

May Newsletter 2022 - Volume 19 Issue 5

Contact & Donation Information

FVSO: P.O. Box 9322, Auburn, CA 95604

Email: FriendsofVSO@gmail.com

Web: www.FriendsofVSO.org

In This Issue

- Special Projects Underway
- Easter Sunday at Vinh Son
- Remembering Sr. Francoise
- Spreading the FVSO Story

FVSO President is Optimistic about 2022

The goal every year is to stay focused on our mission to provide Basic Needs, Medicine and Education. We work closely with the nuns, from each Vinh Son orphanage, to develop the annual budget, so they can feel secure in knowing they have the funds necessary to support their operations. However, generous donations made during last year's Fundraiser, have allowed us to expand Basic Needs to include much more...agriculture and building maintenance. Last year, we spent over \$116,000 in these vital areas, as detailed in the January FVSO newsletter. For 2022, we have approved a budget of \$86,000, which will make a significant difference in the lives of the children. Safe living spaces and healthy food production will improve the lives of the children (see page 2). They know that all these accomplishments are made possible only because of loyal contributors like you. Making sure they have a stable economic environment means the Nuns can keep their focus on developing skills for the future.



The kids are dressed for Easter Mass at VS-1. Notice the mural in the background

FVSO Maintenance & Agriculture Projects 2022

| VS-1 | VND | US \$ |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Rubber Trees | 140,000,000 | \$6,119 |
| Repair Girls Dorm | 61,425,000 | \$2,685 |
| Improve ceiling | 81,150,000 | \$3,547 |
| Replace Tin Roof | 66,000,000 | \$2,885 |
| | 348,576,000 | \$15,236 |
| VS-2 | | |
| Clothes Drying Area | 100,500,000 | \$4,392 |
| Arch Roof | 97,370,000 | \$4,256 |
| Repair Classroom | 41,700,000 | \$1,823 |
| New Gutter | 15,500,000 | \$677 |
| Iron Panel Door | 18,000,000 | \$787 |
| | 273,070,000 | \$11,935 |
| VS-3 | | |
| Repair Fence Wall | 231,850,000 | \$10,133 |
| Repair Gate | 114,000,000 | \$4,983 |
| | 345,850,000 | \$15,116 |
| VS-4 | | |
| Chicken Coop | 108,505,000 | \$4,742 |
| Walls, Fencing, etc. | 171,875,000 | \$7,512 |
| 1,000 Chickens & Feed | 25,000,000 | \$1,094 |
| | 305,375,000 | \$13,348 |
| VS-5 | | |
| Re-build House | 335,751,000 | \$14,658 |
| VS-6 | | |
| Repair House | 205,751,200 | \$8,993 |
| Repair Gate | 153,346,000 | \$6,702 |
| | 359,097,000 | \$15,695 |

Total of All Projects: \$85,988 usd

Below: Originally, the plan at VS-5 was to repair the main house, but upon further inspection, it made more sense to re-build the deteriorating structure.



Below: The holes have been dug and the rubber trees will be planted in June. Other VS-1 construction projects have been approved by the government. Work has begun.



Catholics in Vietnam Free to Celebrate the Paschal Vigil (Easter)

Thank God for the Easter celebration held this year, with many Catholic Christians in the churches in Kontum province. During the Holy Week, the children of the 6 VSO practiced singing to prepare for Paschal Eve and Easter Sunday. The children of Vinh Son 4, 5, 6 tidied, cleaned, and decorated their chapels for Easter Holy Mass. The ones of Vinh son 3 attended Easter Holy Mass in their parish church, and the children of Vinh Son 1 and Vinh Son 2 attended Easter Eve and Easter Sunday Mass in the old Wooden Church, the cathedral of the Kontum diocese, as usual. At 7 PM, all the rites of Paschal Virgil were celebrated outside the Church and then Holy Mass was celebrated inside the Church. The Celebrant reminded the parishioners to keep all the 5 measures of Covid-19 prevention. After Easter Mass at night, the children received the Resurrection grace and His peace directly in Holy Easter Mass in the Church, even during the pandemic period. Easter Eve ended at 9.30 PM.



Most Catholic Christians in Vietnam, near and far, have celebrated Easter in a joyful atmosphere without restrictions compared to the previous two years. Mass in the old Wooden Church is always a memorable experience, even when wearing a mask.

