50 YEARS

CONGRATULATIONS!

50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, W.I. - Georgetown

The Day Nursery’s Second Quarter


(Preparation for this 50th Anniversary dates back to 1988, – Extract from Fr. Roland Roberts – LINK Vol. 27 No. 4, as he stated: This Autumn LINK 1988, ushers in this second Quarter Century which will end on

July 25th 2013. Please God, St. Benedict’s will still be in operation at that distant date. Some of us will be alive and well on July 25th 2013, and some like myself, will have completed our time of trial and will be enjoying our reward. ....”

FLASH BACK


“St. Benedict Day Nursery was opened in 1963, as a result of a survey made by Fr. Roberts of the Georgetown area. He found many small children at home alone, tied to a table to prevent them from wondering away, while their mothers were at work. They were unhappy children, dirty, wet and hungry. A day nursery seems to be the answer”.

Late 1964, an addition had been made (accommodated 30 children).

A larger addition was made in 1967, (accommodated 70 children)

“The man on the scene”– 1969

Fr. Roland Roberts – S.F.M. – R.I.P.
Ms. Georgiana Lewis, then Secretary, present Chairman, St. Benedict Fr. Roberts Charity, Canada
A New Building – January 17th 1970 – designed to accommodate, comfortable One Hundred (100) children

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF St. Benedict DAY NURSERY –

July 25th 1988

Celebrations

Con-Celebrated Mass of Thanksgiving– Bishop Dickson – Chief Celebrant –
Monday – July 25th 1988

A Tree Planting Ceremony –

Adjustments August 31st 2005
The Day Nursery experience temporary closure for major repairs/rebuilding but a section continued to be used to house the children of the Infant Hospital, which also needed much more extensive repairs to the extent of relocating the children.

September 5th 2011
The Day Nursery opened its doors again- with four (4) children, through the kindness of Mustique Charitable Trust who funded these major repairs.

Today, July 2013, we have twenty eight (28) children on our register! We do have more requests for the new term – September 2013. Therefore we are in dire need for Sponsorship.

A New Venture of St. Benedict’s No.1

13th February 1968 – cutting of the ribbon at the Commencement of St. Benedict Infant Hospital
-Dr. Usborne

Unveiling of a photographic Portrait of Fr. Roland Roberts – September 20th 1989

St. Vincent Children’s Welfare Fund Committee – in recognition of 26 years of service to the children of Georgetown and other areas.
A New Venture of St. Benedict’s No.2

50TH GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMENDATIONS

Commendation No. 1:

ANEISHA’S STORY – July 25th 2013

A Special MARK for us all on this DAY!

It was the end of the summer camp in Sandy Bay – Conducted by a missionary, Ms Christine Walcott, Trinidad and Tobago.

Two of our children attended the camp.

Two staff members and Sr. Nyra Anne were present at a concert which highlighted the closing of this summer camp.

ANEISHA played the guitar. Douquon ‘did his own thing’ in a group dance and song.

ANEISHA was admitted to St. Benedict Infant Hospital on 21.05.01. **Aneisha attended the day nursery while being a resident in the Infant Hospital.**

Aneisha is known as our ‘panist’, from St. Benedict Angels Steel Pan Band which started in August 2008. Aneisha is the only one left of this group now, although we have requested the help of Gary on several occasions. Gary was the lead-player on the pan when they started.

It was such a joyous occasion for us to witness **Aneisha’s development with her talents** – from hand drums, tambourine, pan, and now with the guitar and singing!

Being aware of the musical talent of Aneisha, for a number of years, many attempts were made to assist her with the playing of the guitar. – She has been practicing a few chords by and by.

Thanks to Ms Christine Walcott who took up the challenge seriously to assist Aneisha only a few months ago.

“Aneisha, we are very proud of you! Congratulations on your achievements at St. Benedict! God bless you!

