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Superior's General Canonical Visitation of the Chinese Province



Fr. Ferdinand Labitag, CM Visitor of China

Expectations and Preparations

In every visit, there are expectations and preparations. A visit by someone who is highly regarded by everyone generates more. The visit of the Superior General Father Tomaž Mavrič to the Chinese Province produced expectations from every confrere and member of the Vincentian Family in China and Taiwan. However, it also entailed detailed preparations.

Father Tomaž Mavrič and Father Mathew Kallammakal, Assistant General responsible for Asia-Pacific Region, first came to Mainland China staying from 11 to 16 April there. This mission place is close to heart of the Congregation of the Mission. Hearing of their coming brought about hope to confreres and other members of the Vincentian Family in China. All were expecting him to give them a chance to show who they are, what they do, and what they have, yet with a price to pay – to anticipate the expected and the unexpected. With a very limited time for a vast country, they were able to go only to some parts of Hebei Province and Tianjin. For confreres, having a few hours to cram themselves clandestinely in a hotel room just to share their hopes and challenges – with no disturbance from religious police – was beyond their expectation. They were expecting the expected, but it never happened. For other communities of the Vincentian Family, they were lucky enough to have meaningful exchanges of hopes and challenges in a more open space without fear of intimidation or interruption, which maybe for

Father Tomaž was beyond his expectation.

Visiting Taiwan was different. It needed more preparation by organizing every activity in every place – all the details without expecting the unexpected. Thus, in days between 17 and 21 April 2018 Father Tomaž and Father Mathew went to every CM site around Taiwan knowing they would be welcomed with wellprepared activities. Their visit gave an understanding of how confreres through the years search for and serve people who are “the least and the last” in a developed country like Taiwan.

Whatever impressions the Superior General gave us, they will be etched forever in our hearts, knowing that one day he will visit again. That is our expectation, and we have years of preparation.

Here is the roundup of the journey.

Day One, April 11. Arrival to Beijing. The first Mass in celebrated in China with confreres which was arranged in a hotel in Beijing. The Eucharist and dialog with Confreres were the first moments of the visit.

Day Two, April 12. A visit to the Daughters of Charity community in the city of Tianjin. Fr. Tomaž and Fr. Matthew had a dialog with the sisters and two confreres who are ministering in the area. The Eucharist followed in the church where sisters are ministering.

Day Three, April 13. Meeting with the “underground Church”. They visited a parish where one of the Confreres works. The parish belongs to so called “underground church”. Eucharist, very simple, not announced earlier was we celebrated with several parishioners attending it. Later, the guests had a meal with the family of one parishioner in his place. This visit was an opportunity to learn what a typical, rural underground church parish is like.

Day Four, April 14. The main activity of the day was a visit at the construction site of the future mission center of the Province. It will be a six-floor building where the formation center for lay and clergy a canonical house of the Chinese Province in mainland China is planned in the future. The Guests visited a local bishop, too.

Day Five, April 15. Sunday was the last day of the stay in the Mainland and a journey to Taiwan.

Day Six - Seven, April 16 - 17. The first activity in Taiwan was a visit to the east coast where Vincentians minister among indigenous Dawu people. They went to city of Jinlun-Taitung to visit the parish of St. Joseph. This is a beautiful shrine with a lot of pieces of local art and a chapel with perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. They met with parishioners and had lunch together. Later they move to another town of Dawu to celebrate the Mass and bless the cornerstone of the building soon to be built.

Day Eight, April 18. The visitors from Rome moved to the south of the island to the town of Kaohsiung. Confreres run several ministries there. Parishioners cordially welcomed them for the celebration of Eucharist.

Day Nine, April 19. A visit in the town of Tainan. Fr. Tomaž met Confreres living there and representatives of other groups of the Vincentian Family. At first they paid courtesy visit to Msgr Lin, the bishop of the Diocese of Tainan. Next, they visited a nursing home run by the Daughters of Charity and celebrated the Eucharist together with parishioners and members of the Vincentian Family.

Day Ten, April 20. The Guests moved back to Yunlin and they visited Saint Vincent High School in She Hu. The students welcomed them with special presentations. Chinese confreres established this school to provide

education to young people from rural and poor families in the area.



Day Eleven, April 21. Back in Taipei. Staying in the community house was the final part of the visitation. Confreres organized a simple Mass as opening of the visit in the house.

