

3

MESSAGES

From the Vatican on Behalf of Pope Francis

23 May 2016

Dear Father Gay,

His Holiness Pope Francis was pleased to learn that the Congregation of the Mission will hold its General Assembly at De Paul University, Chicago, from 26 June to 15 July 2016, and he sends good wishes to you and all your brother Vincentians gathered for this important occasion.

As you reflect on your charism and the life of the Congregation, the Holy Father assures you of his spiritual closeness and prayers. Conscious that “the joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus... [and that] with Christ joy is constantly born anew” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 1), he encourages you to see in these days of deliberations and prayer an opportunity to deepen your bonds of friendship with the Lord and one another. In this way, you will kindle anew your love of Jesus and, refreshed in your own experience of his mercy and love, you and your brothers will be ever more effective in witnessing to God and in evangelizing society, especially in your ministry to the poor, the forgotten, and those most in need.

With these sentiments, His Holiness commends you to the intercession of Saint Vincent de Paul, and he willingly imparts his Apostolic Blessing to you, as a pledge of peace and joy in the Lord Jesus.

Yours sincerely,



✠ Angelo Becciu
Substitute

Vatican, 6 June 2016

Dear Confreres,

In fraternal unity and full of hope, I cordially greet you at the beginning of your General Assembly. I pray the Lord to give you a heart open to the inspirations of the Spirit and generous enough to meet the challenges that, in this time of convulsions, the Church and the world place before your consciousness as heirs of the Vincentian charism.

Saint Vincent, a man of the Church, painfully felt its internal weaknesses and its absence in the world of human suffering. With all his zeal, he spent himself in lifting up the people from their misery, but he did not forget the internal problems of the Church, in particular, deficiencies in the formation of the clergy. He had a global vision of the spiritual situation of his time. He is, thus, an example and an invitation to the Congregation of the 21st century. There is, indeed, among us, a certain tendency to narrow the scope of our activity to the social domain alone, with the danger, because of insidious secularization, of seeing only material poverty and physical misery, forgetting the essential misery is that of overlooking God and the transcendent destiny of humankind. Saint Vincent warned the confreres against the people “of a narrow outlook.” We must not limit our field of action to the social domain. Let us be as large as Saint Vincent was, open to the needs of the Church and the world.

After 12 years of faithful service, Father Gregory Gay will leave the helm of the Congregation in other hands. For his tireless dedication to the Congregation and the Daughters of Charity, for his fraternal closeness to the confreres throughout the world, for his simplicity and goodness of heart, we owe him sincere and lasting gratitude. I cannot forget his close collaborators, the Vicar General, Francisco Javier Álvarez, the four Assistants, the Treasurer, and the Secretary General. To all, we say thank you. May the conviction of service accomplished, fill them with joy and give them strength for the missions to which the Lord will call them in the future.

With my gratitude and my very cordial remembrance in Saint Vincent,

Francis Cardinal Rodé, CM

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From the Superioress General to the Superior General

Reverend G. Gregory Gay, CM
Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission

XLII General Assembly DePaul University Chicago

27 June, 2016

Dear Father Gregory and Members of the XLII General Assembly of the Congregation of the Mission.

Please be very assured of our prayers as you open your General Assembly today. We, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, are united with you in spirit as you strive to allow yourselves to be renewed by the missionary vitality of your Vincentian vocation. We are confident that your 400 years of fidelity to your charism will serve as a solid foundation for the sacred sharings which will be a part of your next three weeks at DePaul University in Chicago and will direct your resolutions for the future.

We have prayed specifically for you and your intentions in our Motherhouse Chapel in Paris this morning asking our Lord to send His Spirit into your hearts. May this Divine Guidance enable you to discern with courage and creative fidelity the response which your charism calls you to make as you seek to audaciously respond as a Congregation to the needs of those who are poor at this time.

We promise to continue our daily prayers for each of you. We are confident that St. Vincent DePaul and the Communion of our Vincentian Saints and Blesseds will also graciously intercede on your behalf!

Gratefully united in our Vincentian Spirit and Mission,

Sister Kathleen Appler,
*Superioress General and the Company
of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul*

From the Superioress General to Father Tomáš

5 July 2016

Father Tomáš Mavrič, CM
Superior General

Dear Father,

The Daughters of Charity around the world join with me in faith, joy, and availability to welcome you as their Superior General. With all of the Fathers and Brothers of the Congregation of the Mission, we thank the Lord for your election and offer to Him our prayers.

Sister Kathleen Appler
Sister Kathleen Appler
Daughter of Charity

From the Superioress General to Father Gregory

5 July 2016

Father Gregory GAY

Dear Father,

All Daughters of Charity share your joy and that of the Fathers and Brothers of the Congregation of the Mission at the announcement of the election of Father Tomáš Mavrič as Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and of the Company of the Daughters of Charity. They accompany the rest of the work of your General Assembly with their prayers.

They express to you, Father, their very respectful gratitude and ask God to bless you and to translate into graces all the “thank yous” that fill their hearts!

Sister Kathleen Appler
Sister Kathleen Appler
Daughter of Charity