Today we recognize this gift of Aneisha, as another gift – AMONG ALL OTHER GIFTS WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THROUGH THE YEARS unto this milestone of this 50th Anniversary of ST. BENEDICT DAY NURSERY, when we continue to say:
“THE CHILD COMES FIRST!”

Commendation No. 2:

SPECIAL BLESSING OF ST. BENEDICT DAY NURSERY AND SURROUNDINGS – AUGUST 13th 2013

We were specially honored on August 13th, 2013, to have had Monsignor Michael Stewart, Vicar General/Administrator – Our Lady of the Assumption, Cathedral/Acting Parish Priest of St. Benedict’s Parish, to offer prayers and blessings for our dear children, staff members of St. Benedict Day Nursery and its surroundings. He came at that time of day when many of the children were asleep.

This called to mind a statement in one of Fr. Robert’s LiNK Vol. 19 No. 1: “THE QUIET MOMENT AT THE DAY NURSERY IS RIGHT AFTER THE MID-DAY DINNER. That’s when all little bodies stretch out, close their eyes and drift off to dreamland. It’s a unique experience to tip-toe into the Nursery at that time. You sort of hold your breath lest your very breathing could disturb the peace and quiet that prevail”.

Sr. Nyra Anne O.Carm Gives Thanks.

I HAVE SEARCHED MY HEART FOR THE MOST APPROPRIATE WAY OF EXTENDING GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE KEPT FATHER ROLAND ROBERTS DREAM ALIVE IN BRINGING GOD’S LOVE IN A TANGIBLE WAY TO THE “LITTLE CHILDREN” OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES OVER THE PAST FIFTY (50) YEARS,

THE ONLY EXPRESSION THAT I CAN FIND IS, ‘A GREAT THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU!”

Sr. Nyra Anne O.Carm

Fr. Roland Roberts – S.F.M., Born: 08.09.05
Ordained: 23.09.33 Died: 11.02.94 - R.I.P.

CHILDREN AT THE DAY NURSERY

Our Day Nursery remained open during the summer vacation – as it facilitates working parents for their children to be cared for in a safe and loving environment. We strive to do just that with the children under our care.

As mentioned in our last LiNK: Many more parents wish to take advantage of our day nursery enrichment programme, but are simply unable to meet the cost.

YOUR KIND ASSISTANCE WILL BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED IN SPONSORING A ‘LITTLE ONE’ OF THIS VILLAGE OF GEORGETOWN TO MOVE FORWARD WITH A SECOND LEARNING TOWARDS THEIR FUTURE. (First learning by their parents).

It only takes (EC$50.00), US$20.00, £13.00, CAN$20.00, monthly.

CHILDREN IN THE HOME

The children in the home continue to enjoy daily activities, including their ‘little pool’ therapy, and also the company of visitors from time to time.

Kianna continues to make progress mainly in speech and hand co-ordination. Her improvement in walking is still very slow.

UPDATE - STAFF

We were saddened at the death of one of our staff members, Irma Bowens – (16.02.57 - 20.07.13), employed-(01.02.10 20.07.13). May she rest in peace! Amen.
Kianna Baker in her Walker

ANY ASSISTANCE - VOLUNTEER FOR SHORT OR LONG TERM OR SPONSORSHIP FOR AN ADDITIONAL HELPER TO ADMINISTER SPECIAL THERAPY TO KIANNA WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED.

The present staff are already fully engaged with the basic care of the children.

OTHER NEWS
All primary and secondary school children are enjoying their July – August 2013 vacation.

We are in the peak of the hurricane season and therefore we continue to pray to be spared from inclement weather, storms or hurricanes, etc. We have been experiencing days of extreme heat.

ASSISTANCE BY VOLUNTEERS:

The Resurrection Catholic Church in Grand Island, NE, USA.

May 20th - 25th 2013
The assistance given by our seven (7) volunteers, (as mentioned in our last LINK), (Professionals, as they have been described, a Priest, a Physician, a Registered Nurse, a Psychologist, an Occupational Therapist, a Physical Therapist, a Student), were well received.

