



*Kontum Missionary and Friendship (KMF)* is a non-profit organization established with the mission to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and support education wherever most needed in Kontum. All donations are tax-deductible. Federal Tax Identification # **42-1757220**

## Fundraising Letter for the 2018 Advent Season

*I cannot save and help all the poor people in this world, but I can help the poor that I meet in front of my eyes and, therefore, there is one less poor person. (Mother Saint Teresa of Calcutta)*

My dear CVK KMF friends, supporters and benefactors:

The above spoken words from Mother Saint Teresa of Calcutta, on one hand, encourage us not to despair in the face of the vast ocean of misery and the too great a number of poor people in this world and, on the other hand, demonstrate to us how to act in a concrete way at this very moment, now and here: it is to provide assistance in the presence of a poor person.

Throughout her entire life, Mother Teresa saw Lord Jesus Christ on the face of each poor, destitute, sick and disabled, unwanted, forgotten and abandoned by society, and foremost, those in agony on roadsides. She has always approached to be at their sides to take care of them, take them back and feed them under her roof of love to give them a gentler death, surrounded by her love and that of the Sisters of the Missionaries of Charities.

All saints saw in others the living figure of Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Father Francis considers the poor and destitute brothers and sisters, forgotten and jettisoned to the sides by society as the Lord Jesus Christ's flesh and body. He is not stopping to encourage everyone to step out of oneself and one's easy and comfortable life to meet these brothers and sisters in surrounding areas and in big cities slums and from all over this earth.

He teaches us to act in accordance with the words spoken by Lord Jesus to his disciples more than 2000 years ago:

*".. Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25, 40).*

The Holy Father even founded the International Day of The Poor and, in his sermon during last year celebration mass, he strongly asserted: "the poor provide us a passport to the door of paradise. Through the poor, Lord Jesus knocks on the door of our heart, thirsty of our love. Ignoring this appeal is a capital sin toward the poor. This attitude has an exact name: indifference. Whoever tries to accumulate treasures doesn't get enriched in the eyes of the Lord. We all are beggars, principally, for God's gift of love, the meaning of life and an endless life.

Loving the poor means being against all poverty in spirit and material...Let us be on guard on succumbing to the temptations of being indifferent to those in difficult situations by thinking that the situations are none of our concerns, that they are not ours, and that they are society shortcomings. This is the attitude of turning our head away while our brothers are in need of assistance, changing the "tuning dial" when facing a serious situation that bothers us, even becoming angry at a bad

situation but doing nothing. But God won't ask us whether we got angry at the right situation but whether we did good deeds.

Each of us has received many talents in various material and spiritual forms. We need to invest and develop them for God's and others' benefits, especially for the poor.

The Holy Father Francis has asserted to all his faithful attending last year International Day of The Poor mass: "We have the duty of being concerned and taking care of our brothers and sisters that are poor and destitute. They are our true richness by sharing the daily bread and the bread of God's words...To go and be with those poorer than us would touch our life and remind us of the true importance of loving God and others. This is the only everlasting thing, everything else would disappear. Therefore, what we invest in love will exist, everything else will disappear.

Since the year 2000, we have been following the example of Mother Saint Teresa of Calcutta and acting on the above teachings of the Holy Father Francis, each of us in his or her own conditions and situations. Let's join in our wish to become firmer believer of the Lord Jesus' teachings and of the Holy Father's reminders to continue opening our arms to the little, poor and destitute brothers and sisters who are the wounded body and flesh of the Lord Jesus Christ!

In the name of the brothers and sisters who are poor and miserable, weak, and handicapped, the orphans and, especially, the lepers in Kontum Diocese, the Kontum Mission Foundation (KMF), with a deep gratitude, would like to thank our friends and benefactors. May God greatly reward each of you for your largess and we wish our friends and benefactors a pious Advent Season and a new 2019 year full of happiness and God's grace.

Please consider your donations to the less fortunate people in Kontum by one of the followings:

1. Donate Online at: [www.helpkontum.org](http://www.helpkontum.org)
2. Direct deposit to Bank of America: [Routing # 026009395](#)  
[Account # 3250 4853 3887](#)
3. Make checks or money orders payable to [Kontum Missionary and Friendship](#)

and mail to: [Thanh Pham](#)  
[9108 Caladium Avenue](#)  
[Fountain Valley, CA 92708](#)

