

RNDM Mission Promoters Team



UK & IRELAND

Newsletter



March 2019

Dear Sisters, Associates, Friends, Donors, Sponsors, and Partners in Mission

“Earth’s Life is awakening. Inside the thick darkness of predawn,
the sun is getting ready to rise”. (The Circles of Life; Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr)

Winter is passing and spring is in the air, a little earlier than usual this year! We delight in this season of new beginnings as earth comes to life again.

Spring always brings a sense of awakening, renewal, warmth, and energy. As Lent comes at this time in the Northern Hemisphere it is hard to resist seeing parallels between the cycles of nature and the spiritual journey. Philip Larkins beautifully expresses this time of renewal and rebirth, at the end of his poem “The Trees”:

“Begin afresh, afresh, afresh”

Lent is about seeing things in a different perspective and taking time to notice what we often pass over. Let us give time to stop, to tend, to nurture, to reflect and nourish our journey with God as we refocus and re-energise. Let us walk through Lent with joy as we anticipate the need for significant change in our lives and be attentive to the possibility of hearing a call into something fresh and new.



Euphrasie Barbier founded the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM) in 1861 in Lyon, France. Today we are 870 Sisters throughout the world, living and working in 22 countries. Our priority as RNDM’s is to journey with those who are vulnerable and neglected, those marginalised in our world today, with particular care of women, children, youth, indigenous people, migrants and victims of human trafficking.

Here in UK & Ireland we are 74 Sisters, aging but yet active in response to the needs around us in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Where RNDM's are in the World



Social Impact Worldwide

Education – Nursery – High School - About 55,000 students

Orphanages and Hostels - About 10,000 children

Dispensaries Health Care – About 112,000 patients

Pastoral Care - about 100,000 people

Women Empowerment – about 50,000

During our recent Province Mission Promoters Team meeting, we expressed gratitude to the many people in UK and Ireland who donate and support our worldwide mission initiatives

Christmas Projects 2018	
✚ Empowerment of Indigenous children Vietnam	- £ 664.50
✚ Faith/Social Development of Youth South India	- £ 879.50
✚ Mother and child programme Philippines	- £1029.50
✚ Weaving Programme for Women Myanmar	- £1517.07
TOTAL	£ 4090.57

With generous donations from individuals, schools, parishes, sale of crafts, cards and jewellery, we were able to contribute £25.000 to the following:

Health Care for disabled children in Almel South India - £3800

RNDM's at Almel have a mission for education and social development. The Sisters through visiting of families discovered that many families have disabled children. The parents of these physically and mentally challenged children find it a burden to look after them and to meet their basic needs mainly because they consider them as a curse and they carry shame. Many of these children are neglected and spend most of their time in seclusion and lonely. This lack of family interest and neglect to provide necessary documents means the children do not obtain government facilities as well. Many face the problem of malnutrition and ill health. Many of them are weak and sickly with no proper food. Their parents refuse to take them to the hospital when they are sick. The families themselves are very poor and cannot afford to buy nutritious food and medicine. Thank you for your support in helping the Sisters to provide for and help the parents as well as the children.

EDUCATION Chu Bac Giang Province Vietnam £3000

The people of Chu village possess very poor materials and are limited in their education. The Sisters work with parents; have raised awareness to encourage them to send their children to school, as well as giving extra support to parents to enable children to go to school. The children are poor at English and Vietnamese grammar, and need tutoring for these subjects after school hours. The RNDM Sisters have three tuition classes to help children to keep up with their school programs and to prevent them from dropping out of school. This is also a way of engaging the children to help them to learn, to reflect, and to enhance the quality of their learning. Many parents struggle to earn enough for their very simple life style and they need support to keep their children in a healthy educational environment. This also helps to keep them away from the influence from criminal activities due to poverty. Your help is greatly valued – thank you.



Financial Support for 10 students Pakse, Laos - £3800

The purpose of the project is to enable the Laotian ethnic children to fully integrate in all aspects of their own holistic development – physical, social, political, and educational aspects. Carrying out this ministry in recent years, the Sisters have realized the need for several reasons: many uneducated parents are busy with farming and are unable to teach and care for their children. Working at the farm after school hours, these children do not have any activities except playing games or wandering or playing in dangerous streams. Without good education they could be married off at a very early age and repeat their parents' poor life cycle. The Sisters help them step by step, to become self-reliant and change their environment and offer them a chance towards a better future. Sisters take the children out of a familiar environment from their own villages to come and to be with them in the RNDM community and train them in life skills as well as offer them support for schooling. Thank you for helping the Sisters do this work.

Equipment for Bengali Medium School Kalyanpur India - £3000

Kalyanpur is a Village about 30 kms away from the city of Kolkata. This mission was established in 1966 and the sisters had been engaged in the works of education for the poor, collaborating with the Parish. The Sisters also have a dispensary with mobile clinic to interior villages and health awareness programs, hostel for the poor and underprivileged children from distant villages, pastoral care, and women empowerment programmes. The Sisters educate young children from the lowest strata of society and from the slum areas through Primary education in Bengali language. In order to do this, Sisters plan to renovate and reset the spaces available in the dispensary building. Since they plan to start classes in the coming session, they need to purchase some furniture and computer for administrative office, games items, water coolers etc. We thank you for assisting the Sisters in their endeavour to help the poor and the less fortunate children of the locality.