A Life Well Lived: Saying Good-by To Sister Francoise Y Hnet

Submitted by Martha and John

All the Sisters of the Immaculate and Miraculous Medal Convent, especially the Sisters and all the orphans of 6 VSO are very sad because Sr Francoise Y Hnet, our great benefactress, has just passed away after getting positive from Coronavirus; but thanks to three shots of vaccine, she got negative from Coronavirus after one week. Because she is very weak and old so she had her bad post-Covid time with her heart failure and her pneumonia and severe kidney failure, so she had to be hospitalized for over one month. Although the doctors of Kontum General Hospital tried to cure her bad diseases after getting Covid-19, she became weaker and weaker and passed away at 3 PM on March 30, 2022. Her death has left all the Sisters of the Convent and the Sisters and children of 6 VSO with relenting grief and mourning. Sr Francoise Y Hnet is a living example for us with her spirit of charity, love, and sacrifice to serve and look after the ethnic minority orphans at Vinh Son 1 orphanage for 28 years (since 1993 until 2021). We could see her look after the orphans as their own mother. She always wore joy on her face while working to help the orphans.

Sr Francoise Y Hnet belonged to Sedang ethnic minority. She was born on December 29, 1940, in Kon Hring village, Dak To district, Kontum province. She was an official Sister of the Convent on November 27, 1964, after her first vow, and after that, she was assigned to the mission of spreading the live of God to the students and she was a teacher of God Mother's primary school for Bahnar children from 1964-1966.

- **From 1966 to 1979:** She worked and helped the poor ethnic minority patients at Minh Quy Hospital in Kontum (Dr. Pat Smith's Montagnard hospital).

- **From 1979 to 1993:** She worked at her Mother Convent to serve the poor ethnic minority people in Kontum province.

- **From 1993 to 2021:** She moved to Vinh Son 1 orphanage to look after the ethnic minority orphans.

- **From 2021 to 2022:** she retired at the convent.

At Vinh Son 1 orphanage, Sr Francoise was assigned to look after and educate the little girls from 6 to 11 years old and she tried to educate them with her own good life through her daily prayers and her good example. She always taught the little girls to keep hygiene well, tidy, and clean their rooms and she encouraged them to study well at school. Because of her good character and good behaviors toward the Sisters and all the children of Vinh Son 1 for a long time, everyone and especially the Catholic nuns and Priests of Kontum diocese loved and respected her.



Sister Francoise watched “her children” grow and thrive during her years at Vinh Son 1. “She always wore joy on her face while working to help the orphans.”



FRIENDS OF VINH SON MONTAGNARD ORPHANAGE (FVSO)

FVSO is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that provides support for the six Vinh Son Montagnard orphanages in the Kontum region of Vietnam and the Sao Mai orphanage in Pleiku. These facilities are home to over 700 Montagnard children who are cared for by dedicated Catholic Nuns. For 20 years, FVSO has been a major contributor to the well being of these very special children. Through tax deductible donations, FVSO provides food, medicine, annual dental care, primary and secondary education, and clean drinking water. With the goal of self-sufficiency, FVSO has also introduced pigs and chickens for sale, animals that the children will raise and eventually sell. Additionally, farmland has also been purchased that the orphanages will manage and crops shared among orphanage locations. 100% of all contributions will go to the kids and their caregivers. For more detailed information, please visit our web site; all of our monthly newsletters are there. They tell the story!

To donate or to contact FVSO

Mail: P.O. Box 9322-F, Auburn, Calif. 95604-9322
 Web: FriendsOfVSO.org
 Email: FriendsOfVSO@gmail.com

AMERICA

The Jesuit Review of Faith and Culture

FVSO has placed an informative full-page ad (left) in the April edition of this very influential Catholic magazine. With 37,000 subscriptions and 200,000 impressions in their digital audience, we hope to inspire others to join our Vinh Son "family."



GuideStar is a philanthropic research database designed to fill in the knowledge gaps you need to find the best charities to which to donate in the area you most care about.

Newsletter Staff

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mike Little | Editor |
| Martha Phanh | Associate Editor |
| John Ho | Translator |
| Sister Anna Ngo thi My | Sao Mai Contributor |

Email: FriendsOfVSO@gmail.com

Comments are welcome!

Legacy Fund Update

The goal is:

**\$2 million dollars
by March 2027**

Legacy Fund Balance

\$900,284



AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization, at no cost to you. Shop at smile.amazon.com, and find the same convenient experience with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Just type in the Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage to make your choice.

Orphanage Facts

About 700 Montagnard children live in 7 orphanage facilities in the Kontum/Pleiku areas of Vietnam.

\$12 per month provides each child one nutritious meal every day.

Orphanages are run by the Sisters of Miraculous Medal (Vinh Son) and St. Paul Chartres (Sao Mai).

Officers & Board Members

Patrick Leary
 Nga Wynne
 Gene Mapa
 Bart Ruud
 Clyde Lewandowski
 Michael Little
 Pat McKee
 Dave Chaix
 Hank Gonzales
 Ken Tokutomi

President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Senior VP
 1st VP
 2nd VP
 3rd VP
 Board Member
 Board Member
 Board Member

Donation Information

Checks should be payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son.

FVSO is a humanitarian, non-profit organization approved by IRS code 501©(3). Donations are tax deductible.

Donations are accepted year round and are also available on-line.