditionally inspire us to follow Him.

Sr. C. Sun

Smitha Thomas

Crescencia Sun and Smitha Thomas RNDM



RNDM MISSION SHARING - ROME

On 2nd December 2018 we organized a pre-Christmas event at our Generalate in Rome. I was pleased to invite many of our friends and family members who, together with a good number of parishioners including the priests of the parish, attended the presentation of the missions of the Sisters across the Congregation. After the interactive and lively power point presentation, our friends joined us for tea served with delicious home-made snacks which everyone enjoyed. It was a golden opportunity for me to share about the RNDM missions. Our guests were most impressed by the life stories and the loving service of the Sisters. They were very happy to support our works through the purchase of many gift items produced by the women in the mission sites. We appreciate your interest in the projects of the Christmas catalogue.

On behalf of the RNDM IMDO, I would like to thank all our friends, families and benefactors for the energetic and enthusiastic participation. Your contribution has made a great difference in the lives of so many deserving people. See you next time! God bless you all!!



Silvia Mazzenga



Thank you for making a difference...Senegal

Dear Friends, Greetings from Senegal!

"We always thank God for you all, mentioning you in our prayers continuously..." (1 Th 1:2)

RNDM Sisters have been in Senegal since 1971 and the new Mission in Kounkane began only in 2014. Kounkane is a semi town surrounded by many villages, 6 kilometers away from Diaobe, where they have a weekly international market.

The Sisters organize and train women groups in various skills-training and marketing. The women make and sell different products in the market and earn an income to support themselves and their families. The latest training they had was to prepare a health supplement flour that saves the people from severe malnutrition.

In Kounkane, many people suffer from malaria during rainy season. When the women cannot go to work in the fields, they prepare this flour. People can

regain their energy quickly using this food supplement. Most of the flour prepared by these women is commercialized in health centres and dispensaries in and around Kounkane.

This activity has helped women to fight against malnutrition. The project has given them an opportunity to live better lives and to have something more than the basic needs. It has empowered the women to be confident and financially independent. It encourages them to be united among themselves and build trust in one another to work for a common purpose.



On behalf of the women in Kounkane, I would like to express my gratitude to you for enabling us to realize this big dream through the Solidarity fund. Thank you for journeying with us!

Cyria Nongrum RNDM



Love and Care for the Orphans at Chittagong, Bangladesh

St. Benedict's Nursery, founded by the RNDM Sisters in 1912, cares for abandoned boys and girls up to age of six. Some children from the Crèche are adopted locally and internationally. Currently we have 27 babies (23 girls and 4 boys) who remain at St. Benedict Crèche. Two Sisters and some lay staff look after them and take care of all their needs.

The Children who are above six years of age are sent to St. Peter's Orphanage to continue their schooling. At present we have 45 girls aged between six to sixteen

years. Some of the children who are weak in studies are given private tuitions and others are sent for vocational training, such as music, art, dance and sports according to each one's interest and capacity.

With the Christmas gift project we received from our Sisters and friends, we are able to provide better nutrition, clothing, medical and school expenses. We also give to all a chance to learn music, art or dance. The children are happy and learning well. They feel loved, cared for and have gained confidence and self esteem. The Sisters help them to develop holistically and support them to become independent gradually.

On behalf of the children of St. Benedict Crèche and St. Peter's orphanage, I would like to thank you for your generous Christmas gift. Your willingness to help the orphan and needy children in our Crèche and orphanage adds greater joy to their lives. Our appreciation to you all. We pray that God, will bless your generosity, and reward you abundantly.



Pasca Puroki RNDM



Health and Hygiene for Street Children at Kuya Center,

Manila, Philippines has hundreds of street children. Many of them have either been forced to the streets or fled from their families due to neglect, physical or sexual abuse. Children as young as three years old end up on the streets, scavenging, begging or stealing for mere survival.

Kuya Center for street children provides the possibility for a positive future for street children who wish to change their way of lives. Kuya Centre and community based programs inspire the children to leave the streets, enter educational programs and seek family reconciliation wherever possible.



Living on the street without access to proper hygiene and nutrition, we see many children are suffering from pulmonary and other diseases. Skin infections and tuberculosis are among the common illnesses that often are left untreated for children who have no access to any health care, that leads to serious health conditions.

Through the support given to Kuya Center, many of the street children have been provided with medical care and treatment, who otherwise would have died from tuberculosis or other illnesses. The RNDM solidarity support enabled Kuya Center to facilitate a medical mission, where 100 street people came and accessed free medical consultations and medicines. Provision of personal items are transforming for many of these children. Thanks to RNDM Solidarity, many "former" street children are able to care for their personal appearance, enhancing their self-esteem and dignity.

Kate O'Neill RNDM

Our Appreciation to all our Partners in Mission-UK&I

The past months have been full, especially before Christmas, promoting, communicating, and receiving donations from our Partners in Mission for 2018 Christmas Projects.

Our gratitude goes to the many people in our four small countries, who donate to help change the lives of children, women, and families and who generously support RNDM missions.

The following snippets from communication received recently touched me:

"We decided as a family to get our three children involved this year. Thank you for sharing something of the works of Sisters in Vietnam, India, Myanmar, and Philippines. Our 5 year old daughter constantly reminds us to pray for poor children! With unemployment and uncertainty with work we did manage to save £20 over the month... it is small but is shared with a generous heart and we hope it will help someone in some way..."



*Elizabeth Hartigan RNDM
Mission Promoter UK & Ireland*

We appreciate all our Partners in Mission. We are grateful to individuals, Schools, Parishes, Associates, family, friends, knitting, and jewellery making groups, those who sponsor children and all who help in any way.

We always look forward to receiving communication from the Sisters in our various countries throughout the world, letting us know in what ways the money donated has helped in their particular mission. Our partners in mission really value reading news.



*Mary Frances RNDM & Veronica
selling the Jewellery made by them*

RNDM Shelter Home for Women, Vietnam

Thanh Tam Shelter in Ho Chi Minh City, run by the RNDM Sisters, has become a place for protecting lives and giving new hope to many young women. We share with you the experience of two young women who were welcomed at this shelter in the recent months. A pregnant teenager came from a broken family where her parents were divorced. She grew up under her grandmother's care. When her baby was born she decided to keep her and take care of her. She said that she has received unconditional love at the Shelter and she must love her daughter unconditionally in return. Fortunately, the young woman found her mother and got reconciled and reunited.

Another teenager arrived at the shelter pregnant while she was a high school student, and had to choose between her studies and the baby, as her parents did not accept her child. Coming to the Shelter and experiencing the Sisters' loving care, she decided to keep the child. She wrote to her parents, saying; "I would like to thank you mom and dad for the beautiful life you offered me but I couldn't give up the life which is growing inside me - my child. Thanks to the RNDM Sisters that I have been able to stand on my own feet and to value this precious life. If you love me mom and dad, please give me this chance to love my child and let her live. I really want to tell everyone that my child is the best gift in my life".



This young mother is working in a restaurant now and taking care of her baby.

Some women come to the city from poor families and work as laborers and become pregnant by irresponsible men. Others are teenagers who drop out of school because of pregnancy. All of them spend their troubled time together in the Shelter where they receive support and understanding. They experience that the Shelter is truly a Home where they receive compassion and unconditional love, regardless of their past choices.

All of the young mothers have gone through great changes in their lives and are learning to cope with dignity and self-confidence, although they still have to face many challenges in their lives.

The Solidarity fund was a great support to the young women and their babies to get the provisions such as food, milk and medical assistance. They can never thank you enough but ask God to bless you all!



Paola Nguyen Le Hang RNDM



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