



Knights of Columbus St. Francis Xavier Council 10500



Knights in Action – Fast Coins

St. Francis Xavier Council discussed with our Pastor (3rd Degree Knight) about charity during Lent season. Father John Tran proposed an idea to let our parishioners learning about fasting and make it more meaningful. Our council took the initiative to do some charitable work for the poor. Money suggested coming only from our parishioners' effort in fasting during Lent. We suggested the fund raised to target the community with urgent needs.



A

End of last year, the storm came flooding the low ground at Vinh-Luong. Land slide and severe flood destroyed their little convent and the classrooms. The Sisters become homeless and the students have no classrooms to continue their studies. This convent took care of 62 pre-school students before the disaster. The purpose of the classes is to teach, feed and prepare them for grade one of elementary school. 20 of them are the children from very poor families that their parents cannot afford to pay tuition fee. Now, all these students are suffering with no school. The sisters also lose their convent. They need immediately help in rebuilding their convent and classrooms on a higher land so that the children would study at a safe place. The budget for this construction project will be about US\$58,000. In this difficult situation, any help will mean a lot to them, especially the children who cannot afford the basic needs in education.



B

We agreed the immediate help to this convent was necessary and would be one of the appropriate projects initiated in Lent. The children receive education from this convent possible leading future vocation growth.

Our council planned and arranged the procedure. Fr. Tran gave the overview of Fast Coins to parishioners at each Sunday Mass in the beginning of Lent season, i.e. extra coins that were lying around or the saving from the regular expense of our daily bread would be sufficed. The charitable work "Fast Coins" means the coins collected from fasting.



C



D

We made copies of the photos of the convent and classrooms with lamination showing the parishioners on the scenes before and after the storm. We started to collect "fast coins" on the 4th week of the Lent, March 22, 2009. A donation box was prepared and collected money from parishioners after each Mass. During donation collection, some of our council Brothers directed the parishioners to the collection box, helped the parishioners to complete their cheque and answered

questions. Our messages lift up their hand for helping the poor kids and the homeless Sisters. After 3 weeks of collection, we have accumulated about \$25,000.



Photo A: classroom in convent before storm

Photo B: Damaged convent after storm

Photo C: Knights were collecting money from parishioners

Photo D: Grand Knight(L), Financial Secretary with support from Sister and Pastor during collection.

Photo E: GK, FS were collecting cheques from parishioners