Joined APVC and CCC meeting. Superior General and to Assistants General, Fr. Matthew Kallamakal and Fr. Miles Heinen took part in the joined meetings of APVC – Asia-Pacific Visitors Conference and Commission on Culture and Charism (CCC) held in Taipei, Taiwan, April 22 and 25.

On Sunday, April 22, Provincials of Asia-Pacific Visitors Conference (APVC) and delegates of Commission on Charism and Culture (CCC) were welcomed by parishioners and members of the Vincentian Family for the Eucharist in Shilin Church, Taipei. Msgr. John Hong, the Archbishop of Taipei chaired the liturgy.

On Monday, April 23, Superior General took part in the joined meetings of APVC – Asia-Pacific Visitors Conference and Commission on Culture and Charism (CCC) held in Taipei, Taiwan Fr. Tomaž shared with participants some initiatives undertaken by the Curia. He expressed his expectations of what APVC should do in next 3 years, namely the opening of 3-4 new missions in Asia. Later APVC members continued discussion on other matters expressed and CCC had their separate meeting

On Wednesday, April 25 Superior General visited St. Anne’s House in Taipei where he met with delegates from various branches of the Vincentian Family. They talked about their organizations and ministries. He also visited children who have been living in this institution.



Annual Assembly of CEVIM in Beirut (Lebanon)



Fr. Giuseppe Turati, CM, Secretary General

From 8-13 of this month of April 2018, the Visitors that make up CEVIM (Conference of Visitors from Europe and the Middle East) met in Beirut (Lebanon) to hold its annual Assembly.

Although Sunday, the 8th, was not part of the program of the meeting as such, it was, however, a good prologue, because the Visitors accompanied Archbishop Georges Bou Jaoudé, CM, Maronite Prelate of Tripoli (Lebanon) and former Visitor of the Province of the Orient, in the celebration of his 50 years of priesthood. An Eucharist was celebrated in the Maronite Rite at the Church of the Miraculous Medal in Achrafié, Beirut.

Thirteen Visitors participated in this CEVIM meeting, as well as the Executive Secretary; Father Javier Álvarez, Vicar General; and Father Miles Heinen, Assistant General. In addition, five translators collaborated with the simultaneous translation in Spanish, English, French, Italian, and Polish.

The meeting was structured into two aspects, the CEVIM topics and the formation topics, properly so-called, without forgetting other complementary dimensions such as cultural, religious, and Vincentian visits.

In the first part – the CEVIM topics – a wide range of important issues were studied; for example, initial formation in Europe and the Middle East; the

Interprovincial Internal Seminary in the Mediterranean area; the Scholasticate for Europe; the Solidarity Project among the Provinces of the Congregation of the Mission; the CEVIM website; the European meeting of students of the Congregation of the Mission in Villebon (France), scheduled for 24 August of this year; the appointment of the CEVIM Delegate to the UN in the person of Father Abdo Eid; and, finally, the election of the new president of CEVIM for the coming years, which fell to Father Ziad Haddad, Visitor of the Province of Orient.

The second part – that of formation – dealt with “the Islamic-Christian Relationship in Europe and the Middle East.” A series of speakers presented, with depth and great knowledge, topics such as: “Eastern Christians and the Challenges of Living Together. Dialogue and Mission in an Interreligious Context”; “Trends in Contemporary Islam. New Theological Approaches in Islam”; “Islam, Extremism, and Islamophobia”; “The Presence and Work of the Congregation of the Mission in the Middle East. Role of the Vincentian Missionaries in the World of Islam.”

Among the visits, the most outstanding were those made to the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See in Beirut, the Druze Muslim Community of Chouf, the San Charbel Sanctuary, the historic Phoenician city of Byblos, and, of course, visits to Vincentian Works: Center for Migrant and Refugee Children in Beirut; College of the Congregation of the Mission in Antoura;

remodeling of the house that will be a center for Islamic-Christian Studies of the Congregation of the Mission in the Middle East.

Our warmest thanks to the Province of the Middle East for its welcome, hospitality, and affection, especially to Father Ziad Haddad (Visitor of the Province of the Middle East), Father Toni Fayad (Treasurer of the Provincial House), and Father Abdo Eid.



