



OCIMA

Overseas and Continental Independent Mercy Association

P.O. BOX 952 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48303-0952

www.ocimaya.org

Grayson P. Smith
President

Larry Gatt
Vice-President

Carolyn Schenden
Secretary

Marie C. Curreri
Treasurer

**OCIMA –
Board of Directors**

Fr. Nicholas Hugo Amico
Founder & President Emeritus
May 1, 1926 - March 29, 2009

Marie Cardinale Curreri

Susan M. Hug

Grayson P. Smith

**Endowment Fund –
Board of Directors**

Marie Cardinale Curreri

Patricia Egan-Myers, D.R.E.
St. Irenaeus, Rochester Hills, MI

Larry Gatt

Susan M. Hug

Lisa Peracchio

Carolyn Schenden

Kenneth J. Schenden
Financial Advisor

Michael B. Sheridan

Honorary Trustees

Robert Brzustewicz, CEO
Empire Wire Co., MI

Fr. Paul Chateau
Our Lady of Fatima
Oak Park, Michigan

Thomas Cracchiolo
Burns Associates

Daniel Devine, C.P.A., MI

Fr. Paul Golden, C.M., Director
Vincentian Canonical Services, CO

Robert Kendall, President
Board of Directors
St. Patrick's Senior Center, MI

Carl Levin
U.S. Senator, Michigan

Msgr. James Maloney, Director
Propagation of the Faith
Archdiocese of Detroit, MI

P.F. Meo & Assoc., Accountants, MI

Gabriel Peñate R.
Bishop of Izabal, Guatemala

Fr. Frank Pollie, Retired
St. Irenaeus
Rochester Hills, MI

John Richardson, C.M.
Vincentian Missions

James Schenden, CEO
Mint Steel Forge, MI

José Tonello, Director
Ecuadorian Foundation for the
Progress of People, Ecuador

December 2014

Dear Friends of O.C.I.M.A.,

As 2014 enters its final month, our thoughts are with you as we reflect on the advances made during this past year and OCIMA's challenges ahead.

If you are like me, you subconsciously track passing years by major events that impact your life. Certainly, an example for me has been this year's 5-year anniversary of Father Nick's passing and the fallout of his loss. Those of us within OCIMA think back to that time and can't help but remember the angst we felt looking ahead and wondering if the organization could continue operating in the same direction without his leadership. Over the next few years it became apparent he had established a network of support that comprehended the needs of the people he and his organization had touched and were aware of the challenges ahead.

Clearly the imprint of his legacy remains indelible upon all of us including our contributors who continue to support our efforts in Guatemala and Ecuador. The need for this support is no longer in response to Father Nick's personal requests, but rather those created by his accomplishments. Therefore, OCIMA's challenge in the near future will be to achieve a relative growth in our donations that will allow us to take full advantage of these more recent opportunities such as the Nursing School at Santa Elena. This project was extremely important to Father Nick and proved to be his final chosen project. Not only has the school gone from concept to reality, but has recently celebrated its first graduate in November. Father Nick strived to eliminate malnutrition first and foremost but had strong ambition for education, and what it can achieve, as a close second.

Another recent example is in close proximity to the Nursing School and when completed will be integral to the Clinic. The Surgical Facility, mentioned in our last letter, has officially gone from paper to concrete, to bricks and mortar and is providing some revealing photographs of its growth. Our challenge will now re-focus on being able to equip this facility in a way so as to provide the proper medical equipment that will meet the needs of the patients and the talent of the doctors.

This year's OCIMA Raffle, which has become our primary fund raising event, was held and again produced adequate proceeds thereby allowing us to fund another food packing event should we desire. By generating sufficient funding through its raffle activity, OCIMA gains additional flexibility for targeted support in other projects.

However, despite available funding, the Board of Directors continues to be in unanimous agreement that no further food packing activity will take place until all final shipping and receiving obstacles, such as those encountered with our last shipment to Guatemala, are eliminated. As a result, solving this issue continues to be a crucial goal for us in 2015. Nevertheless, we are pleased to report that the food shipment that we packed in October 2012 finally passed through Customs and arrived in Santa Elena on July 12, 2014 – 17 months after it left Miami, Florida! From all reports, the food was still intact and distributed immediately after receipt. Plans are being made to investigate a number of

options that will allow food shipments to reach their destination in acceptable time frames in the future. These plans might include the leveraging of other organizations that have successful shipping histories to include OCIMA shipments.

Finally, as I was drafting this letter, we lost a good friend and partner in Guatemala. Sister Josefina died this past October as a result of contracting Dengue Fever. Sister Josefina was a native Guatemalan, in her 40's, and together with Sister Marcella, she played a large part in the success of the Nursing School. Sister Josefina loved to have a good time, but she was "no-nonsense" when it came to business. We lost a great friend and hard worker.

Please consider what all of us have in our lives compared to the poor, disadvantaged people in Guatemala and Ecuador. Most importantly, consider all the projects we have completed thanks to your donations in the past. I wish all of you could experience what many of us in OCIMA have experienced in person. It all becomes very personal to everyone that makes the trip to Guatemala. Unfortunately, the desperate needs of these people, although finite, are not static. They are growing. Please help OCIMA write some stories during 2015, through your generosity. Let us share them with you next year.

Grayson Smith
OCIMA President

FINANCIAL REPORT — 2013

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

Donations in 2013:	\$ 157,326
Distribution from Endowment Fund:	5,816
Carryover from 2012:	154

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE:	\$ 163,296
------------------------	------------

PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS:

1. GSFEP (Ecuador) – Solar panels in Andes, hospital for the poor	\$ 17,000
2. School in Chapas, Santa Rosa	39,000
3. Nutritional Center in Morales	35,000
4. Clinic, Orphanage and Day Care Center in Santa Elena	60,000
5. Surgical Facility in Clinic, Santa Elena	10,500
6. Purchase and packing of specially formulated food for the malnourished	0

TOTAL PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS:	\$ 161,500
------------------------------	------------

EXPENSES:¹

1. Postage, envelopes, P.O. Box, bank fees	\$ 1,307
--	----------

TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:	\$ 1,307
--------------------------------	----------

TOTAL EXPENSES & DISBURSEMENTS:	\$ 162,807
---------------------------------	------------

<u>CARRYFORWARD TO 2014:</u>	\$ 489
-------------------------------------	--------

¹ Total expenses were 0.80% of total funds available for 2013.