



JMJ Children's Fund of Canada

NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the U. N.

NEWSLETTER May 2021

Dear Friends, this has been a difficult year for all of us, and we pray that you have been kept safe and had opportunities to stay close to friends and family, even it is only by phone calls or chatting from across the street. This year JMJ needs funds to meet our commitments, and so we are making a special request for your help. Any donation you make in May will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$2000. Please enjoy this report from Zambia.

Sr. Emelda Emma Katongo, MIC, writes:

Easter greetings to you all from Mary Immaculate Academy. (Chipata, Zambia).

I have sent you the Story attached to the pictures I forwarded you of the children from our school.



Career day: Medical Doctors.

The M.I.C Sisters arrived in Zambia specifically in the diocese of Chipata in 1954. The Sisters have worked in different fields such as education, health, parishes and offered some social services in the faces of HIV and AIDS, worked with HIV/AIDS orphans, widows, and widowers, among others.

Mary Immaculate Kindergarten was opened in 2009 with the aim of assisting the orphans, poor and vulnerable children who could not afford to access their education due to the escalating school fees payments in government as well as in private schools. Thus, the school started with 25 children

of the families that were able to pay for the required school fees for the upkeep of the school and the payments of the teachers and general workers who kept the classrooms and school surrounding clean. By 2013, we had 50 learners of whom 20 were orphans, poor and vulnerable. The MIC Sisters opted to assist those orphans, poor and vulnerable children from the surrounding shanty compounds through the sponsorship and generosity of JMJ in Canada. Through the financial assistance of JMJ, orphans and vulnerable children have a bright future since they often acquire a solid education and Christian background among the MIC Sisters.

Three years ago, there was a cry from the society



Career day: Professional Nurses.

especially from the parents and guardians whose children are learning at Mary Immaculate Kindergarten, to continue from the kindergarten to primary school level. After a period of prayer and

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discernment, with the permission of the Superior General, Sr. Delia Regidor, the MIC Sisters enrolled the first class of grade 1 learners from the kindergarten section, reception class after the 8th graduation in 2018. Thus, in January **2019**, the first class of grade 1 pupils had started with 20 learners.



Career day: Football Players.

With this development, Mary Immaculate Kindergarten was advised by the local ministry of education to change the current name of the school to accommodate the planned lower and upper grades of the primary school level. Thus, **Mary Immaculate Kindergarten** was changed to **Mary Immaculate Academy** in 2019. Since 2019, every year, there are new enrolments for grade 1 class. Primary level will run from grade 1 to grade 7.

Though Mary Immaculate Academy does not have particular structures of a school, the parents and guardians have continued flocking here for the enrolment of their children. Enrolling children at Mary Immaculate Academy has become a priority for many parents and guardians in the whole town of Chipata. The fact that Mary Immaculate Academy is under the administration of the MIC Sisters, has attracted so many learners because of the trust and confidence parents and guardians have in the MIC Sisters. There is not enough space in the classrooms to accommodate every enrolled child at the kindergarten and at the primary.

Mary Immaculate Academy is offering various lessons from the kindergarten levels to primary school levels. The school offers programs to empower learners in all spheres of the child's

development for the betterment of the society and of the future generation at large. With this in mind, the number of pupils has outnumbered our current classrooms. There is an urgent need to build one block building of 3 classrooms.

The purpose of building these 3 classrooms is to create a favorable environment and enough space



Career day: Teachers and Secretaries

for pupils to learn in an area which is conducive, to accommodate grades 5, 6 and 7 pupils and also to allow teachers have a reasonable pupil teacher ratio. Once the rooms are many, it will reduce the number of pupils per class of which at present teachers have more pupils in one class due to inadequate rooms where pupils can be accommodated.

At the same time, additional classrooms will help to accommodate all the enrolled pupils and create more space, especially in this time of Covid-19 where there is a great need for space distancing of persons as one of the health measures for Covid-19 prevention.

God bless you for your continuous support of the orphans, poor and vulnerable children.

You can support the work of JMJ Children's Fund by a cheque sent to PO Box 20051, 322 Rideau St East, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 9N5

OR INTERAC e-Transfer of funds to JMJ Children's Fund of Canada. Please contact us at JMJchildrenfund@Rogers.com for further details.

Or look for us on www.CanadaHelps.org