

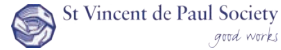


Columban Mission in Pakistan 2015

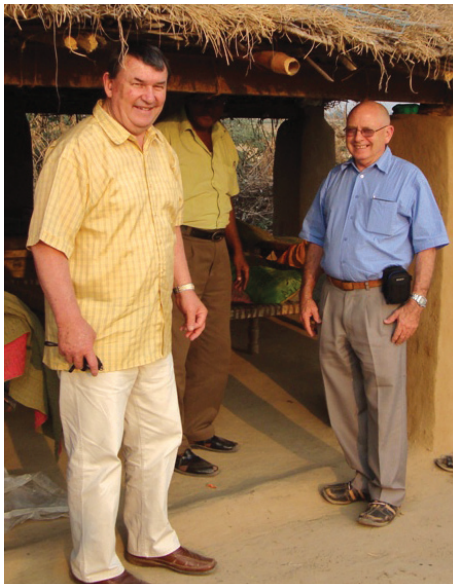


FR ROBERT McCULLOCH
St Columbans Mission Society

Columban partnership with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul



This year 2015 marks ten years of close cooperation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Columban Fathers in supporting the development works that are reported in this booklet. With the Society's help and the generosity of other donors, more than 250 midwives have received their professional training at St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery since 2005, 190 young Catholic men since 2008 have reached levels in education that were previously closed to them, more than 40,000 impoverished and isolated people in the desert areas of interior Sindh received free medical care in 2014 alone, and 850 homes have been constructed since 2011 for flood-affected families with a further 27 homes being built in 2015.



Vincentians John O'Brien (centre) & Tony Muir visit housing projects in Sindh in November 2010

The enthusiasm of the Australian members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul inspired by their Catholic faith and their generosity urged by the Vincentian motto, "a hand-up not a hand-out", also characterize the dedication of the committed and competent Pakistani Catholic lay men and women who oversee, manage and implement these development works. A significant number of these are also Vincentians, members of the first conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the diocese of Hyderabad. With a number of Muslims and Hindus, they comprise the legally-constituted Boards of Governors and Administrative Councils to achieve the aims of these works with tangible results. They also ensure that independent external financial audits are carried out annually, copies of which are provided to the bishop of Hyderabad, to the Columban Fathers, and to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Australia. Bishop Max Rodrigues, recently retired bishop of Hyderabad, has consistently praised the way these works are incorporated into the life of his diocese. He has highlighted the spirit of lay dedication and competence which has inspired them and which has been supported by their connection with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Australia.

Marist Brother Doug Walsh visited Pakistan on behalf of the Society of St Vincent de Paul 10 years ago. He met young women from small isolated

Christian villages in interior Sindh who were enrolled at St. Elizabeth's School of Midwifery in Hyderabad and knew immediately that the Society's "Assist a Student" program would help them.

In the following years this small beginning was extended to all the midwifery students and from 2008 the School of Midwifery has received an annual subsidy from the Society. The Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence (CCAЕ) began in 2008 and the Catholic Youth Development Centre (CYDC) began in 2010. Both receive annual support from the Society to enable Catholic boys and young men to overcome barriers of discrimination and poverty through education. Reports about the School of Midwifery, CCAЕ and CYDC are in this booklet.

From the National Council of St. Vincent de Paul, John O'Brien and Tony Muir visited Pakistan in November 2010. They gave an extremely positive assessment of the ongoing development, results and

management of all the projects. During their visit they were also able to assess the practical commitment undertaken by the Administrative Council of St. Elizabeth Hospital to build new houses for homeless families. They committed Australian Vincentian support to the house-building which has been ongoing since the disastrous floods in 2011 and 2012.