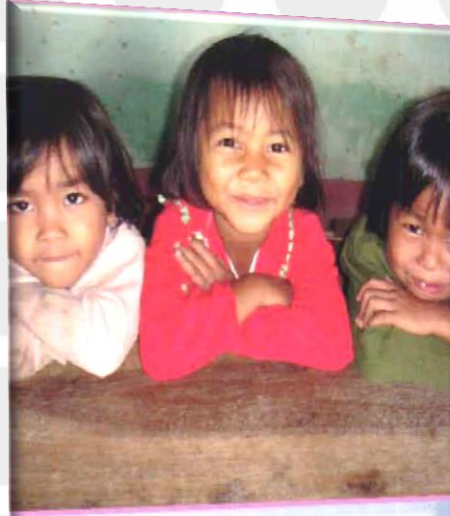
Rome the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2018



Msgr. Joseph Thang Minh Hoang

Representative of the KMF Executive Committee





It's so wonderful to be in school!



Kontum Missionary and Friendship (KMF)

Helping the poor in Kontum



What will become of their future?



Feeding the Hungry - Caring for the Sick  
Assisting to Educate Poor Children  
Supporting the Orphans and Handicapped  
Helping People Suffering from Leprosy

*Share Your Blessings*  
[www.helpkontum.org](http://www.helpkontum.org)



People suffering from leprosy



Free services at Cao Thuong clinic



Poor villagers waiting for help



The poorest of the poor...



# KONTUM MISSIONARY AND FRIENDSHIP



[www.helpkontum.org](http://www.helpkontum.org)

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Dear friends and benefactors,

The diocese of Kontum, Viet Nam is known for hosting many ethnic minority tribes living in poverty, in many places without electricity and running water. Located in the central highlands of Viet Nam, these ethnic minorities have suffered for many years from hunger and diseases to such an extent that a missionary has said about them: *"These people are very brave ... brave in sustaining hunger."* The Kontum Missionary and Friendship (KMF) works closely with the Bishop, the parish priests, the nuns, Caritas and other associations and volunteers, to provide direct assistance to the sick, the handicapped, the orphans, the poor students, and the elderly:

## 1. **Providing medical needs to the poor**

KMF has built a dispensary near Kontum, called **CAO THUONG Dispensary** or Rev. FAUGERE Dispensary, named after a French missionary, in order to provide basic and emergency medical needs to the poor people living in the 14-15 villages and the surrounding areas. In addition, the team of doctor and nurses also travels to more remote villages for the same purposes. We have also established a **Mobile Pharmacy** to provide medicine to other villagers through a network of priests and nuns. *Your continued contributions will pay for services from doctors and nurses, medical equipment and medicine.*

## 2. **Supporting education for the young and poor children**

It is often said that *"Education is the key to the future."* Most children in Kontum do not have the opportunities to get the necessary basic education that prepares for their future. Some priests have established **student houses** to offer free accommodation and food to poor students so that they can go to school. There's still a significant number of young people without a place to stay. KMF is currently supporting some of these houses. With just \$1 a day, you could help **one** student to get the needed education that will help him or her for a lifetime. *Your donations support the building and/or renovating the student houses, also provide everyday meals to allow poor children to study.*

## 3. **Helping the lepers**

The Bishop of Kontum once said: "Based on published research about leprosy in the world....the provinces of Gia Lai and Kontum have the highest number of lepers. In the face of this reality, we may all be overwhelmed by sadness and pain. However, despite our sadness and pain, we cannot detach ourselves from our duty of taking care of our brothers and sisters. And despite all the difficulties we may have, we cannot separate ourselves from them". *Your help will provide care to the lepers and contribute to the eradication of this dangerous disease. Your support will lessen the sufferings from both leprosy and poverty that these less fortunate, but still children of God, are facing.*

## 4. **Assisting the orphans and handicapped**

Due to the short life expectancy of ethnic people in Kontum, there are many young orphaned children. A dozen orphanages are currently taking care of some 10,000 orphans. Some of them receive help from various donors while others receive less as they are located far away in remote areas. KMF is currently supporting two (2) such less visible orphanages run by ethnic nuns, hosting a total of almost 200 orphans. KMF supplements to improve their low nutritious meals by adding little fish and meat to their diet, we aim at improving their health and facilitating their physical as well as mental development. KMF is also supporting a center for handicapped run by nuns. *With just \$1 a day, you can make a difference in the life of these unfortunate children. They don't deserve to come into this world in these conditions.*

*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did to the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40).* God knows whatever you do and will reward you and your family tenfold. In appreciation of our benefactors' generosity, a special mass is celebrated monthly offering prayers for them and their families. Please share your Blessings with the less fortunate. On behalf of the poor in Kontum, we thank you for your good deed. God bless you and your families.

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