



DISTANCE ADOPTION FOR KIDS WITH DIABILITIES, CAMBODIA **Education for All**

When La Valla School was established in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in 1998 many of the young primary school children with disabilities were land mine victims from the aftermath of the Indo-Chinese wars. It takes \$30 to manufacture a landmine and \$3000 to find and disable one!! It was an outrage that children could be so affected by such human destruction.

An equal outrage is that the present students at La Valla have disabilities bought about by such preventable diseases as Polio. All the teachers at the school have a physical disability as well, demonstrating to the students that it is possible to be successful in life.

La Valla has been well supported over the years by a wide variety of NGOs, funding agencies and a lot of Marist help. Most of that support has gone into building, training and education programs. It has been difficult to find funds for recurrent expenditure – day to day running costs such as food, transport and teachers salaries.

Autare i Bambini (AiB), an NGO in Italy are providing a subsidy of €16 pa for each student to be spent on anything that will benefit the student (within budget guidelines). AiB is interested in doing the same for Marist students in Philippines and Solomon Islands.

Marist Solidarity will use your support to provide the administrative capacity to assist LaValla in maintaining six monthly updates on each sponsored child to AiB.

Their system is different from many of the ‘sponsor-a-child’ programs with which we are familiar, in that they guarantee not to be intrusive or to attempt to ‘own’ the child.

Marists will make a local contribution by funding the work required to set up this program with the administrative features required by AiB.

