



# Keeping in touch

## *Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart* **OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED**

MAY 2021

### **PHILIPPINES**

We could never thank God enough for you, our donors, who enabled our less fortunate sisters and brothers to bounce back and recover from the devastating series of typhoons which caused widespread damage in Northern Luzon and Metro Manila in October and November. With the financial support extended to us from OAF Australia, we were able to respond to the needs of more than 600 families by providing emergency relief and immediate support. Thank you for always being there to share your blessings. Please continue to keep these communities in your prayers.



*Sr Ruth Yburan*

### *Matangtubig Ministry*

Life was already a struggle for those in the crowded shanties of Matangtubig, and then the pandemic arrived, hitting our disadvantaged brothers and sisters the hardest and exposing the gaping inequalities in accessing food, shelter and healthcare. Thank you, our dear donors, who



never tire of extending your help to our poor. With the aid from OAF Australia, we have supported the education and vocational training of young people who show potential for leadership and who dream of alleviating their families from destitution.

### *Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Clinic – Marigondon*

The maternity, or lying-in clinic, is open three times a week and even in the evening to serve pregnant women who are due to deliver their babies. The clinic provides medicine and free medical consultation. We also provide medical assistance to those patients who cannot afford laboratory diagnostics. Last year, when the pandemic and local transmission started in this area, the city of Lapu-Lapu declared community quarantine and all establishments were closed, including our clinic.



Gifts of \$2 or more  
are tax deductible

Since COVID-19 cases in the area are still rising, our clinic is not yet open, but the mission to help our brothers and sisters continues to be our priority. The poor are greatly affected by the pandemic, many have lost their jobs and many commercial businesses have closed. Activities are still limited, and it is still a big risk to go around this area. Despite these fears we were able to distribute food packs, face shields and vitamins for the children and mothers by asking them to come to our convent, with strict implementation of the health protocols. The beneficiaries were all very grateful for the support of the OAF.

*Sr Marivic Geraldino*

## SOUTH AFRICA

We are five OLSH Sisters in South Africa. We are hoping other Sisters from the African Province will soon join us once visas begin to be issued again. In the meantime, we are doing all we can to continue our mission, especially to orphaned and vulnerable children in various locations in Limpopo.



Five Sisters, Five Cultures, One Charism

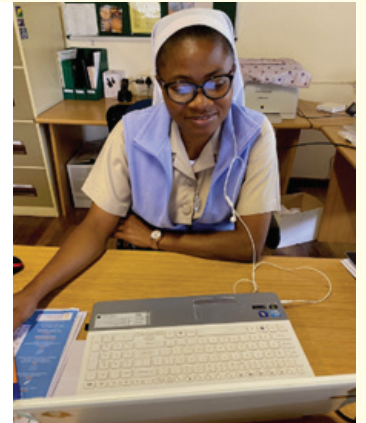


These Sisters have both completed Application Forms to the Overseas Aid Fund:

Sr Gabrielle (L) for development of the boarding facilities for girls at St Brendan's, and

Sr Amaka (R) for support of the Bakhita Outreach program for orphaned girls in the surrounding villages.

This is their first time to submit Applications.



### *Bakhita Outreach, Dwars River Limpopo*

Bakhita Outreach is established to support orphaned and vulnerable children through regular homes visits in different villages, some quite remote. I travel with Dinah, a local carer, who assists with translation and she is very supportive of the children. We aim to provide for the basic needs of the children, and focus on the children's education, liaising with the teachers at the various schools they attend. The donations we receive allow us to visit the children and their carers on a regular basis, and to provide the extra care needed for their wellbeing to assist with their education. We are very grateful for the continued support of the Overseas Aid Fund donors whose generous donations enable us to continue this important mission.

*Sr Amaka*



Sr Amaka visiting two Bakhita girls at home

## *St Brendan's School*

Lethabo approached Sr Rotee when he was in Grade 10 several times to tell her that he would have to leave St Brendan's because his mother had no work and couldn't pay his fees. Sr Rotee asked him to write his story and we decided that we would submit his name to Maggie and John Williams, our partners in mission, who were looking for a learner to award the Sr Eugenia Thabane OLSH scholarship to. Over the next two years Sr Rotee accompanied Lethabo and he excelled at school. He had so many obstacles in his way to overcome, especially while doing Grade 12 during the pandemic. The results are out and Lethabo passed with seven distinctions – gaining 100% in Physical Science and 99% in Mathematics. Lethabo has been awarded a bursary to attend the prestigious Wits University in Johannesburg to study Medicine.

Malepo also obtained excellent results. We are so proud of these two learners.

Now I am stationed at St Brendan's School, where I work with the students. The school is lacking essential equipment, and the boarders' dormitories are greatly in need of repair.



*Sr Gabrielle Moseka*



Dormitory in need of refurbishment



Dormitory showers need repair

## *OLSH Outreach Missionary Work - Nzhelele*

With ten dedicated staff members, Sr Rotee oversees this project which covers thirteen villages in the rural area known as the Nzhele Valley, and helps care for 130 orphans and vulnerable children. Caregivers visit homes to check on the children's environments, and the maintenance team cleans and has ploughing and gardening duties. Administration staff monitor the home visits and the needs of the children. Sr Rotee visits regularly to offer counselling and support.



Tsiwela, the Administrator, at work in her office



Sr Rotee overseeing the project in Nzhelele

## SOUTH SUDAN

In November 2020 we were able to offer a three-month tailoring course to five women from our Parish. The women selected were young mothers with no formal education; they were delighted to have this opportunity to gain a new skill. Rebecca, Deborah, Martha are now home and sewing in the market. Their range of skills includes cutting



These small youngsters from a nursery school in Rumbek, display their efforts to avoid the virus

out economically for boys' shorts, blouses with collars and skirts with pockets. With your assistance for Women's Development I was able to purchase two treadle sewing machines and an initial supply of material. Within a few months we hope they will be self-sufficient. Thank you for your kind assistance which makes such a difference to women's lives.

*Sr Rita Grunke*

## VALE SR BERNADETTE KONING



I am deeply saddened to be sharing the news of our dear Sr Bernadette Koning's death after battling cancer for the past five years. Sr Bernadette was the executive officer for OLSH Overseas Aid for the last few years; she had a passion for our Overseas Missions, working tirelessly and meticulously in tasks associated with OLSH Overseas Aid. Sr Bernadette generously assisted our Sisters in the Missions with tasks such as writing funding applications, acquittals, statistics and reports. She was extremely grateful to each one of you for your generous support of our Sisters in Mission areas and the people they serve. Sr Bernadette sought no accolades, she said it was reward enough to be able to assist in some small way to bring God's love to God's people, especially the poor and needy.

Sr Bernadette was a remarkable woman with a kind and caring heart. May Sr Bernadette's gentle soul rest in peace.

**Philippa Murphy fdnsc**

Provincial Leader

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

### Would you like to make a bequest in your will to OLSH Overseas Aid Fund?

**Two possible ways you can make a significant difference to the lives of people in need in the areas where the Sisters work:**

- By including the work of the Fund in your will. We would gladly advise your solicitor of the specific terms of the bequest. Alternatively, Michael O'Dea AM of Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers would be happy to advise you at no cost. He may be contacted directly on (02) 9291 7104.
- By requesting mourners at your loved one's funeral to donate to the OLSH Overseas Aid Fund in lieu of flowers.

**If you wish, donations can be made online through the OLSH Australia website  
[www.olshaustralia.org.au/overseasaid](http://www.olshaustralia.org.au/overseasaid)  
or through this link: <https://secure.donman.net.au/client/olsh/donate.aspx>**