



Ethiopian Catholic Church  
Daughters of Charity Of St. Vincent De Paul  
St. Mary's Provincial House  
P.O. Box 28,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



November 2020

Dear friends and benefactors,

Celebrating Christmas gives us an opportunity to be in communion not only with God but also with each other and with creation. At the stable the incarnated Son of God becomes “**Emmanuel**” – God is with us. The silent night of Christmas brings hope, healing, forgiveness and peace to our troubled hearts especially at this time when the whole world is going through very challenging times such as the impact of Corona virus. Despite all the hardships, God has been on our side. Therefore it is a perfect time to thank God for His abundant goodness, for the gift of life, good health, the gift of family and for good people who continue to support us. It is indeed the right time to thank all of you, our extremely valued benefactors, partners and the Company of the Daughters of Charity for the generous support we have received even at this critical time for all of us. Your support and generosity have touched the hearts and lives of those who are at the margins of society.

As Daughters of the Universal Catholic Church we, the Daughters of Charity in the Province of Ethiopia continue to carry out our works diligently and with full commitment to the service of those entrusted to us. The final **End** of our works is to uphold the dignity of every human person with preferential option for those who live in poverty. In doing this, we implement the social teaching of the Church and enhance the integral development of every person. Applying Systemic Change Approach in our services helps us develop the potential of the beneficiaries with their collaboration. The works of the Daughters of Charity in the country include health care, education, women’s promotion, service to migrants/ refugees/ internally displaced, pastoral care and youth ministry, care for the elderly, support to persons with disabilities and children in difficult situations, support to prisoners, response to natural and man-made emergency calls such COVID-19.

**Education as a tool to eradicate poverty:**

we believe that education of good quality is the best tool to liberate people from the yoke of poverty. It helps them to have vision for a better future and empowers them to make that vision a reality one day. Therefore, the Daughters of Charity continue to create opportunities and access for good quality education at all levels. Furthermore, we strive to communicate through education the importance of having respect for life and for the dignity of every human being. Besides, Education in Ethiopia has to include commitment to teach the children tolerance, integrity, respect for diversity and that peace is priceless. We have realized that all institutions for education run by the Daughters of Charity need to make this issue part and parcel of the teaching-learning programme.

S. No	Institutions for education	No. of Pupils in 2019
1.	Kindergartens (14)	3,075
2.	Primary schools (Grades 1 - 8)	2,527
3.	Secondary school (Grades 9 – 12)	500
4.	Montessori Teachers’ Training Institute	53
5.	Skills Training	1,029
6.	Sponsored children (pupils)	1,180
7.	Children with special needs	11
8.	<b>Total</b>	<b>8,375</b>

More than any other times in the past, support for basic needs such as food and personal protective items have become of vital importance in these institutions. Hence, in addition to providing free education, most of our schools serve simple meals and provide personal protective items for use in the schools.

**Health Care:** the five health care providing institutions that the Community of the Daughters of Charity continue to run have served 277,789 direct beneficiaries and 833,355 indirect beneficiaries in 2019. These institutions continue to provide both preventive and curative health care services 24 hours 7 days a week.

As always, activities in these institutions include medical treatment, health education, personal and environmental hygiene, laboratory services, counseling, nutrition, care for the environment and prevention of COVID-19.

Institutions for health	No. of pupils
Alitena Health Center	17,585
Mekelle Eye Clinic	89,917
St. Mary's Laboratory	37,467
Alecu General Clinic	38,767
Danka Poly Clinic and Eye Clinic	94,048
<b>Total</b>	<b>277,789</b>

Moreover, 21, 235 people have benefited from different community development and social support services during the year 2019. In line with the strategic move of our Company towards helping migrants, the Province has been working on prevention of illegal migration and rehabilitation of returnees. This includes reaching out to refugees, internally displaced communities and those who have been affected by traffickers through our existing works and in collaboration with like-minded organizations.

In addition to the usual works in the Province, the Sisters have a call to be at the front line to respond to any natural and / or manmade catastrophes and emergency calls. It is clear that the current year has faced devastating impacts of the Corona virus. The Community serves the poorest of the poor who are the most vulnerable sections of society to such catastrophes. For this reason, the Community has taken fast and effective measures to save lives. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of our benefactors and our Company, over **63,312** people have been supported in current year. This was done in collaborating with governmental and non-governmental organizations. This statistics does not consider the indirect beneficiaries. In monetary terms **ET. Birr 15,282,640.92 (€388,771.36)** has been utilized for COVID-19 emergency responses and impact mitigation activities.

The Province was able to reach out to hundreds of thousands of people in need thanks to the kindness, generosity, good will of our highly valued benefactors and the sacrifices you all made so that others may live. As we count our blessings, we find you all in our list.

May you all and your families be filled with the love, peace and serenity of the Prince of peace at this Christmas and throughout the year 2021. May God eradicate COVID-19 from the face of the earth and heal our world.

With my prayerful best wishes and sincere gratitude.

Sister Hiwot Zewde dc.  
Provincial Leader  
Province of Ethiopia