

TWINNAGE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER No 119

October 2007



SVP support: Following a very constructive meeting with David Gill, National Office Finance Manager, I have gone through the system he has set up and we are fully in agreement regarding the process to refund the required support payment back to Twinnage.

My major concern is that there are a large number of conferences who are not making their returns promptly and if these are twinned there will be no refund as no support payment will have been made.

At 20th September only one Central Council had achieved a 100% return for the quarter ending 30th June – well done Portsmouth. There were a further 5 CCs with above 90% returns but 4 were below 70%, the lowest being 53%. Hopefully more will have already come in or will be on the way once the post situation is resolved but it would be helpful if you could mention at your CC meetings the need for returns to be made on time.

Indian Student Sponsorship: David Wiles tells me that there has been a very good response to his article in “Vincentian Concern”. This long running scheme gives us a wonderful opportunity to give life changing support to young men and women in India and I hope that we will be able to maintain or even increase the numbers we are supporting. At the present exchange rates £60 per year will support a technical training student in a course such as nursing or engineering and also a younger student in a vocational training course.

Disaster Fund – UK Floods: At the time of writing no further requests have been received from Central Councils affected by the flooding. Several donations have been received specifically for UK flood relief but so far they do not exceed the total sent to Hallam.

India – Floods and Epedemic: A £10,000 donation has been sent to India to assist in their work with flood relief and also to aid the victims of a virulent virus which has affected a large number of people in Kerala.

Confederation News Appeal: A £5000 donation has been sent to Council General in response to an appeal to assist the Society's work in Jerusalem, Palestine (Ramallah), Syria (Damascus) and Lebanon.

Uganda – Floods: A donation of £8500 has been sent to Uganda to meet a request for salt, blankets, mosquito nets and medicines to distribute to the flood victims in Northern and Eastern Uganda. This is 50% of the sum requested and we hope that the other moiety will be covered by Ireland and/or Council General.

News from Sudan: Kamal Tadros has advised us that one of their Social workers, Amot, and one of the young street children they have supported, Hussein Harron, traveled to Nairobi to represent the SVP at a meeting “African Child Day” arranged by Save the Children UK.

They are fully cooperating with Save the Children UK who recently mentioned to them that they consider Saint Vincent De Paul to be an “OUTSTANDING PARTNER”. They are very happy with our work and have promised to provide training to staff in the various fields.

Sudan SVP will be sending a young delegate to represent them at the International working days gathering of Vincentian Youth to be held in Salamanca in June 2008.

Sudan Appeal: Thanks to all who have supported the Sudan Appeal, we have had an excellent response so far and have been able to make a small increase in the funding being provided, without the appeal this would have had to be cut drastically. In order to reach the wider Catholic community we will be putting inserts into one edition of the “Catholic Herald” in mid November and also in the December issue of “Catena” the Catenian magazine. To keep these appeals simple we are just promoting the babies feeding scheme and will be sending out cards which will either be an acknowledgement of a donation or a card which can be given by the donor as a Christmas present.

Many thanks to Kate Bretherton, National Office Fundraising Supremo, who has done most of the work on this Appeal. Kate is shortly to go on maternity leave and I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best.

Kanjirapally Twins: Should anyone have correspondence issues with twins in Kanjirapally CC I have been sent their annual report which gives names and addresses for all conference Presidents.