



# Newsletter

Issue 4 • March 2008

## FATHER FRANK JONES

LATIN AMERICAN MISSION

### *Hola* from Fr Frank

Dear Friends, *Feliz Año Nuevo* 2008!

The rains have begun with a vengeance and with them come flooding and sickness. However, we are in the thick of construction at the Mission. We had a wonderful Christmas and were blessed with big numbers at all the masses. The Mission is growing and the people are forming good communities. There is good reason to be hopeful and grateful for all the Lord has done so far. We plant the seeds and He does the rest. At the San Juan and Santa Margarita Christmas party the children started with a Christmas play followed by carols, gifts, a big lunch, and even bigger smiles and tummies.

*San Dimas* is the good thief who died beside Christ on Calvary. I named a wing of the local prison after him and recently stayed there overnight while holding a two-day retreat for the men. The wing is now under the direction of the Mission and it has been tough putting a program together for the inmates. I actually have responsibility for the whole prison – over 7,000 men and women, sleeping up to six per cell. For those in *San Dimas* I have managed to purchase mattresses for all.

The men took to the retreat enthusiastically. I can't say I enjoyed sleeping on the floor myself - the cockroaches and mosquitoes were not good company. The noise from the next wing went all night and made it impossible to sleep. The wing next to *San Dimas* is called 'Vampires Wing' by the prisoners - the men are up making a racket all night and sleeping peacefully by day. Thank God I got to go home to sleep the following night. Nevertheless, it is good to be able to speak individually with so many, providing pastoral opportunities otherwise unattainable. The humidity, heat and smell inside the cells are just terrible; however, there was no place in our mission more like Bethlehem for me this Christmas than *San Dimas*. At the end of the retreat we provided the men with a great Christmas dinner like they had never seen before. It lifted their spirits and led to a deep sense of trust and confidence in our program.

At present the church is well under construction and should be finished by the end of March. The first of three that we have to build in San Francisco, it will make a big difference to our people. Christian formation is the most important missionary activity for the creation of a just and loving community. There is so much violence here that the only way forward is Christ and his Gospel. The church is being enthusiastically received by the people. The surrounding gardens will at last



'Dimas, the repentant thief', from *The Crucifix and the Annunciation* (Flanders, 16<sup>th</sup> Century), Galleria delle Tappezzerie, Vatican.



Anyone recognise this Angel?

## Registrations

You can register interest in the Mission by completing an enrolment form via the website at [www.frfrankmission.org.au](http://www.frfrankmission.org.au) Enrolling within the Mission will ensure you are kept up-to-date regarding news from Fr Frank, and activities including fundraising to provide support.

## Donations

There have been many requests for information regarding the appropriate process for making donations to the Mission. Funds may be direct debited or deposited into the following Commonwealth Bank account:

**Manual Deposit:**  
Account No. 2902 0090 3419  
Agent No. 13274

**Electronic Transfer:**  
Account No. 22524  
BSB: 062-786

**WEB ADDRESS: [WWW.FRFRANKMISSION.ORG.AU](http://WWW.FRFRANKMISSION.ORG.AU)  
EMAIL ADDRESS: [PANCHOJONES@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:PANCHOJONES@HOTMAIL.COM)**



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provide our people with a plaza where all can gather to socialise in peace and harmony.

Construction of the school building will begin this month. We will start with four classrooms and build another four every year for the next few years. There is not enough money for the administration building yet. The school is being named *Corazon de Maria* – 'Heart of Mary'. It will provide education for our poor. The sisters are arriving next month so please pray that we can get their convent finished in time. The convent will house three nuns with room also for a chapel and visitors.

The *Maria de Jesus* dispensary will be running again this month and I have been blessed to find two doctors to work in our health centre. Marta is a gynaecologist and obstetrician and John Paul will manage the medical laboratory. They are fine doctors with many years of experience. We will also provide the services of a paediatrician and a dentist next month. Please pray for the success of our health centre.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Society of St James the Apostle. All the bishops of the foreign sending dioceses and those from the receiving dioceses in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador came to Lima at the end of January. I was the moderator of the conference and talked about the Mission at San Francisco and the prison program of San Dimas. The prisoners themselves made a great short film and rap music video for the conference!

All volunteers are welcome at San Francisco. Sam McGuinness recently spent a month at the Mission as a medical volunteer just prior to his graduation from medical school in Adelaide. Sam is from Canberra and his mum and dad, Helen and Jamie, are Yarralumla parishioners, *Club Cientos* members and true friends. Sam was terrific with the people and helped out in the dispensary and in the prison and the infectious disease hospital. I am also blessed to be receiving Elizabeth Doherty as a volunteer after Easter. Elizabeth has been raising funds in anticipation of her missionary work here by producing two wonderful CDs of her music and songs. She will be very welcome here and comes with an impressive background of working for the poor and making a difference through development projects. Please keep Sam and Elizabeth in your prayers.

Thank you to everyone for all your prayers and generosity. You are making a great difference to the poor.

*Hasta pronto & God Bless*

Fr Frank



Sam McGuinness – *Is that palm tree real, Sam?*



Christmas in *San Francisco*, and ...

*San Dimas*



Padre Francisco Jones welcomes you ...



**Father Frank Jones, Latin American Mission – Committee:** Ted Anderson, Alan Bridger, Bec Bromhead, Stephen Cusack, Brendan Mulhall, Michael Ryan, Pamela Slocum, Ashley Watson