

# RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER



**RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION  
DEVELOPMENT - ROME  
PROMOTES MISSION THROUGH  
COMMUNICATIONS AND FUNDING FOR THE  
SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE MISSIONS  
IN 21 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE**



**JUNE 2021**

Dear Sisters and Friends

Gratitude and Hope are the two sentiments that come to my mind as I pen these few lines: gratitude to God and to all our friends and mission partners for the commitment and support towards the mission projects of the Congregation during these difficult times; and hope that there will be greater solidarity as we experience and share together the pain and loss and look forward to the light at the end of the tunnel after the Covid - 19 pandemic. So let us keep our hopes alive, for that is the only way to life!



The invitation of God's merciful heart challenges us and humanity as a whole at this current time of the world crisis. I am sure that we have all realized that we have been in the same turbulent sea, but on different boats. We are fragile and afraid but at the same time, it is important that we row together and support one another. We cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but together we can make a difference to our humanity. Responding to the needs of this time of pandemic, is a challenge for our missions. My prayer is that, God touches and moves our hearts, make us ever more ready to share with our brothers and sisters so that they may live in dignity and freedom.

Thank you to all for your support for the 2020 Christmas Catalogue and this year's Solidarity projects. The articles in this newsletter will prove to you how your generosity and concern have helped others to live a life of dignity and hope.

God bless you, your families and communities!

*Smitha Thomas*  
**Smitha Thomas RNDM**

## **PPE Gift for Matuu Health Center – KENYA**

Dear Benefactors,

Covid-19 Pandemic affected the whole world especially those who are working in health sectors. It has been highly risky for doctors, nurses and health workers. They needed to be protected first, in order to give service to others. The cost of personal protective equipment (PPE) was very high and this put us in a dilemma, whether to retrench some staff in order to buy PPE or buy some drugs to save the lives of people. God of the widow of Naim came to our help through the Christmas Catalogue Funds and we were able to purchase enough PPE kits and the necessary drugs for our health center.

We offer our sincere gratitude to all our Sisters and donors for their generous support. With the PPE protection, our staff feel more secure, less fearful in their services and we encourage them to take responsibility wholeheartedly. We have had a number of Covid-19 cases and the availability of adequate PPE kits and required drugs enabled us to care for them well without fear of being infected. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Henry de Bracton



We have managed to retain our staff and have sufficient drugs supply for our clients while ensuring proper prevention and control measures are observed. So far none of our staff has been infected and we thank God for His protection and for our donors' support. "As we express our gratitude we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them", John Kennedy. By living this, we are able to achieve our vision of seeing a happy, healthy society living with dignity and confidence.

*Felistus Kasyoka RNDM*

# Education in the remote villages - MYANMAR

Htamin Htoke is a very remote village that belongs to Ann Parish in Rakhine State, Myanmar. It is very difficult to reach this place, especially in the rainy season. Since there is no other school in this village, the children have to go to the nearby village school by crossing a bamboo-made suspension bridge over the creek which is very dangerous during rain and times of flood.

There are about 30 families settled in this village, belonging to the Chin ethnic group. Being a Catholic village, there is a small Church and a priest who lives there. The villagers are materially very poor but their belief in God is quite strong. There are over 50 children who have no access to any schooling, nor have a village library or any other opportunity for education. Understanding their situation, the RNDM Sisters visit the village, taking a leading part in teaching catechism, conducting classes and other activities, in which the children participate enthusiastically. The Sisters sensed their eagerness to learn and encouraged the villagers to educate their children for a brighter future.

With the support of the Solidarity funds, the Sisters arranged the study classes for children. We bought books and stationery items, teaching aids, school uniforms and provided them with nutritious food. The happiness and smiles on the faces of the children in receiving such needy support was boundless.

Though our target was only Htamin Htoke village, at the request of the priest, we also went to 'Thaywal' village, about 35 miles away from Ann town, shared some food items and school stationaries to a total of 120 children in all. The Sisters had to stop their mission due to the civil unrest and Covid lockdown, but hope to continue later. We remain ever grateful for the support received from the RNDM Sisters and the generous donors!