Their services were extended to Kingstown, at the Cathedral, St. Benedict Day Nursery and Children’s Home, The School for Special Needs Children, Georgetown, other villagers of Georgetown and the people of Sandy Bay, a mission of the Parish of St. Benedict.

Thank you. God bless you.

We are already looking forward to their return.

July 15th 2013
Up came another group of volunteers:

Members of the Medical Relief Association: from Team 5 Foundation, based in Las Vegas, U.S.A. – (Dentist, Doctors)

They also extended their services to the children and staff of our Institution and the wider Georgetown community.

We are thankful for their assistance. God bless you. Do come again. Our children are thankful for those visits and sharing of the volunteers – Just being there for them and with them make such a difference in their lives.

Volunteering has become ‘contagious’!

August 8th – September 10th 2013
We have experience yet another volunteer, from The Daneford Trust, Overseas Volunteer Programme (OVP’s), London – (College student)
Ms Tiwa Kiladejo, was assigned to work in a school in Kingstown and was able to spend a few days with our children.

It is hoped that this beginning will continue. It is an asset for our Institution as well as The Daneford Trust, for it is hoped that an exchange programme will develop between this Trust and St. Benedict.

God’s blessings are with all involved in this Project.

For the past two (2) months we have been fortunate to have a regular volunteer, Ms. Gwenny Richards, a Vincentian by birth, a retired Care Giver, from England.
Thank you Ms. Richards for rendering your services to this Institution. It is a blessing to us.

PRAYING FOR MANY MORE TO FOLLOW.
Maria Vorbeck, who has spent some time with us three (3) years ago, is again planning to be with us in October 2013.

God’s blessings be with her plans. Maria is so eager to visit again and assist us. Thanks in advance Maria. We are looking forward to your visit again.

FUND RAISER

ANNUAL TEA PARTY AND FAIR, 2013

Thank you so much. God bless you.

Despite the global low economy, we thank God that our annual tea party and fair was a success. –May 8th 2013. We thank God for all our kind donors who contributed in cash or kind. These donations were given mainly by our local companies. Special thanks to those who assisted us with the activities of the day.

We have received a few ‘barrels’ and other packages of items from overseas donors. – Vincentians as well as Non-Vincentians, for this we say: Thank you. God bless you.

Items given to us throughout the year assisted us a great deal with maintenance – items used by the children and ‘little sales’ to help ourselves

I cannot now help but to say:

This is the time when we begin again to make requests or collect items towards this annual venture – Tea Party and Fair 2014

Here is a guide for items needed:

- Sweets (individually wrapped);
  Balloons; streamers (Crepe paper rolls)
- Gift items for adults, e.g. kitchen towels, small plastic containers, etc.
- Gift items for children, e.g. mini toys: cars, trucks, dolls, teddies, etc.

(Anything: New or relatively new and can be given a second chance).

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Note: We do have a General Wish List – it is being revised.

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Your email address will be appreciated, it will assist us with our postage cost which keeps increasing.

STAMP COLLECTION

USED STAMPS
(If you are not already collecting used stamps for your own use):

These can be sent directly to St. Benedict or directly to the following Stamp Collector, on behalf of St. Benedict.

He will in turn send the funds to us. (Already discussed with him):

Mailing Address:
Steven Zirinsky
P.O Box 230049
Ansonia Station, New York, NY10023 U.S.A.

(We have been sending small packages of used stamps to him for some time now).

We have exhausted all our supplies now and is seeking to accumulate for new packages to be sent).

HIGHLIGHT OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE INSTITUTION

As mentioned at the beginning of this LINK, I once again wish to draw to your attention the fact that St. Benedict Day Nursery is now celebrating its fifty (50th) anniversary – 50 years of service to the people of Georgetown and its environ – JULY 25th, 1963 – JULY 25th 2013.