Together we do this, the Columban Fathers, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and our other continuously generous benefactors: by enabling St. Elizabeth Hospital to provide the best possible care to those in greatest need, to educate midwives, to conduct an extensive mobile medical outreach for the poor, and to conduct home based palliative care nursing to terminally ill cancer patients (the first and only in Pakistan); by enabling homes to be built for the homeless; and ensuring the opportunity for academic achievement in spite of discrimination and poverty.



Student midwives at St Elizabeth's Hospital

Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence & Catholic Youth Development Centre, Hyderabad



Bishop Max Rodrigues with CYDC students in Hyderabad

One hundred and ninety present and past students of the Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence (CCAIE) and the Catholic Youth Development Centre (CYDC) gathered in Hyderabad on 4 February 2015 to thank retiring Bishop Max Rodrigues.

Bishop Max has supported CCAIE and CYDC since their beginning in 2008 and 2010. He described them as outstanding achievements in the diocese of Hyderabad while he was bishop. He himself has been outstanding in the personal encouragement he has given to CCAIE and CYDC. He knows the students and graduates by name.

The goal of the Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence is to provide

a sustained environment where academically talented but disadvantaged Catholic young men can be assisted to attain high academic grades. This ensures they can gain university entrance and tertiary education on merit. We want them to be able to live and work effectively in Pakistan's multi-cultural and multi-religious society.

Family poverty and anti-Christian religious discrimination are the two obstacles which CCAIE seeks to overcome to achieve these goals. 71 students are currently enrolled in CCAIE's four-year program. They attend schools in the morning and come to the Centre Monday-Friday from 4:30-9:00pm. CCAIE is staffed by its director and seven teachers (5 men and 3 women).

The Catholic Youth Development Centre offers the possibility of a better life to young illiterate men in Hyderabad who have dropped out of school or who have never been to school. CYDC enables them to get from illiteracy to 10th Class (the last year of high school in Pakistan) through an accelerated programme of teaching and learning spread over two years, from primary to secondary.

One reason for the high level of illiteracy among Catholic boys and young men in Pakistan is the cultural responsibility to begin to earn as quickly as possible to enable their sisters to get married. Life for them is a long dark tunnel with little light or hope. This year 78 young men are enrolled in CYDC whose staff consists of the director and five teachers (2 male, 3 female). Education, moral guidance, personal confidence building, religious instruction and sacramental preparation are all included in the CYDC program.

Thirty seven young men have successfully completed the program of studies at CCAE. Most are now at universities in Karachi and Hyderabad doing Science, Commerce, Physiotherapy, Fine Arts, Civil Engineering, Software Engineering and Computer Science. Two have joined the diocesan seminary, one has been accepted into the Pakistan Army Officer College, and another for the navy. Four are doing general nursing and six chartered accountancy.

Forty-eight students have completed the CYDC course. Some have continued with further studies and others have enrolled in 3-year technical courses. For others, we have been able to arrange apprentice-based employment with companies and local factories.

We ask nothing from CCAE and CYDC students except 100% commitment.



Fr Robert McCulloch with Sunny Zubair, the first CCAE graduate to join the diocesan seminary

St. Elizabeth Hospital Hyderabad, Pakistan

The population of Pakistan in 2014 was 188 million. It is world's sixth most populous country. 52% of the population is aged 19 years or less.

For 2014-15 the total budgeted outlay for health is just 0.4% of GDP. This includes an emergency plan for the eradication of polio which has re-emerged in all provinces and major cities of Pakistan.

St. Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad has developed a reputation of competence and compassion and seeks to give the best possible care at the lowest possible cost to those in greatest need. In January 2012 the governor of Sindh praised the quality and extent of the care that St. Elizabeth offers to people in interior Sindh.

The Catholic Health Australia delegation which visited Pakistan in January 2014 said that what has been achieved at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad is proof that Catholic healthcare can be effectively provided in Pakistan and was "impressed with the significant work that has been undertaken in recent years to transform the hospital from a dilapidated state into its current status as a modern Catholic health facility."

