



*Editorial : Loneliness*

*by Fr. Thierry de Roucy*

At Heart's Home, our mission is to console those, among those who suffer, who suffer the most. The poorest... Those who suffer the most...

This is a guideline, but a guideline which is not, in itself, so precise. Where is indeed the greatest poverty? Where is the greatest suffering? Spontaneously, poverty seems linked to empty pockets, suffering linked to illness... Heart's Home makes us discover something totally different: the greatest poverty, beyond the lack of money, comes from the lack of meaning; the greatest suffering, beyond the physical pain, comes from a lack of relationships. In a word, the greatest poverty could be named "absurd", and the greatest suffering "loneliness".

That's why, at Heart's Home, we go to the help not only of the materially poor, but also of the most lonely or abandoned. Indeed, we believe our mission is to bring not only material assistance, but the consolation of a presence and the weight of meaning.

*Why I want to become a Heart's Home Missionary*

*By Olivia Tai, Future Heart's Home Missionary in India*

During the "Come and See weekend" at Heart's Home, one line from the School of Community text being studied struck me "Nobody is closer to any suffering person than another suffering person, as anyone is closer to any suffering than God ..."

I have always felt called to serve others, and for a few years I have tried to figure out how to be God's hands and feet on earth, but it was after hearing this sentence that I realized that I had to do more. In my own city of even anywhere else in Canada, I could serve others, but I would not be the most effective, because I am not, and have never been a "suffering" person. While speaking to a woman, during the weekend (at Heart's Home in the Bronx), I wonder if she could relate to me, as I could not really relate to her. She will probably never know what it is like to go to University, go snowboarding, or not worry about money. Likewise: I have never known what is it to be chronically sick, materially poor, or live in a neighborhood where drugs and violence are common. And unless I live a simple life alongside those who are spiritually and materially poor, and who face these challenges everyday, I will never know.

During my discernment, I have learned that the desires of my heart are put there by God. So, by trying to fulfill His will I should experience peace and joy. This is exactly what I have found in Heart's Home, and thus I am confident I have found the right organization to volunteer with.



The life of prayer is especially what attracted me to Heart's Home. Experiencing how prayer and adoration fit into the missionaries lives was wonderful for me. I can see how this strong prayer life helps them to also live in community and a life of compassion.

*Pictures of  
 Compassion*

In our January newsletter, we introduced our project of photographic prize, exhibition and auction on the theme of "Compassion".

Since then, we have been working very hard on this event, and are proud to announce that the pictures will be displayed in the fall 2006, both at the French Consulate in New York, and at the French embassy in Washington, DC !

If you want to participate and submit your pictures, please check our website.

[www.heartshomeusa.org](http://www.heartshomeusa.org)

*Staff News*

*Thank you, Mayeul !*

Mayeul finished his 8-month internship at Heart's Home, assisting the administration team.

We thank Mayeul for his dedication to the expansion of Heart's Home in the US, especially for his amazing job with our website (check it out!)

[www.heartshomeusa.org](http://www.heartshomeusa.org)

If you know anyone who would be interested in our internship opportunities, contact us:

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## Focus on Heart's Home in Honduras

I would like to tell you some of the good that is being done here because of your generosity and prayers.

First; there is Lesandro a 15 year old boy who is mentally retarded and has been bed ridden for a year. The best way to describe his body is to think of the old pictures from Ethiopia. He is literally only skin and bone and the only words I have heard him speak is "Agua" and "Lele" his name. He has literally eaten a hole in his bed and lives inside of it. He is constantly soaked wet and suffers tremendously. Last year his femur was broken and he has never gone to the doctor to get it fixed. He has now finally been brought to the doctor and we are getting him to therapy three times a week and the med's attention he so desperately needs.

Second: There is an extremely poor family we visit often that lives very close. One of our visits one of the six children was crying the whole entire time. So we asked why and the mother replied because he is hungry. A little girl came in with what looked like apple cider we asked where she had gotten it and she replied from the drainage ditch out back. I felt like taking each of those kids with me. Truly heartbreaking. The next day we had all of them come to the house. We brought them to Mother Theresa's sisters of charity where they received enough food for the month. These are just two of the many things that are being done to help thanks to each of you and God the Father.

Edward

### Facts

-The Heart's Home Santa Maria Goretti opened in 1998 in a poor neighborhood of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, right after hurricane Mitch devastated the country.

-The team of 5 Heart's Home missionaries serve more than 300 people from their neighborhood, including 100 children on a regular basis

-The missionaries especially assist refugees from hurricane Mitch living in extreme poverty.



## From Heart's Home in the Bronx: "Man's one thirst is a Presence"

"Man's one thirst, which goes on from generation to generation and from place to place, is a Presence." Since I arrived in New York, these words of Father Thierry have stayed with me. This is a profound thirst, which man often expresses through a cry or plea full of anguish.

I was thinking about an AIDS patient that we used to visit with Emmanuel. He had great difficulty breathing and was in extreme agony. He told us how difficult it was for him and confided to us his simple prayer that God would come to save him. He also explained: "And then there are the nurses... They do nothing but pass by, they never stay with me. Yet it would be so much easier with a presence...".



There is also the story of Gloria, another patient who already had lost her husband and one of her sons. She greeted us in her room with a beautiful smile and after a moment said to us: "You know me. I simply want to live..." Then she told us that in the previous few weeks she had been in intensive care, lying in a coma. She had seen herself leaving this world. Then the grandmother brought her 9 year old grandson to see his mom. The child exclaimed, "I do not want mom to die. Can't we ask for a miracle?" He then took his mother's hand in his. This gesture would save her, as little by little she regained consciousness! It is astonishing to see how much a simple gesture, a simple presence, can change a life.

Each Thursday afternoon when we go to the hospital with Emmanuel, we do not propose anything other than to be this presence, this extended hand, this smile which can help one continue.

I still remember the cry of another patient that we visit. He began pouring out his soul to us, interjecting It hurts! between sentences: "I have wasted my whole life. I did not know how to say yes when someone extended a hand to help me... It hurts..."

I took drugs and became estranged from my family... It hurts!... And I have sunk even lower... It hurts!... Today, at thirty, I am in the street, I do not have a job, I no longer have friends... It hurts!... I feel like Adam in the garden of Eden; I rejected God... It hurts!" Then, he looked at us for a long time and confided: "But your presence brings hope to me, it tells me that there is more, that all is not lost!"

Sr. Regine

