



Keeping in touch

Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

OVERSEAS AID INCORPORATED

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THE WORK OF THE DOLSH SISTERS IN MATANTUBIG PHILIPPINES

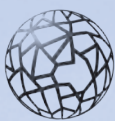
The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in the Philippines are involved in a variety of ministries, including education, health care, and pastoral care, particularly to the poor and marginalized. One such area is Matangutubig.

The Matangutubig community is located at C. Benitez St., Cubao, Quezon City. It was named by the first inhabitants of the area who found a wellspring of water 'MATA' which means 'eye' and 'TUBIG' which means 'water'. It is one of the depressed areas of Barangay Horseshoe. It is under the Immaculate Conception Cathedral Parish and is about twenty to thirty minutes' walk from the OLSH convent, Hartzer House, which is in Sampaguita Street.

The estimated population of Matantubig, in less than two hectares, is 1950 people,

young and old, coming from about 325 families. Men usually work as tricycle drivers, construction workers or labourers. Women work as sales assistants, household help, or laundry workers, as well as being in charge of their households. According to the latest census, about 1% of the population is composed of professionals.

The Sisters are engaged in a variety of projects to meet the different needs and concerns of the area: ministries with the youth, a feeding program for undernourished children, organizing mothers' classes and skills training in sewing, candle and soap making. The sisters have also been offering tutorial classes to grade school children for some years. Basic mathematics and reading is the focus of the tutorial classes as well as some follow-up lessons from their classes in school.



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Gifts of \$2 or more
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Sr Cherry Villegas and a local in Matantubig



Sr Sally Amodia and Sr Leda Empleo with a tutorial group



Sr Cherry Villegas with local children in Matantubig

Kiribati – Climate Change and the Choose Life Project

The low-lying South Pacific island nation of Kiribati has an average height of only two metres above sea level, making it one of the countries most vulnerable to rising waters and other climate change effects.

The impact of climate change is taking its toll on over 105,000 people living on 33 low-lying atolls of Kiribati. These lands are threatened by rising sea levels, resulting in:

- Flooding becoming more common
- Seawater contaminating fresh water wells
- Seawater seeping into some garden areas and destroying crops such as taro and coconuts.

‘Climate change is having a grave impact on the people of Kiribati. Taro is one of our staple foods but there is a problem growing it because of salty water in our gardens and the coconut tree cannot grow in this salty land.’

Sr Kaitakke Kovia fdnsc

‘Please help our women to gain an education to be the voice of the Kiribati people.’

Sr Maria Tarita fdnsc Kiribati



Flooding over seawall



Australian Sisters Lorraine McCleary and Philippa Murphy (front left) in Kiribati



A tree needing support after erosion



Roads are damaged after storms



Beach erosion

Kiribati Choose Life Project

One important issue now for the people of Kiribati, especially girls and women, is education.

The Kiribati Choose Life Project provides funds to:

- support girls and women to complete secondary school
- to help young women access skills training in the areas of health and education

Many families do not have the money needed to support their daughters in the final years of secondary school, or to support them in any further training in health or education. This project will not only help the girls but their whole families and the community of Kiribati.

MAPUORDIT SOUTH SUDAN - EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Comboni Secondary School's original tin sheds assembled in 2002 for storage were in disrepair; leaking and are far from dustproof. They needed replacing with a permanent structure. One store has now been replaced, after a funding grant from OLSH Overseas Aid, with a permanent structure 20 m x 5m with dividing walls to provide three storage areas. The new store rooms, now complete, make management of stocks much more simple. Rooms are spacious and pleasant and maintenance will be minimal.

"Actually the project has been extremely helpful to those we work with. Since the construction was within school campus, students had opportunity for maths exposure eg calculation of areas; areas of wall space minus window space; others not so mathematically inclined worked casually at times for pocket money. Builders were grateful for employment in hard times. The most pleasing and rewarding outcome is the improved learning and teacher support."

Sr Wendy Violet fdnsc



New storage facilities at Comboni Secondary School

Christmas Cards

Get your Christmas cards out early this year!

They are \$6 for a package of 6 cards, with \$1 postage per package. Please contact the office on 02 9663 3599 if you wish to purchase, or download a donation form and specify that you want cards.



Gift Certificates

Gift Certificates are available for those who wish to use their donation as a gift for others.

Use a form printable from the website or, alternatively, contact OLSH Overseas Aid on 02 9663 3599.

Gift Certificates can be for any amount and any region.



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

Regularly we receive applications that far exceed the money we have available, and a bequest is a chance for you to do great things. Although you will not be here personally you will still be able to make a real difference.

If you would like to include the work of our Mission in your will, we will gladly advise your solicitor of the specific terms of the bequest. Alternately, Michael O'Dea AM of Carroll and O'Dea Lawyers, would be happy to advise you at no cost. He may be contacted directly at 02 9291 7104.

Or would you like to request mourners at your loved one's funeral to donate to OLSH Overseas Aid in lieu of flowers? Both these things can make a significant difference to the way we can help the people in need.

Online donations can now be made from the OLSH Australia website.

Because of the high cost of postage, we are gradually moving away from sending hard copies of the KIT to our donors. Many have let us know their wish to have the newsletter sent to their email address.

If you would like to help us save postage, please send an email to the address below.