St. Elizabeth Hospital has a thriving outpatients department, three well-equipped operation theatres, and



the best neo-natal special care unit in Hyderabad. Through its Mobile Medical Outreach programme, St. Elizabeth is sole medical provider to over 40,000 impoverished Muslim, Christian and Hindu people who are agricultural labourers in the most appalling and unjust conditions. St. Elizabeth conducts a home-based palliative care nursing service for people who are terminally ill with cancer, a first in Pakistan.

Mother and child care and neo-natal care are prime issues in the health care given at St. Elizabeth.

Catholic, Muslim and Hindu professionals, doctors and nurses work cooperatively together at St. Elizabeth Hospital to offer competent compassionate care in the best tradition of Catholic healthcare.

St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery Hyderabad



Midwifery students on their way to class.

According to the most recent Pakistan Economic Survey, the infant mortality rate in Pakistan is 66.1 per 1,000 and under-5 child mortality is 89 per 1,000. Just 52% of births were attended by a skilled birth attendant. The maternal mortality rate is 260 per 100,000. All these figures are at the extreme negative end of statistics from a pool of countries which includes India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand. St. Elizabeth Hospital and St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery continue to make a difference in Pakistan. In the past 10 years more than 260 midwives have graduated from St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery.

67 young women from marginalized communities in less-developed areas are currently training at St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery to advance their socio-economic position by enabling them to become trained professional and qualified midwives for mother, neonatal and infant care.

The School of Midwifery is unable to be self-supporting and needs financial assistance to carry out its work. Given the background of the trainee midwives, fees are kept at the barest minimum.

Each student is requested to provide only Rs.30,000 (AUD\$375) for the full course. Each student is provided with subsidized tuition fees, enrolment fees, examination fees, subsidized food and lodging, medical care, uniform, shoes and stationery.

The total cost to educate one midwife is Rs.310,000 (AUD\$3,800). We receive no assistance from the Pakistan government.



St Elizabeth Hospital Home-based palliative care

St. Elizabeth Hospital began home-based palliative care for the terminally ill in Pakistan in November 2011. With its commitment to the dignity of life, St. Elizabeth continues to offer in a very new way in Pakistan the best possible health care with compassion to those in need. Most patients are cared for without charge. As of December 2014, St. Elizabeth's Palliative Care visits 30 terminally ill cancer patients. Nineteen are in terminal condition stage 4, nine in stage 3, and 2 are undergoing chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Twenty are male and 10 female. Eighteen are Muslim, 9 Christian, and 3 Hindu. The palliative care team comprises four male nurses, one female nurse, and a doctor.

Patras Inayat, head of St. Elizabeth palliative care department, completed a year-long Certificate in Palliative Care Nursing at Calvary-Bethlehem Hospital, Melbourne, in 2011. Another nurse, Eric Siraj, completed the specialized Certificate in Pediatric Nursing in Hyderabad with course-work in pediatric

oncological nursing at the Children Cancer Hospital in Karachi and undertook further palliative care training in 2012 at Assisi Hospital Singapore, and in 2015 at Cabrini Hospital Melbourne. St. Elizabeth Hospital is a member of Singapore-based APHN (Asia Pacific Hospice Network).

An important aspect of St. Elizabeth's home-based palliative care service is that it facilitates inter-faith harmony on a very human, personal level through the caring ministry of committed Christian nurses, male and female, in the homes of people of different faiths.

Donations from families who have been helped by palliative care nursing in their own homes have enabled St. Elizabeth Hospital to begin and maintain its home-based palliative care nursing for the terminally ill. The first such donation was received from a family in Bairnsdale Victoria. Sustaining its palliative care nursing is a priority for the Administration of St. Elizabeth Hospital in its planning for long-term endowment funding.

