

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

FOR RNDMS
ASSOCIATES
FRIENDS
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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 21 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU !

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you from Rome. We are glad to share with you our last Newsletter of this year. Gleaning through the year we see many parts of our world have been suffering grievously on account of natural calamities and other devastations which are very distressing. Pope Francis reminds us in his encyclical *Laudato Si* § 2, *"This sister (earth) now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her Lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will... This is why the earth herself, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor; she 'groans in travail'".* The Madrid COP25 Meeting has urged all nations to act now to save our common home for ourselves and the future.

On the other hand, we acknowledge with gratitude the countless blessings we receive from God through many people who support and journey with us right through the year. We take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who have been part of our mission to make a difference in the lives of many children, students, women and patients who most need our support and help as you can see in this news update.

We wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year 2020. During this Christmas let us make our home and our neighbourhood a better place to live in by being an agent of peace, joy, love and harmony.

Crescencia Sun

Smitha Thomas

Crescencia Sun and Smitha Thomas RNDM

GOSPEL MELODIES FOR CHILDREN

Greetings of the season as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. As part of IMDO promotional activities, I was pleased to organize a Charity Gospel Concert in support of the disabled and malnourished children of Ndondol, Senegal on 7 December in our Parish Church. We chose this project as Senegal has been recently hit by a severe drought, which affected the crops, resulting in lack of nutritious food for these already weak children.

A colourful charity market was creatively arranged outside the church by the Sisters, while the choir did their final sound check. The sale of items produced by the women of various missions was also part of the day's program. Before the concert, I shared about the projects in Senegal and introduced the singers. Everyone enjoyed singing and dancing along with the beautiful voices of the gospel choir led and directed by the main singer Charlie. The songs were Gospel classics including some original versions of Christmas melodies. All those who attended, appreciated the specially joyful, pleasant and peaceful evening.

A big thank you to all, especially Fr Francesco, our Parish Priest and community for their warm welcome and presence. Happy Christmas and may the New Year bring you peace and joy.

Silvia Mazzenga



TECHNOLOGY FOR NEW LEARNERS - KOLLAM, INDIA



We are grateful to the Congregation Solidarity which has funded 16 computers, two printers and computer tables for Preshitha Matha School, Kollam. Now, we are able to provide proper facilities for our students to learn computing skills. As technology is part and parcel of our society, we try to empower our students to explore more knowledge and research. We have 325 students from class I to X, 20 teachers and staff. The whole school campus and parents are delighted to have such a well set up computer lab where every student has the opportunity to learn and work independently.

This project has made a marvellous difference in the lives of students and teachers. They are more enthusiastic with positive energy in using technology as they explore creative and efficient ways. They have a good sense of responsibility in handling software with freedom and joy. It is truly a gift and blessing for our school. The students, staff and sisters send their greetings and thanks for this contribution and pray to God for all our benefactors.



Sr. Ezhil Vinnarasi RNDM

NEW LIFE AND MERCY OF GOD, KENYA

I thank those who have sacrificed a lot and gone miles to support and enable us to reach out to those with special needs in this new Program in Meru County, Kenya.

In this part of Kenya, people with special needs or with disabilities are mostly neglected by the society. As I interact and keep a good rapport with this group, I have discovered that the parents, guardians and caretakers of those with special needs, do not want to be associated with them and seem to be stuck on a denial stage. I am continuing to create awareness in this community on the importance of giving care and support to those with special needs and direct them to receive the necessary help from the local Government and National council.



I encourage them to register as individuals and empower them to form groups so that they can access the grants and other services available from the Government.

So far, I have identified quite a few people with Epilepsy, Deafness, blindness, Cerebral palsy. Impaired vision, Autism, and with problems such as knock-knees and knock-hands or knock upper limbs. The good news is that some of these people have received the medical help and their lives are now changing for a brighter future.



My heart-felt gratitude to all our donors and may God bless you for helping us to reach out to the disabled persons of Meru county. Thank You for your generosity!

