

## Mission to Vietnam

By Don Turbitt



This was my third mission trip to Vietnam, accompanied once again by Deacon Chou Doan who, a gifted translator and servant of God. This year, Fr. Scott McCaig, the Superior General of the Companions of the Cross in Canada joined us as the third member of our team. We came at the invitation of Bishop Joseph Nguyen Chi Link of the Thanh Hoa diocese.

We flew into Hanoi and then drove three hours to the diocese of Phat Diem, for which the bishop is also responsible. Bishop Joseph arranged for forty postulants to receive three days of teaching on the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, and Baptism in the Holy Spirit. We prayed with them for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and many of them received the gifts of the Spirit. A few of the sisters that I had prayed with last year came to me and shared that they had been healed and were freed from pain.

We moved on to the next group of sisters in the Thah Hoa diocese where we gave similar teachings to sixty postulants. On the night we were to pray over the sisters we moved to a large hall. Because we had ministered there two years ago and a number of sisters were healed, approximately 120 showed up for prayer. We prayed for a greater outpouring of the Spirit upon them and for healing. Again a few sisters came to me and said they have been pain free for two years after receiving prayer. Two years ago when I prayed with Sr. Mary, she was given a word that she was going to preach God's word more. She told me she has been preaching much more ever since.

Fr. Scott had the opportunity to speak to sixty seminarians and was well received. He spoke on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the following day I spoke to these same students and we prayed with them for the Baptism in the Spirit.

After three years, the Bishop allowed us to pray with lay people also. We were able to minister from 3-5 pm to 80 people who have a weekly prayer time in the Cathedral. We taught, then prayed for healing and everyone came forward. As people outside the church saw what was happening, they came in. The bishop told me that many non-Catholics also came for prayer. We think we prayed with more than 200 people that afternoon.

On my last day in the diocese the bishop asked me to speak to the priests at their monthly retreat day. This was the first time a layman had spoken at a priests' retreat. I spoke about the Holy Spirit and the need to use the gifts. There were sixty priests and the bishop in attendance and the fifteen minute Q & A time went very well.

Last year I established a fund for sponsoring seminarians for one dollar per day and I was able to deliver enough money to sponsor 25 students. Fr. Scott also brought enough money to sponsor ten seminarians in the Thah Hoa diocese and we hope to add to that. Before leaving we discussed the possibility of returning in February of 2010 for a school of evangelization for the seminarians of both dioceses.

Because of the limited space in this report I cannot truly express the awesome work of God in Vietnam. There is a tremendous openness in the priests, seminarians and religious. They are a gentle and honorable people who are very open to the work of the Spirit.