St Elizabeth Hospital - Mobile Medical Outreach

Through its Mobile Medical Outreach, St. Elizabeth Hospital is sole medical provider to impoverished semi-nomadic tribal people who are bonded agricultural workers in Sindh province in south-east Pakistan. The majority are Hindu although many are marginalized Christians and Muslims. They are economically enslaved to landlords who control every aspect of their lives. Pregnant women are forced to work in the fields to the very last days before delivery; small children are forced to work beside their parents because the landlords insist that every member of the family is responsible for the family debt.

Common healthcare issues are those related to mother and child care, malnutrition, malaria, typhoid, gastroenteritis, respiratory tract infections, anaemia, jaundice, viral infections, dysentery, dehydration, UTI, skin diseases and TB prevention and control. Responding to the need is a huge strain on St. Elizabeth's limited financial resources. In addition to providing free immediate primary healthcare, the Mobile Medical Outreach refers patients for further levels of care to Hyderabad and Karachi for which St. Elizabeth accepts financial responsibility and which it monitors through its nursing staff. A major hospital in Karachi has associated itself with St. Elizabeth in providing necessary reduced-cost care for patients referred by the Medical Outreach.

With the assistance of the Melbourne Overseas Mission of the archdiocese of Melbourne and the generosity of other donors, St Elizabeth Hospital has been able to expand the free health care provided through its Mobile Medical Outreach. 40,035 patients were seen in 2014, more than double the number in 2013.



James Francis, Administrator of St Elizabeth Hospital with tribal women

Homes for the homeless in Sindh

Many people in Sindh province in south-east Pakistan are still homeless after the floods of 2010-2011.

They belong to impoverished tribal communities, Hindu and Christian, and the others are equally poor Muslim people. In response to the needs of people who lost everything during these floods, St. Elizabeth Hospital in Hyderabad stepped in to begin and oversee house re-building projects. This has stretched the energy of St. Elizabeth beyond the normal

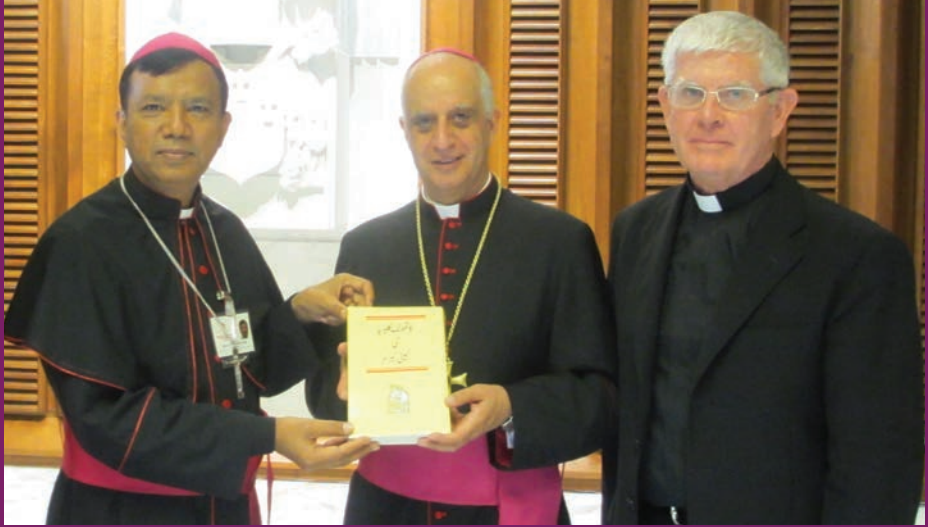
With the help of Columban and other benefactors, St. Elizabeth Hospital has built new homes and included solar power, water pumps, bathing and toilet facilities and extensive tree plantings. Where the people do not own the land, the houses have been built in a traditional style but using modern materials for roofing, doors and windows. This enables the houses to be easily dismantled and reconstructed elsewhere if a landlord



parameters of being a healthcare provider but it has been a growth point for the hospital staff in understanding its call to manifest compassion and has enhanced the standing of Catholic healthcare at the provincial government level. It has also been an opportunity and context for Catholic, Muslim and Hindu health workers and professionals at St. Elizabeth to talk about how they can be agents of the compassion of God and to listen with interest and respect about each other's understanding of compassion and mercy.

