



# SILENT CHILDREN'S MISSION

## NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2013

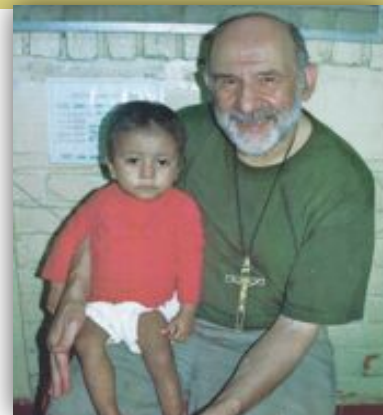
ISSUE NO. 4

### Dr. Simone's Letter

Dear SCM benefactors,

The following excerpt from the Vatican Insider on November 30, 2013, affirms the way that SCM works on your behalf to help the poor. SCM works with Bishops, priests, sisters and lay missionaries to deliver your gift of love to the poor in the same way that Pope Francis does!

**Archbishop Krajewski is the man in charge of the Pope's charity work. He is the man the poor and needy turn to for help. Krajewski held an informal meeting with a group of journalists and explained to them how the Pope wants his charity work to be carried out. He explained that requests that come through need to at least carry the relevant parish priest's signature, as a guarantee that the request is genuine. "Once we have made certain the request is genuine, we send a cheque to the parish priest who cashes it in and takes the money directly to the people who need it, on behalf of the Pope." So money is not sent, it is delivered in person. "The Pope told me this: there shouldn't be any money in the Almonry's bank account; you shouldn't hold onto or invest**



**Andrew Simone MD**

**any money, you should spend it. "The Pope already does a great deal of good," Krajewski said. "he goes out' via me, 'he goes out' with his words, 'he goes out' when he stops to spend time with faithful and embrace the sick and suffering during public events like the General Audiences."**

During this Holy season – please consider including a gift for the poor on your Christmas list.

God bless,  
Andrew Simone MD

## Spiritual Director's Letter

Dear benefactors,



**"The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God."**

— Mother Teresa

The greater hunger we see in the photo of these children from Haiti taken by lay missionaries Gerry and Kyong Brinston, is their hunger for love. While the first phase of Silent Children's mission is to address the immediate physical needs of children, providing them with medical care, housing, food, and clothing, the greater need they experience is their deeper human need for being loved and cared for, which your support and generosity can help us bring to them.

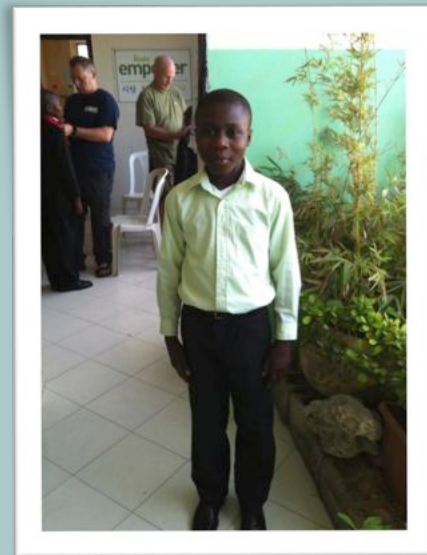
In preparing for our upcoming trip to Haiti in December, we ask that you pray we are able to incarnate His love this Christmas. We will be staying with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in Port au Prince at their home for

malnourished children as well as travelling to Cerca Carvajal in the mountains to visit the children and families that SCM has been supporting.

Just as **St. Francis** knew that we are all called to give life to others, we hope to imitate the mother of Christ **"when we bear Him in our hearts and in our bodies through our love, through the purity and fidelity of our conscience, and when we give birth to him by the performance of good deeds, which should be a light and an example for others."**

This is a universal invitation and challenge to missionaries and non-missionaries alike, to carry Christ and give birth to Him through our good actions. Let us be united in our effort to give "flesh" to God this Christmas and make Him present to our families and friends!

May the peace of Christ be with you all,  
Fr. Michael Della Penna ofm



### **Update on Dustin in Haiti:**

Dustin is doing well! Presently, he is healthy, living at a boarding school and he receives three meals per day. He also wears pants that fit him!!

Thank you for your generous support to make this happen. You have made a huge difference in his life!