In honor of our Golden Jubilee, we will be celebrating with Holy Mass on October 28th 2013. Bishop Jason Gordon will be the chief Celebrant. Plans for this celebration of the 50th Anniversary are in progress.

*INVITATION*

You are invited to this celebration. Please let us know of your intention to attend, as
soon as possible. We will be happy for you
to join us.

While this simple celebration is being
planned, I wish to keep you informed of
the projects that are in the pipe line.

We are hoping that you will give “a little
something to enable us to meet our goal as
we enter into the second half towards the
Century Milestone:

These are as follows:

   New Home
   1. Completion of the entrance road
   2. Completion of the wall (two sections to
   be completed).
   3. Gates for security of the children
   4. Covering of the Ramp already
   constructed
   5. Development of play areas
   6. Play Equipment
   7. Increase of funds for the day to day
   maintenance of the entire Institution
   8. Increase in staff salary - for they have
   been receiving a minimum wage. Our
   staff work so hard, some even beyond
   the ‘call of duty’.
   9. Training sessions for staff members.

Any contributions will be deeply appreciated
(Some costing are already on hand).

Other remembrance for the occasion of the
50th Anniversary:

   • An Open Day for the parents and the
     public as a whole.
   • A Souvenir – 50th Anniversary

Thanks once again for accompanying us on
THE JOURNEY and for your continued
consideration in any of the above
mentioned projects as
WE STRIVE TO TAKE THIS MILESTONE OF
50 YEARS FORWARD.

Any contribution to mark this SPECIAL
OCASION will be definitely appreciated.

MAY GOD’S ABUNDANT BLESSINGS BE
WITH YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND ALL YOUR
ENDEAVORS.

Note: changed address of Ms. Georgiana
Lewis (as from 07-2015)

Already considering your kind contribution and
getting a family member or friend
involved...Kindly give them this information:

Kindly send your contribution as follows:
If you live in Canada and would like to
have a receipt valid for Income Tax
Deduction, send your request directly to the
following address:
Ms. Georgiana Lewis
The Chairman
The Father Roberts St. Benedict’s Charity
10 Jeffton Crescent
Toronto, ON M1G 2R5, CANADA

Tel.NO. (remains the same):
Work: 416 395 1628
Cell: 416 315 2702
Email: melly@rogers.com

A Receipt will be sent to you as soon as
possible.

If you live in the U.S. or U.K., or elsewhere,
please make your request directly to:
The Administrator
St. Benedict Day Nursery
And Children’s Home Inc.
Mt. Bentinck, Georgetown
St. Vincent and the Grenadines, W.I.

REMINDER

50 YEARS – A TIME FOR RENEWAL!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RENEWAL of your kind contribution
TO ASSIST as we strive to move this Project forward
and keep it ALIVE for the sake of our PRECIOUS CHILDREN.

BLESSINGS!

BLESSINGS!

BLESSINGS!

The PLEA of the Founder:
Fr. Roland Roberts. Extract from
LINK Vol. 27 No 4

“…Judging from the correspondence that crosses my desk, I get the impression that a majority of our sponsors are in the sixties or seventies, or like myself, in the eighties. We need a recruiting program to interest younger persons in our progress. This dear LINKERS, involves you! I have no way of contacting such people. You do! They are your sons and daughters, grand-children of adult age and friends. You can ask them to become Sponsors. You can explain to them the satisfaction that comes from helping a small child to get a good start in life. You can tell them of the comfort you derive from the knowledge that St. Benedict’s Staff and Children pray daily for you and your intentions; or perhaps you can just let them know of the satisfaction you derive from the knowledge that a child is assured of its ‘daily bread’ because you care. God bless you! Peace and Love! Roland Roberts, S.F.M.”

Designed by: Ms Shanique Bynoe, Secretary
Printing – sponsored by: Quik-Print St. Vincent, W.I.
Thank you God bless you!