should throw the people off his land. In December 2011, we were able to purchase four acres of land at Jhirruk, 30km south of Hyderabad. Forty-six permanent two-roomed houses have been built and the deeds of ownership have been presented to the heads of the families. 27 new houses are under construction and the deeds of ownership will be handed over in September 2015. 17 families are still living in grass shacks at Jhirruk waiting for a house. Each new house costs \$1,850 to build.

Urdu Translation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church completed



Bishop Sebastian Shah of Lahore, Archbishop Reno Fischella, President of Pontifical Council for Evangelisation, and Columban Fr Robert McCulloch.

On 24 November 2014, the Pontifical Council for New Evangelization at the Vatican approved the Urdu translation of the official text (1997) of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and authorized its publication by the Pakistan Episcopal Conference.

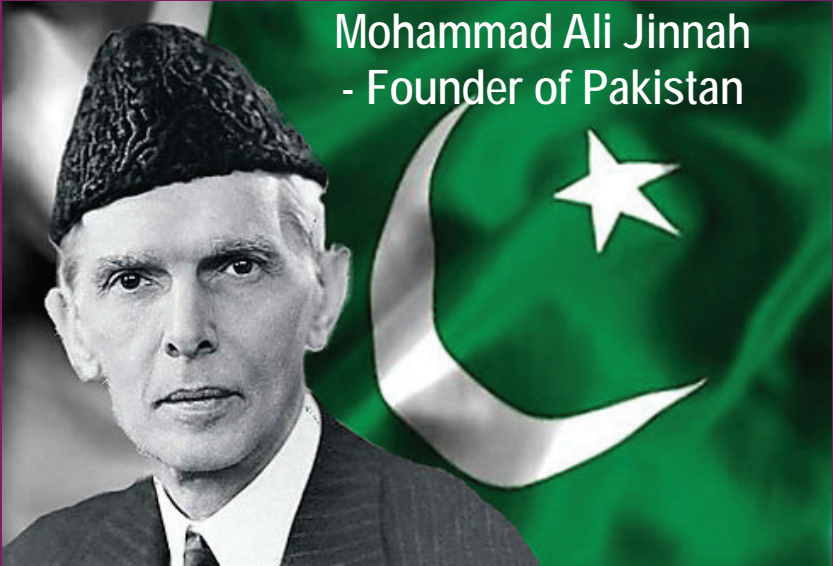
The translation work has taken 13 years and was done by Mr. Emmanuel Neno, executive secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Catechetics, and Australian Columban Fr. Robert McCulloch who worked in Pakistan for 34 years and is now Procurator General of the Missionary Society of St. Columban in Rome.

Urdu is the national language of Pakistan and is used in parts of north India. It is spoken by more than 100 million people.

Fr McCulloch said that the development and use of a new vocabulary in Urdu in the Catechism to express Catholic theological terminology and concepts is an important contribution to the Urdu language.

Officials of the Pakistan government's Board for the National Language have praised the translation project because it represents an encounter between the culture and language of Urdu and Catholic doctrine and theology. Work to translate the Roman Missal into Urdu will begin in June 2015.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah - Founder of Pakistan



Address to the Pakistan Constituent Assembly August 11, 1947

You are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or caste or creed - that has nothing to do with the business of the State.

We are starting in the days when there is no discrimination, no distinction between one community and another, no discrimination between one caste or creed and another. We are starting with this fundamental principle that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State.

Message to the Nation - August 15, 1947

The creation of the new State has placed a tremendous responsibility on the citizens of Pakistan. It gives them an opportunity to demonstrate to the world how can a nation, containing many elements, live in peace and amity and work for the betterment of all its citizens, irrespective of caste or creed.



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