

## April Newsletter 2021 Volume 18 Issue 4

### A Day In The Life At Vinh Son

This is a special report prepared by Martha, our eyes on the ground. As you will see, she was given three age levels for her review. A common thread, no matter how old the orphan, is the special love and devotion shared between the child and caregiver. This seems to be a unique characteristic of life at the orphanage. Days are mostly structured around school studies and classes. However, some of the children are also assigned critical jobs, like gardening and cooking.

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The photo below from Vinh Son 2 is a reflection of the diversity found at each orphanage site

Caregiver Sister Y Phieng  
Smiling Girl Y Ha on Sister's lap  
Twin boys A Khim & A Kham at her feet



## **Introduction**

“What’s the typical day like for the children of Vinh Son?” We thought our FVSO supporters would like to have a better understanding of what fills the day for the kids. We asked Martha to divide the day into three educational groups: a) primary (6-yr old), b) junior high (12-yr old) and c) high school (17-yr old). While some activities are the same for all three groups (like breakfast, lunch and dinner), there are some meaningful differences. However, there is no doubt that religion and education play an important and significant role in every child’s upbringing.

## **For a 6 year old**

He or she gets up at 5.30 AM and then they brush their teeth, wash their face, do their morning exercises outside their bedrooms and after that they tidy their beds and then they sweep the yard, clean their room and prepare to have breakfast at 6 AM. After that, they get dressed and they are ready to go to school at 6.30 AM. Their classes start from 7 AM to 10.30 AM. They come back to their orphanage at 10.45 AM. At 10.50 AM they pray and after that they go to the dining room to have lunch at 11AM. After their lunchtime, they get a nap and then they come back again to school at 1.15 PM and classes in the afternoon begin at 1.30 and finish at 4.00 PM. They come home at 4.15 PM and they get dressed and have a shower and then they go to attend the evening Mass. After that, they have dinner at 6 PM and they have their one hour pastime: watching TV, singing, reading, talking with each other. Then, from 7 PM to 9 PM, they learn by heart the homework lessons and prepare their books and notebooks for the next day. At 9PM they pray for 10 minutes and after that they go to bed.

## **For a 12 year old**

They are students in grade 7 at junior high school: They get up at 4.30 AM and after their private hygiene, they get dressed and go to church to attend the morning Mass at 5AM. And after that, they come home. At 6AM they have breakfast and after that they get dressed and go to school. Classes start from 7 AM to 10.30 AM and they come home at 10. 45 AM. They have lunch at 11 AM and after that they have their two hour nap and then they get up at 2 PM and they pray for thirty minutes and they come in their afternoon extra classes of English, music, math, for one hour and a half. After that, they take a shower and prepare to go to attend the Mass in the church at 5 PM. They have dinner at 6PM, then it’s time for their one hour pastime: watching TV, reading, singing, talking to each other. After that, they learn by heart the lessons, doing their homework and preparing for their classes tomorrow.

## **For a 17 year old**

They are in grade 11 at senior high school and their school is far from their orphanage. They are nearly mature so they have their daily activities which are different from the younger ones. As usual, they get up at 4.15 AM and after their private sanitary, they do morning exercises outside their bedrooms and then they get dressed to go to church to attend the morning Mass from 5 AM to 5.40 AM. After that, they come home and have breakfast at 6 AM and they have to hurry to go to school on time by bike because their high school is far away. Classes in the morning start at 7AM and finish at 10.30 AM. The school over and they come home at 11AM by bicycle. After lunch time, they do not have any nap time as the younger ones, so at 12.45 they have to go back to high school for their study in the afternoon from 1.30 PM until 4 PM. After that, they come home and take a shower and get dressed and go to church to attend the evening Mass at 5PM. They have dinner at 6 PM and then they have one hour relax: watching TV, reading, playing the organs, talking to each other. From 8PM to 9 PM they learn by heart the homework lessons, and prepare their study for the next day. They don’t have their extra classes at their Vinh Son orphanage.

## **In Summary**

Although the daily activities of the children are very busy and sometimes they feel tired or have pressure from studying. However, they are never bored because beside them, there are the Sisters as their own mothers who always advise them and encourage them to try their best to work well, and use that learning for their lives in the future with a good job. So most of them are eager to go to school every day and they promise in their mind and their heart they will try their best to get good results in their studies to pay back their gratitude to the Sisters and the donors who have helped them.

## DAILY SCHEDULE AT VINH SON

	6-year old	12-year old	17-year old
Activity	Time of Day	Time of Day	Time of Day
Wake-up and chores	5:30	4:30	4:15
Mass	na	5:00	5:00
Breakfast	6:00	6:00	6:00
Off to school	6:30	6:30	6:30
Classes	7:00 - 10:30	7:00 - 10:30	7:00 - 10:30
Return to Vinh Son	10:45	10:45	11:00
Lunch	11:00	11:00	11:00
Nap	12:00 - 1:00	12:00 - 2:00	na
Back to school	1:15	na	12:45
Classes	1:30 - 4:00	na	1:30 - 4:00
Return to Vinh Son	4:15	na	4:30
Extra Classes	na	2:30 - 4:00	na
Shower time	4:30	4:30	4:30
Mass	5:00	5:00	5:00
Dinner	6:00	6:00	6:00
Free time	7:00 - 8:00	7:00 - 8:00	7:00 - 8:00
Homework	8:00 9:00	8:00 9:00	8:00 9:00
Prayers	9:00	9:00	9:00
Go to bed	9:10	9:10	9:10

All the children have breakfast together, then head off to school. Back to the orphanage for lunch at 11:00, the afternoons vary; but after the 5 o'clock Mass & 6 o'clock dinner, their evenings are spent together.



Playing – making the bed – eating lunch – cooking dinner – studying  
There is always something to do at Vinh Son



## Crop Progress Report

The caregivers and children at Vinh Son 2 have come a long way since the destructive typhoons wiped away their gardens. The vegetable and cassava crops are thriving, and VS-2 is once again sharing its bounty with the other orphanages. When it comes to growing food, the Nuns have a favorite Bible quote from Corinthians: **"I planted the seed, Apollo's watered it, but God has been making it grow."** For sure, all is not gone.



**"All is Gone,"** Sister Y Hien after the December 2020 typhoon flooding that destroyed their crops

### FVSO Contact Information

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## Legacy Fund Update

**The goal is:**

**\$2 million dollars  
by March 2027**

**Legacy Fund Balance**

**\$903,638**



## Words of Wisdom

*I was born to a woman I never knew and raised by another who took in orphans. I do not know my background, my lineage, my biological or cultural heritage. But when I meet someone new, I treat them with respect.... For after all, they could be my people.*

**James A. Michener**

### Orphanage Facts

About 775 Montagnard children live in 7 orphanage facilities in the Kontum/Pleiku areas of Vietnam.

\$12 per month provides each child one nutritious meal every day.

Orphanages are run by the Sisters of Miraculous Medal (Vinh Son) and St. Paul Chartres (Sao Mai).

### Officers & Board Members

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### Donation Information

Checks should be payable to FVSO or Friends of Vinh Son.

FVSO is a humanitarian, non-profit organization approved by IRS code 501©(3). Donations are tax deductible.

Donations are accepted year round and are also available on-line.