

Roma, 30 de julio de 2014

To the members of the Vincentian Family

Dear brothers and sisters in Saint Vincent,

As you may have seen on the news, last April 13 the city of Valparaíso in Chile suffered a disastrous fire. The Vincentian Fathers have been serving in one of the poorest zones of that city since 2009. The homes of many of their parishioners were destroyed, leaving the inhabitants on the street.

Several months after the disaster caused by the fire, they have been able to obtain financial resources for the construction of only a few lodgings thanks to the support of religious communities and some institutions. Father Carlos De la Rivera, CM, Provincial Treasurer, tells us that, with the disaster behind them, they are seeking now to help the affected families by the construction of **houses approximately 30 m², priced at \$ 4,900 USD.**

We are appealing to all branches of the Vincentian Family, on both the international and national levels, by means of the Office in Rome. For those who want to contribute financially, they can do so to the following account:

BANK: SANTANDER CHILE

SWIFT: BSCHCLRM

ADDRESS OF THE BANK: YUNGAY 2802 VALPARAÍSO. CHILE

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 21-0250335-2

ACCOUNT HOLDER: CONGREGACIÓN DE LA MISIÓN

The people will be most grateful for whatever you can do to help them.

Sincerely in Saint Vincent,

P. Jorge Luis Rodríguez B, C.M.
Vincentian Family Office

VALPARAISO

STILL NEEDS US

Valparaíso is the second port of Chile, with approximately 275,000 inhabitants. In 2009 the Congregation of the Mission – Vincentian missionaries – settled in one of the poorest zones of the city, Butterfly Hill, offering pastoral care to the inhabitants of the Parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. The parish is made up mostly of families who live by informal work. Many of them came there from the fields, looking for a new form of life. They have constructed makeshift houses from recycled materials: wood, cardboard, plastic, old tiles. These types of provisional neighborhoods are called “Take,” in Chile; elsewhere they are called slums. At the head of this community are Fathers Juan David Mamani, CM, and Father Pablo González, CM, both of the Province of Chile.

SITUATION

On April 13 of this year, a fire started which, due to the precariousness of the houses, spread rapidly over the entire sector, affecting the majority of the families. Fortunately there was no loss of life, but the material losses left many families in the street. Father David related to us the situation experienced at that time: “Dear brothers, this morning I visited, together with Father Pablo González, our affected brothers in the parochial sector. The fire affected many houses in our parochial sector, in La Ruda Street, above the Chapel Laurita Vicuña. Also in the same La Ruda Street in the Scale or Passage 1; above the Western La Ruda, in the New Dawn Camp, where the dirt track is; and in the Camp or Mizzen “Take” several houses also were burned.”

DETAILS OF THE CATASTROPHE

La Ruda: 7 houses, 7 families

La Ruda: Scale: 6 houses, 6 families

Projected Passage, Ratchet climbing: 3 houses, 3 families

New Dawn Camp: 12 houses, 15 families

Mizzen Camp: 20 houses, 80 families

Total: 48 houses, 111 families.

P. Fernando Macias, C.M. (Visitor) chiprov@cmglobal.org,
fmacias@vicentinos.cl

P. Carlos de la Rivera, C.M. Treasurer) cdelarivera@vicentinos.cl

P. Juan David Mamani, C.M. (Pastor)

parroquiansdelsagradoazon@outlook.com