



OCIMA

Overseas and Continental Independent Mercy Association

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November 2008

Dear Friend(s) of OCIMA,

Last August we celebrated our 30th anniversary and OCIMA has a new face. I have retired from the presidency, but not from OCIMA. The new president, Maria Curreri, is a much younger person who has computer skills which are necessary I believe for the head of any organization. I have known Maria since she was born. She has traveled with me over the last ten years and she is a quite capable woman.

We would like to thank Father Paul Chateau and Marilyn Anne Faba, vice president and secretary-treasurer respectively, who have brought OCIMA to its current status which is beyond our wildest dreams. They worked assiduously to get us to this point.

And we would like to welcome Susan M. Hug as vice-president and Michael Curreri as secretary-treasurer. I am sure they will help OCIMA grow as in the past.

You may notice our letterhead has changed. It includes a new address and a reference to our OCIMA website. We are still in the process of creating the website, but you are able to access it, *albeit* in its infant stages. Gail Moro has graciously volunteered to help us with this endeavor.

The situation in Guatemala, because of the world-wide economic melt-down, is dire. The weekly canasta, i.e. the amount of various kinds of food a family needs for a week cost \$6 two years ago. Today that same basket of food costs \$8.25. Today, as well as two years ago, the ordinary worker averages \$6 a week. Apply the math and you can see that there is no possibility of supporting oneself and one's family. The average person has a cup of watered down coffee for breakfast and a potato for the rest of the day. At this rate, malnutrition is only going to increase, at the same time that OCIMA sent its one millionth meal. One hand giveth, the other taketh away. So sad!

Our clinic will have 30,000 consultations this year by the three full-time doctors we have at the clinic as well as specialists we have that come in from Guatemala City to spend a day or two at the clinic monthly.

We have 29 girls at the orphanage who we continue to support.

There are about 60 children in our day care center. This gives the parents an

opportunity to go to work and earn a living, while the children are schooled and fed.

We continue to support building maintenance and the total sustenance and education of girls and boys from Santa Rosa province. The school now boasts a Guatemalan champion in javelin throwing! He competed in the Central American games this past year. But most importantly, he will be graduating with a degree in computers – a program you made possible with your generous donations.

In Ecuador we continue to help the poor peoples' bank and the new hospital.

I want to thank all of you for all that you have done for us through the years to make OCIMA more successful than I ever dreamed. And literally the thousands who are being helped with your help through OCIMA are very mindful of your generosity. We sincerely hope that it will continue.

As usual, I want to wish our donors a Merry Christmas, to our Jewish friends a Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Kwanzaa to our African American donors. To all of you, Happy Holidays and a prosperous and Blessed New Year.

Sincerely,

Fr. Nicholas H. Amico

FINANCIAL REPORT — 2007

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

2007 Donations ¹ :	\$ 179,490
Carryover from 2006:	8,683
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TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE:	\$ 188,173

<u>EXPENSES²:</u>	\$ 841
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DISTRIBUTIONS:

1. Expansion and development of co-ops, loans to <i>campesinos</i> , and hospital construction in Ecuador	\$ 20,000
2. Building maintenance, education, room & board for boys and girls in Santa Rosa	68,000
3. Nutritional center, clinic, orphanage, daycare center, prescription medicines	62,500
4. The purchase of specially formulated meals for the malnourished	35,000
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TOTAL EXPENSES & DISTRIBUTIONS:	\$ 186,341

<u>CARRYOVER TO 2008:</u>	\$ 1,832
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¹ Excludes donations to the Endowment Fund.

² Expenses as a percentage of total funds available for 2007 are **0.45%**.