No Gift in the Klongs

AFFLUENT tourists visit the Klongs of Bangkok, large, uncontrolled canals where the poor live. Each klong is a world by itself, with its own businesses, schools, and temples. This place is a life struggle to survive. Otherwise, the Klongs would be flooded.

The Klongs are run today by the Holy Redeemer Sisters, a religious order. One thousand, six hundred and fifty girls live in the Klongs, in small apartments with two rooms, an outside toilet, and a shower. This is an economic miracle. At times, there are 15,000 Klong children in Bangkok. There are 30 Klong schools with 20,000 students in 200 classrooms.

The girls in the Klongs are 'sisters' of the Sisters of the Holy Redeemer. They are students of Sacred Heart Academy, and are in courses with their teachers at Sacred Heart. Most of the teachers are Ukrainians, but there are also some of the Holy Redeemer Sisters who are Thai. The students are all Catholic, and are taught in English.

The school year is divided into three terms, January to June, July to December, and January to June of the following year. The students wear uniforms, and are taught religion and Latin. The girls are encouraged to stay in the Klongs and work hard, so that they can be professionals in the future.

The girls are taught about the history of the Klongs, and how they came to be. They are taught about the philosophy of the Holy Redeemer Sisters, and about the Catholic faith. The girls are encouraged to be Catholic, and to be proud of their Klong heritage.

The girls in the Klongs are taught about the importance of education, and the need to work hard. They are taught to be proud of their Catholic faith, and to be proud of their Klong heritage. The girls are taught to be good Catholics, and to be good citizens of the Klongs.

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