Assistance for Continuation of Physiotherapy; Employment of Occupational Therapist

Access to corrective aids and corrective surgery (TWN) - Kenya £3800

Tei Wa Ngai is a comprehensive programme to improve the lives of children with disability. Through regular home visits, the Health workers accompany the parents. Many of the families of children with disability are living in situations of dire poverty. Access to corrective surgery, mobility aids, and regular physiotherapy gives the child the possibility of movement that is a key to access to education and long-term job opportunity and financial independence.

When discovered at the right time, access to physiotherapy

gives the mothers support to provide for the needs of the children with disability and prevents long-term immobility of the children. TWN program being an ongoing project, the centre needs physiotherapist, corrective surgery, and equipment like walker, wheel chairs.

Your help is greatly appreciated - thank you.



Equipment for Queen of the Missions School, Kuchinda – Odisha India £3000

RNDM Sisters constructed an education centre in Kuchinda village, Odisha to provide poor tribal children with quality formal education. The School was built with the support of Miseen Cara in the year 2014. The school is growing in strength and presently there are 131 students from Nursery to class II. After school hours, the Sisters organize the SHG (Self Help Group) for 120 SHG women and tailoring classes for 15 young women. Sisters also conduct parent Teacher meetings, and other common programme for children of the supplementary centres. The total number who benefit directly from this project is approx. 600 children, women and men. There is an urgent need to provide water coolers in the premises since the summer months are extremely hot, games items and a computer and projector for the school to provide quality primary education to these poor children. Thank you for your support.



Nutrition for Delesan Kailawan Students – Philippines £2300



In partnership with parents, we hope to continue building up the confidence of the Dulangan Manobo. Their self-esteem is enhanced when their children are healthy. Our collaboration with parents in providing for the children's needs, while they are studying, is ongoing. This money helps to provide adequate meals for the girls in our care, thus reducing the risk of undernourishment and other incurred illnesses. Bless you.

Kuya Center Street Based Program Philippines - £3800

Kuya Center's Street Based Program meets street children in their own environment five days per week. Two street Educators and one Social Worker, accompanied by many volunteers, facilitate non-formal education sessions which focus on themes and topics which assist street children in their safety while on the street. These sessions are all aimed at highlighting the risks of living on the streets and encouraging the children to make a change and leave street life. One to one counselling is given by the social worker when the child is encouraged and supported to leave street life. Food is provided for those children who participate in the non-formal educational modules on the streets. This program is key in building up trust and rapport of street children who find it extremely hard to trust due to traumatic and abusive histories. It is crucial to provide transformative opportunities for children to be rehabilitated from drug abuse, the risk of extra-judicial killing and trafficking. RNDM's appreciate your support.

Thank you



It would be difficult for many of our missions to continue with their missionary outreach without your support. Our Sisters in these countries are indebted to all of you. Thank you very much. Our prayers and the prayers of the Sisters worldwide are with you and your families. God bless you.

Remembering with Gratitude

Iris Combley, who passed away in October. Iris supported our missions over many years. She also sponsored children in Myanmar for education. Rest in Peace Iris.

AN INVITATION

During this year, Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in every Province throughout the world will be meeting in Chapter. A Chapter happens every six years and its purpose is to help all the members of the congregation to consider our missionary efforts and to make decisions about our future. It is also a preparation for a General Chapter – a meeting that involves Leaders and delegates from every province of the Congregation. The General Chapter considers the overall mission of the entire congregation and makes plans for its future journey. The next General Chapter takes place in Thailand 18 January to 15 February 2020 with the theme:

Seeing Anew - One Body One Mission

We invite you, if you wish, to reflect with us how we can enrich one another in our changing world and would value your sharing on some of the following:

- ❖ How would you describe your mission in the world?
- ❖ How can we as a community of Religious women support you in your mission?
- ❖ How do you see yourself supporting us in our RNDM mission in our world today?
- ❖ Do you have any thoughts, suggestions, questions etc. about RNDM mission that you would offer us for consideration at our Chapter?

If you wish to join in this conversation by replying to any or all of the above, or with any suggestions that you feel could be helpful for us, please do send your ideas to the contact below.

*Blessings as you journey throughout Lent and our pray is that each of us will be
"Open to the unexpected,
believe beyond our security,
welcome God in every form,
and trust in our own greening"* (Joyce Rupp – Out of the Ordinary)

*Mary Toner, Rose Mary Harbinson, Mary Higney, Edith LeRiche,
Maria McMahon, Elizabeth Hartigan*

UK & Ireland Mission Promotion Team

If you wish to be part of our RNDM Mission - to receive the Newsletter, hear more about the life and mission of our RNDM Congregation and/or donate, please contact;

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