*Josephine Moses RNDM*



## SOLIDARITY INITIATIVES FROM SACRED HEART LANGUAGE SCHOOL, ENGLAND

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the girls of Sacred Heart College together with their teachers, organised a charity funding day for our RNDM missions with a Christmas Jumper Day, in December 2020. On the last day of the term, it was not only a fun day for the girls but also a way of contributing to the needs of so many people around the world struggling with COVID-19 and other forms of poverty. Every year at this



time in December, the girls put on a wonderful Carol Concert with the proceeds always offered for our missions but because of the restrictions throughout the UK in 2020, their alternative funding raised a considerable sum to help us throughout 2021.



Each year Sacred Heart Language College gives us the proceeds of their summer and Christmas Concerts and other class and year group projects for the RNDM Missions. We wish to acknowledge their partnership in mission and to thank them: the Headmistress and staff, for promoting

our RNDM missionary spirit in the College. Your efforts are much appreciated and we are grateful to Sacred Heart Language School for your generosity.



*Rosemary Harbinson RNDM*



# EDUCATION FOR TRIBAL CHILDREN & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

## Kuchinda - Central India

Dear friends and benefactors

I would like to express our deep gratitude to all of you for the generous support that enabled us to provide survival kits and enabling the women empowerment program at Kuchinda, Odisha, India.

The RNDM sisters in Kuchinda began this mission in 2015 empowering women and helping the primary school children with tuition classes. Due to the poor education system of this State, the Sisters responded to the needs of educating children through forming a number of Supplementary Education Centres (SEC). It was a great success and we were able to strengthen the SECs in different villages by imparting quality education to the rural children.



It was a great challenge for us to continue the Centers in the villages during the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown times. The children were left like sheep without a shepherd for a few months. Later at the request of the parents and with the support of the village leaders, the Centers were re-opened taking all safety measures and following the Covid-19 protocol imposed by the Government and conducted classes in the open spaces. The Sisters in Kuchinda made great efforts to stitch over 2000 masks for the people in the locality. Masks were distributed to all including children, their family members and at the quarantine Centers.



We organized a one-day seminar for the instructors on health and hygiene to help children, their families and the local people of the area.

A pride walk was organized on the theme, '**Dignity and Justice**' to mark the International Women's Day celebrations. There were about 80 women belonging to different villages who participated in it. It was a rejuvenating experience for all.

Due to the lockdown women were not able to come to the Center for training, therefore, we ventured into a new mission of Mobile Tailoring in the month of December 2020 in a village called Jhalibahal. There were 7 girls who enrolled from a nearby

village and completed the tailoring in May 2021. Among them four of the women bought new sewing machines and began to earn their living.

We are hopeful to see brighter days and we thank all our Sisters, donors and friends for helping us to continue educating tribal children and empowering women, making them self-confident and self-sufficient.

We appreciate your generosity and may God bless you always.



*Jayaseeli Sadhanandham RNDM*

It is with great joy that I share with you, all about our school in France and how it responded to the Christmas Catalogue project of our Congregation.

Notre Dame des Missions School in Charenton, France has seventeen hundred students from Nursery school to Intermediate level. The association of the parents are very appreciative, and are very much active in many areas, including some creative activities of their kids.



The school used to help the UNICEF association earlier, but since 2015, the Head teacher of the primary section decided to help our Congregation's projects. From then onwards, the profits of the annual Christmas market in the primary school goes to the Christmas projects of the Congregation in different provinces. Each year, one of the RNDM Sisters, goes to every class and talks about our mission projects and makes a Power Point presentation.

The teachers, parents and pupils are so generous, as well as so creative. During Advent, each class makes some attractive items and they sell them at the Christmas market in the school. Parents come to buy these creative items of their darlings! The Christmas market is very festive, with drinks, cakes, hot wine, hot chocolate, lights, music and decorative objects made by teachers and students. And of course, Father Christmas (Santa) is a big attraction too!



Last Christmas, we had chosen the project for Peru, a group of Peruvian artists came and danced for the pupils. It was very enjoyable for the teachers and students.



We are so grateful to the Head teacher, the association of parents, teachers, and the pupils for their great generosity. May God bless each of them.

During the pandemic times, it was very challenging to organize the Christmas market. But the parents and teachers did it by making a video of all objects made by the pupils which was posted on the school website. It was greatly supported by the parents and students for our mission in Moquegua, Peru with a substantial contribution.

You are welcome to watch the video on the link: <http://apelndm.fr/>



*Regina Tripura RNDM*



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