

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION NEWSLETTER

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 21 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE

DECEMBER 2022

Dear Friends

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus. It's not only about having the most beautiful Christmas tree, big presents, toys, grand food and most importantly, being at Church to celebrate Jesus' birth.

I am sure you are aware of many who do not have the means, like parents who have lost their job, families in desperate financial crisis, and those who face loneliness and depression. Some are totally unaffected with the current situations of war and suffering while others are making efforts to support and care. We are all in the same storm, but not of the same boat.

Pope Francis says "Today, as the winds of war are blowing in our world and an outdated model of development continues to produce human, societal and environmental decline, Christmas invites us to focus on the sign of the Child and to recognize Him in the faces of little children, especially those for whom, like Jesus, "there is no place in the inn". (Lk:2:7)

So let us remind ourselves during this festive season that the true meaning of Christmas is to love, to give and to share. When we look around there will be someone we can show love, someone to give something and someone to share with. So friends may you be inspired by these words: for if you are someone out there who needs you; realize this and be kind – to love, to give and to share. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and New Year 2023.

Smitha Thomas

Smitha Thomas RNDM,



**"Do not toil for the poor,
but be with the poor..."**

Be empathic: that is, learn to read reality with the eye of the poor." These are the messages we continue to address to our parish community so that it may become more and more a true witness of Charity. Among those who listen most attentively to the cry of the poor we are fortunate to count in our area the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions.

Thanks also for their support in these last two years, we have been able to respond to some emerging needs, especially as a result of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine: we have been able to provide financial support for payment of rents and increased energy bills, purchase of educational materials (tablets) to enable students to take classes remotely in case of lockdown, purchase and distribution of food items and hosting of two Ukrainian families for three months.



May the Lord bless all who respond to this call of sharing on the part of the many and not begging on the part of a few.

Photo:
Riccardo Callori (Caritas)
Fr. Don Marco
Yulia (Mother)
Yeva (brain injured girl)
Suor Cecilia (Compassion)
Ariana, & Rosella (Caritas)
The day before going
back to Ukraine

Dr. Riccardo Callori



Women's care for Environment - Senegal



The women of Ndongol, Senegal are very much aware of the importance of taking care of their environment as they are experiencing climate change and lack of rain every year. They are becoming responsible women not only for their own family or their own village but also for the society at large.

After having encountered and experienced climate change year by year, women are very eager to plant trees which we distributed to each group. They wait eagerly to see the growth of their plants into big trees, thus creating a green village. This project has helped the women to think globally. By planting a tree they contribute to life, and hope for a better future place to live for the coming generations. By taking this responsibility to care for their environment, they set an example

to their younger ones for a hygienic future. The women hope that their good works will be continued by the future generations and become a ray of hope for the society.



Cyria Nongrum RNDM

The Power of Dream... Tei Wa Ngai- Kenya

Boniface was born in 1999 at Mavoloni – Machakos County. His parents died when he was small and was brought up by his grandma who is old and sick quite often. Boniface is a physically challenged boy: he has crippled arms and legs. He always moves around on the wheelchair with the help of someone and cannot go around by himself. His grandma now is old and unable to support him with school fees and other basic

needs. He totally relies on well-wishers for everything. Boniface completed his Secondary school up to Form Four this year. His performance is average but he is not able to continue further.

He visited our office last month and shared his dream. He is interested in electronic repairs like radio, television and watches. We gave him a small loan of 3,000 Ksh (Approx US\$25) to start his business.

Boniface is at Tei Wa Ngai Office signing the contract for the loan



Boniface is a good young man, hardworking, humble and a social person. He interacts well with other people and is loved by his friends.

Tei Wa Ngai Center has been helping him for many years since Primary School. Thanks to the support of different donors and our Congregation, that has made a difference in his life and making his dream come true!



Ngan Ita RNDM

Educating the Lepers' Children - Myanmar



RNDM Sisters serve at St Theresa's Leper colony, Thayet, looking after the Leper patients, their children and others from the surrounding villages who live in great poverty. They are deprived even of their basic needs, especially the children's right to education. They have been out of school for the last two years, and we are trying to implement a program that allows them proper learning.

