

7th August 1981

My Dear Friends,

This newsletter comes to you after months well-nigh a year - I'm sorry for the delay but much water has flowed during this period. Many blossoms that were rescued from the dust with your help are now I hope are blooming elsewhere and not withering in the dust. The newspaper cuttings enclosed will show how the shanty towns on our pavements were ruthlessly demolished by the Government on the wettest day of the year. The poor people were herded into trucks with their scarce belongings, notwithstanding the old, infirm and babies in arms were deported to the borders of the State. From these poor people 130 of their children are the beneficiaries of your kindness. These children live about seven kilometers from our school; lent through the kindness of the Spanish Campaign against Hunger and Disease who had donated a van to collect and distribute food to the pavement dwellers also help at the same time to transport the small children to and fro.

My sister Marie-Philippa - friend is visiting the school. From her you will get first hand information of present situation and progress of this Project. She will also bring you a photograph of your new sponsored child. This Survey has taken a long time but we are happy with the results.

Today, I wish to share with you some thoughts on Poverty and Sharing. I know many of you are making great sacrifices to continue your sponsorship. Inflation and Unemployment has left you economically low. We will remember to pray for you everyday.

"All that you do for the least of these little ones you do unto Me." The Lord needs us.

The Poor man, whatever his misery may be: homeless or Godless; is a PROPHET. Even though voiceless, he speaks of change - of sharing, of life-style, of love and pardon. He invites the rich man to come out of his cold solitude and to open wide the door of the prison in which he has locked himself - the prison of sufficiency, security, knowledge and pretended powers.

The poor man, in coming to disturb him comes to save him. And if the 'rich-man' is attentive to the living word, which is the poor man, he will discover, in the depth of his heart, a hidden energy: the power of love which is his, to serve and to be a sign of the love of the Father. A source of life, hitherto blocked springs forth - He is free.

Yes, the poor man, whatever his misery, is prophetic, because it is Jesus Himself who knocks at the door.....of the rich man, at the door of our heart' - He comes to disturb us, He comes to save us.'

I have shared these thoughts with you not to preach to you, but to console you and congratulate you for getting involved with the 80 families who live below the poverty line.

I am sure my sister Marie will take pictures of 'your children' and their homes and also give you an insight into their way of life.

I thank you once again for your loving co-operation and assure you of a remembrance in our daily prayers.

Yours gratefully in Jesus & Mary,