Lucia Wayua Mathi RNDM



LOVE AND CARE FOR THE LEPERS, MYANMAR



It has been a privilege and God's blessing for the RNDM Sisters to truly experience the presence of God by working and living among the most vulnerable people who are affected with leprosy. To be with them at their service, on a day to day basis has mixed feelings of blessing and challenge. The Sisters work hard, collaborating with other staff to give their best service to the patients. There are 69 Leprosy patients in the compound: 26 are with families who are dependent. Among them four are children aging between 5-12 years old.

Story of U Bo Mya: *I arrived in the center in 1980, at the age of 20 to have the treatment and medical care. I had been taking medicines and now I am 57 years old. I had stayed with Fr. Raphael Pho Seh (RIP) who cared for me and allowed me to stay and gave me work: to cook for the patients. After my first wife died, I remarried with Daw Tin Myine who also has the same disease as me. I have been working very hard at the center and I tried my best in whatever works I could do.*

In August 2004, the Sisters took up and we have more

peace and are cared for with good food, shelter, medical care and some other spiritual and social life. Since the Sisters took up, our basic needs are being met and have more appropriate care not only us but also for the education of our children and grandchildren. We are happy and pleased to live in spite of our physical disabilities and sickness. We pray for the donors who support us and show their loving care through the sisters.

I feel sad and pained for my two grandchildren as they also suffer from this disease. Though we have been suffering and living with this disease, I do not want anyone of my children to get and do not wish them to be treated as outcast people. But now they too are living with it. My family thanks the Sisters who always tirelessly care and love us.



Augusta Aye Shin RNDM

A RAY OF HOPE FOR THE INDIGENOUS CHILDREN – VIETNAM

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to you for helping us to educate and to promote the poor children, especially 30 indigenous girls in our hostel. They are very needy ones who have no opportunity to continue their schooling. Many families cannot afford the education of these children and they miss a better opportunity in life. The RNDMs provide group tuition for the students, and provide a meal after class which makes their parents very happy and grateful.

One of the girls called Y Tiem who belongs to Jo Long ethnic group. Her parents have five children of whom she is the eldest. They are extremely poor due to her drunkard father. Her mother is the only breadwinner in the family and takes care of everything. Y Tiem was about to leave school to help her mother and to give up her dream of becoming a sister. But when she told this to her mother, she shared it to the Sisters and we helped her to continue her studies.

Now Y Tiem is very joyful and continuing her studies in our residential home. She is still nurturing her dream to become a sister someday to serve the poor in her village.



Maria Pham Thi Nguyet RNDM



MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE, INDIA



The RNDM Sisters at Holy Angel's Convent, Kalyanpur have been engaged in educating the poor children of the nearby villages since 1967, collaborating with the Parish in running a **Bengali Medium** Primary School. But in 2015, the Diocese decided to convert this school to an **English Medium**, since there was great demand from many parents. Presently the English medium school managed by the Sisters, is running well, but the real poor had lost their chance of education as they could not afford the high school fees. Seeing the plight of these poor children of the vicinity and at the request of many parents, the Sisters re-opened the Bengali Medium Primary School to educate the economically poor children of the nearby villages. The generous support from the UK & Ireland and Canadian Provinces has made a fantastic difference in the lives of these less privileged children of the Kalyanpur villages.

The school started in January with 42 students on the roll in three classes: Nursery, K.G. and class 1. Most of the children come from in and around Kalyanpur and other interior villages. Six students are from very far villages who stay happily at the Holy Angels' residential home. The students are learning steadily and doing well in the school. It is great to see them growing academically and in other activities like singing, dancing and other co-curricular activities. The Sisters try to give them an integrated education and insist on the holistic development of



every child, giving them moral and spiritual values to grow up as good human beings. The parents feel proud to see their children learning well in a safe and healthy environment with many opportunities. The financial support from our donors has helped us in getting the teaching aids, play equipment, computers, water filter and classroom furniture etc. The students are so happy to be



in school and enjoy their time learning through the play way method. Definitely your timely assistance to the sisters' initiative, has made a great difference in the lives of these less fortunate children.

Thank you for your valuable help to our mission in Kalyanpur. May God bless all our donors in bringing smiles on the faces of these disadvantaged children of our society. We remain grateful !

Moncy Mathew RNDM



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