## Executive Director's Letter



Dear SCM benefactors,

More than 5000 people were killed and four million made homeless by the super-storm in the Philippines on November 8, 2013. Silent Children's Mission has sent monetary assistance to the Poor Clares in Cebu to help them with the many families in desperate need. They are so grateful for your help. Here is an excerpt from their letter:

*"Thank you so very much for your generosity. We received the funds yesterday. Tomorrow, Saturday, we will start purchasing the necessary and urgent things most needed by the typhoon victims and the next day start distributing it. We will go to the northern part of Cebu, Medellin first. On the next weekend, we will be going out of town, to Dulag and Tan-auan Leyte for more distribution to the families ...these areas are badly hit by the typhoon. Rest assured your support will go a long way with the Poor Clare Sisters who identify the families badly hit."*

## What does malnutrition look like?

I found this child suffering from severe malnutrition during a visit to Malawi at Kapiri Mission. Unfortunately she died three days after this picture was taken. There was nothing the Carmelite sisters or I could have done to save her.

Malnutrition does not happen instantly – it takes weeks, months and even years to happen to a body. Symptoms of malnutrition include a condition of uneasy or painful sensations caused by want of food. Symptoms include weight loss, dry skin, damaged hair and nails, slow wound healing, and severe conditions (as seen in this photo) include bilateral pitting edema, severe wasting, pale eyes and palms, acute respiratory infections and diarrhea and vomiting.

The UN estimates that nearly 870 million people in the world or one in eight people suffer from chronic malnutrition. Almost all of these people live in developing countries. Children are the most visible victims of under-nutrition especially in Africa where hunger is rising by 2% per year.

The world produces at least 2720 kcal of food per person per day and despite this, children continue to live with "want of food". Dr. Simone often says, *"We don't have too many children – we have too many selfish adults. There's enough food and there's enough space for everyone on this earth. But as long as we fight and we have wars and we keep taking care of our own concerns – that's why the poor suffer."*

Please help us to reach more children before it is too late for them. If you cannot help at this time - please pray for the work of Silent Children's Mission.

May God bless you and your families during this Christmas season.

Frankie Burg-Feret

**Ubi caritas et amor Deus ibi est.**

***Where there is charity and love, God is there.***

## A Prayer for Children

We pray for children  
Who give us sticky kisses,  
Who hop on rocks and chase butterflies,  
Who stomp in puddles and ruin their math workbooks,  
Who can never find their shoes.



And we pray for those  
Who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,  
Who've never squeaked across the floor in new sneakers,  
Who've never "counted potatoes",  
Who are born in places we wouldn't be caught dead,  
Who never go to the circus,  
Who live in an x-rated world.

We pray for children  
Who bring us fistfuls of dandelions and sing off key  
Who have gold fish funerals, build card-table forts  
Who slurp their cereal on purpose  
Who put gum in their hair, put sugar in their milk  
Who spit toothpaste all over the sink  
Who hug us for no reason, who bless us each night.



And we pray for those  
Who never get dessert,  
Who watch their parents watch them die,  
Who have no safe blanket to drag behind,  
Who can't find any bread to steal,  
Who don't have any rooms to clean up,  
Whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,  
Whose monsters are real.

We pray for those  
Who spend all their allowance before Tuesday,  
Who throw tantrums in the grocery store  
And pick at their food,  
Who like ghost stories,  
Who shove dirty clothes under the bed  
And never rinse out the tub,  
Who get quarters from the tooth fairy  
Who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool,  
Who squirm in church and  
scream on the phone,  
Whose tears we sometimes laugh at  
And whose smiles can make us cry.



And we pray for those  
Whose nightmares come in the  
daytime,  
Who will eat anything,  
Who have never seen a dentist,  
Who aren't spoiled by anybody,  
Who go to bed hungry and cry  
themselves to sleep,  
Who live and move, but have no  
being.

We pray for children  
Who want to be carried.  
And for those who must.  
For those we never give up on,  
And for those who don't have a chance.  
For those we smother,  
And for those who will grab the hand of anybody kind  
enough to offer.

*by Ina J. Hughs*

## How You Can Help

- You can make a donation by sending a cheque written to "Silent Children's Mission" and mailed to:
- RR#1 16060 Concession 8, Schomberg, ON L0G 1T0. Make sure to include your mailing address for a tax receipt.
- You can also donate online through **Canada Helps**.
- Question? Write to us at [silentchildrenca@yahoo.com](mailto:silentchildrenca@yahoo.com) Look for us online at [www.silentchildrenmission.com](http://www.silentchildrenmission.com)
- If you would like Frankie to speak at your school/function about the poor and the work of SCM, call 416-418-0314.