COVIAM: Conference of Visitors of Africa and Madagascar



Fr. Nestor Gomez, CM, Region Rwanda-Burundi

Abba Hagos Tewelde, rector of the common theologate of COVIAM in Enugu; Cyril Mbata, Visitor of Nigeria; Memheru Mekonnen, Visitor of Etiopía; Ondoua Clemente, Visitor of Cameroon; Moninga Léon, International Mission in Chad; Alexandre ZR, Visitor of Madagascar; Nestor Gomez, Regional Superior of Rwanda-Burundi; Edwin Mugwe, Representative of Kenya; Ansgar A. Lugomi, Regional Superior of Tanzania; Yout de Bernardin, Visitor de Congo; Zeracristos Yosief, Assistant General, Rome; José Luís Fernandes, Visitor of Mozambique and President of COVIAM; Justin Eke, economo at Enugu; Emmanuel Typamm, Coordinator of Systemic Change in Africa; Guillermo Campuzano, representative of the Congregation at the United Nations; Cine Inueiua, Secretary COVIAM.

The meeting of COVIAM took place in Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of Congo from April 18-20, 2018 at the Carmelite Center Teresianum.

This meeting provided the participants with an opportunity to pray and reflect together on the current situation of the mission of the Congregation in Africa and Madagascar. This process is engaged in by the superiors of the various Provinces, Vice-Provinces, Regions and Missions.

Matters discussed

One of the primary themes was to report on and evaluate the common formation plan at the theologate at Enugu Nigeria (common formation program for Africa and Madagascar). The program is moving forward in a positive manner but there is

an urgent need for a French speaking Missionary who can serve as spiritual director. The construction of the second set of rooms has begun and this will create accommodations for a greater number of seminarists. The redaction of the Formation Plan is also moving forward and a commission will complete this task.

In 2019 COVIAM will celebrate its 25th Anniversary. COVIAM was born in Kinshasa in 1994 and Fr. Zeracristos was its first secretary. A commission was appointed to organize the celebration of this anniversary. Next year our meeting will be held in Enugu where we will celebrate this anniversary and, if possible, inaugurate the new building.

Father Leon, the new superior at the International Mission in Chad, gave a report on the ministry in that country. The mission is moving forward and two bishops in this country have requested the presence of the Congregation: the archbishop of Djamena requests the presence of the Congregation at a minor seminary and the bishop of Doba requests our presence in order to administer a parish.

The Vice-Province of Mozambique requests the support of Missionaries who are willing to serve in the mission in that country. In the near future it is hoped that the members of this Vice-Province will be able to serve in other countries (young men are in formation) but at the present time, the Vice-Province

needs assistance.

Father Emmanuel Typamm, Coordinator of the Systemic Change Commission in Africa presented some of its proposals and invited those present to look at the ways in which this methodology can implemented in accord with the lines of action of the 2016 General Assembly. It was suggested that each province follow the lead of Cameroon and Rwanda-Burundi who have established systemic change commissions. Father Emmanuel concluded his presentation by saying: to reject systemic change is to impoverish the church.

Father Guillermo Campuzano, the representative of the Congregation of the Mission at the United Nations, spoke to us about the 2030 development goals of this organization. He also spoke with us about his ministry there and requested each Visitor to appoint a confrere to work with him as a member of the International Vincentian Network for Justice and Peace and the Integrity of Creation (VIN-JIPC). As a conclusion we all committed ourselves to become more knowledgeable about the agenda of the United Nations. It was also noted that many of the UN development goals are closely aligned with proposals put forth by Pope Francis in his encyclical Laudato Si and in the Pope's own approach to the mission of the Church.

Translated: Charles T. Plock, CM
Eastern Province, USA

APVC Meeting Highlights

Fr. Gregg Bañaga, Jr., CM - Visitor of Philippines



The APVC Annual Meeting was held at the Provincial House of the Chinese Province in Taipei. There were 18 participants composed of all the 7 Provincial Visitors, 2 Superiors of Mission, members of the Culture and Charism Committee (CCC) and the Superior General and two Assistants General. It started on April 22, 2018 with the Sunday mass at the CM Parish in Shilin District presided by Bishop John Hung of Taipei. After the mass the Parish served lunch and organized a little program for the guests. This was followed by a tour of Taiwan landmarks such as the National Palace Museum, the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall, the Chiang-Kai-shek Memorial Hall and Taiwan 101.