There are 63 children from Grades 1- 8 attending this program. The students have missed much of their time due to the military coup and the post



covid situation which we have to make up to complete the syllabus for the year. Most of them come from poor families, who cannot afford any tuition classes.

As everyone is facing a difficult time in the country, we are trying to accommodate as many children as we can in the tuition classes. We also encourage them to grow up as good persons in future.



Feel The Power of Giving....

As the country's situation has worsened under the military coup, prices of things have risen and people are facing a tough time. We provide essential food items for the Lepers and their families. Thanks to the generosity of our Sisters and donors who support us.

On behalf of our students, teachers and their families we, at St. Theresa's Thayet, express our sincere thanks to all our friends and benefactors who continue to support us during this difficult time of pandemic and military coup. May God bless and reward you during this holy season of Christmas and New Year!

Christina May RNDM

Misean Cara Open day

On Tuesday 6th September Misean Cara held an Open House to welcome members to their new offices on Dame Street in the centre of Dublin. After more than 15 years at South Circular Road address, Misean Cara moved house in April to a smaller more efficient suite at Callaghan House. They were pleased to have many members joining throughout the day for tours, many lively discussions, and plenty of tea and cake.

Srs. Una Rutledge from Church town Comty and Smitha (Misean Cara MDO) attended the meeting. Smitha also had meetings with John Moffett, CEO and Orla Duke, who is the Liaison for Notre Dame de Missions (RNDM).

The RNDMs are deeply grateful to **Misean Cara** for all the grant we receive for our mission projects.

Kevin Carroll & John Moffett with RNDMs



Smitha RNDM

GIVE A GIFT THAT
MAKES A DIFFERENCE...
At this Christmas



Giving New Life and hope to the Dalits - India



Jyoti Bhawan Health Centre Kanti, is well known for the snakebite treatment. Patients come from all around the districts of Muzaffarpur, as far as 80 - 90 kms distance. Each year, the number of patients is on the increase and almost 99% of their lives are saved if they manage to reach the clinic on time. It has been a challenging ministry for us in this village with very limited resources.

Most of our patients are poor and belong to the Dalit group (low caste). They are more prone to snakebites as they work in the fields and live in huts with mud floors, which attract snakes, rodents and insects. Added to that they are also victims of superstitious belief and unfavorable customs and practices. Initially, we treat the snakebite patients with snakestone, which absorbs the poison from the body. We also use Homeo medicines whenever necessary.

The patients who are bitten by a cobra, viper or other

poisonous snakes, need to be treated with Anti-Venom and other medications, which are very costly but life saving. A number of cases bitten by a cobra become serious due to lack of transport facilities or they are taken first to the untrained doctors in the villages. It is painful to see some of them lose their lives because of the delay in bringing them to the center and we become helpless in saving their lives.

In 2021, we treated about 6000 patients of whom 86 were very critical, 5 of them died during treatment, due to delayed arrival and were brought in a very serious condition.

It is a very challenging ministry as every patient is an emergency case. Most patients are unable to pay for their treatment, but we are moved by the plight of the people who are victims of snake bites. We find joy in our service to them because of their great faith in us. We are deeply grateful to all our donors and benefactors who support us to this life saving mission. God bless you!

Crescencia Sun R.N.D.M



We, at the IMDO appreciate and are ever grateful to all RNDM Sisters, friends, mission partners and benefactors for your collaboration and generous support to our needy missions throughout this year. Your support towards the Christmas Catalogue, Solidarity and other projects has transformed the lives of many people, who otherwise would not have had a chance in their life. God bless and reward you always!

May you experience joy, peace and love this Christmas and in the New Year!



If you wish to support our projects, please contact below or visit our website

RNDM INTERNATIONAL MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE—ROME

For further information contact: Sr.Smitha Thomas RNDM or Silvia Mazzenga

Suore di Nostra Signora delle Missioni, Via di Bravetta 628

Roma 00164, Italy.

Phone: 06 6615 8400; Email : imdo@rndmgen.org

RNDM Website: www.rndm.org