On Monday, April 23, the sessions started with the Eucharist presided by Fr. Miles Heinen, CM, Assistant General. Fr. Vijay Kumar Nayak, CM. (India North), President of the APVC welcomed the Provincial Visitors and the members of the Curia: Frs. Tomaž Mavrič, CM., Matthew Kallammakal, CM., and Miles Heinen, CM. The Superior General gave a talk. Among the topics he discussed were: strengthening the CM identity by regular reading of the Common Rules and the Constitutions and Statutes, and making efforts to resolve cases of illegitimate absences of confreres. He also reiterated the themes/topics that are contained in his letter at the Closing of the 400th year celebration of the Vincentian Charism. Among these are the Global Alliance for Homelessness, the Vincentian Film Festival (“Finding Vincent 400”), fostering devotion to the Vincentian Blesseds and Saints, and the promotion of a “culture of vocation”. He also expressed his desire that the APVC would start/strengthen missions in Sri Lanka, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

Fr. Gregg Bañaga, Jr., CM presented the Common Internal Seminary for Asia and the Pacific in the morning of the first day. The group approved the project and made the following decisions:

1. The Common Internal Seminary will be in Trece Martires, Cavite City, Philippines starting on the first week of July 2019.
2. For the first year, there will be only 12 candidates coming from Oceania (3), Philippines (3), India North (2), Indonesia (2), and Vietnam (2).



3. The sending Provinces will shoulder the board-and-lodging of the candidates. Provinces who have difficulty paying can ask help from other Provinces.
4. The site development plan made by Arch. Jean Cornejo, former Dean of Architecture of Adamson University was presented and approved. For a start, only one single detached house to accommodate 12 candidates and a new refectory will be built. If there are more candidates in the future, other houses can be built. The existing structures will be renovated and/or expanded.
5. The funds to build the new structures will be sourced from the Vincentian Solidarity Office (VSO). The other Provinces are also expected to donate for the construction of the new structures as well as the renovation of the existing ones.
6. The formators will be mainly from the Philippines. Formators from other Provinces will be invited to give talks/sessions and visit their candidates during the year.
7. The IS directors will meet on November 7-9, 2018 in the Philippines in order to prepare a common IS Program. Fr. Vic Torres, CM shall host this meeting.
8. Vietnam is planning to send their candidates to study English for a couple of months before the start of the IS.

In the afternoon, Fr. Miles Heinen, CM presented the

Solidarity Project. This project is focuses on fostering solidarity among the various Provinces of the CM in relation to financial resources or the “patrimony of the poor.” It includes more efficient management and reporting of finances, accountability, transparency, training of Provincial Economes, sourcing funds from different agencies and fundraising initiatives from the Provinces.

The following days were spent on listening to reports from different Provinces. Fr. Biju Chittooparamban, CM, Executive Secretary of the APVC also made his report. At some point the members of the Culture and Charism Committee (CCC) were invited into the room. The chair presented his report and asked the mind of the APVC regarding their responsibilities as a group.

At the end of the presentations and discussions, the APVC made the following resolutions:

1. The Culture and Charism Committee (CCC) is officially disbanded. Instead, list of resource persons with expertise and specialization will be created. These persons can be asked to do research and reflection for the Asia Pacific region and may be invited as resource persons during regional meetings, workshops, conferences, etc.
2. The host Province (and not the CCC) shall organize the APVC workshops/seminars for formation, social work, parish ministry, popular missions, education, etc.
3. The organizing Province may ask any of the resource persons to assist, e.g. give reflections or talks.
4. Indonesia will host the APVC Popular Mission experience and sharing program from July 12-16, 2018. A maximum of 3 confreres per Province may attend.
5. The Asia Pacific Regional Formators Workshops will be hosted by North India in 2019; Vietnam in 2021 and Philippines in 2023.
6. South India will host the 2020 Workshop for



6-day program.

7. Oceania will host a workshop on preventing sexual abuse of minors later this year. All Provinces are encouraged to send at least one participant.
8. Oceania will also host the Education Ministry meeting in 2022.
9. The Philippines will host the APVC meeting in 2019.
10. The APVC website will be managed by the Executive Secretary. It has been developed in North India but will be transferred to the Philippines eventually.

The APVC gathering was not all meeting. The delegates had a chance to talk to each other about issues, collaboration and plans. Aside from the daily Eucharist and prayers, the delegates went to the famous Shillin “night market” and visited St. Anne’s Home, a subsidiary of the Buenen Foundation, which is a CM foundation for children with disabilities. The Chinese Province did a superb job in organizing the meeting.

On the last day, Fr. Gregg Bañaga, Jr., CM was elected President of the APVC for the next 3 years. The Executive Secretary will be appointed from the Philippines.



One Saint speaking of another Saint



Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM, Superior General

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the Servant of God - Bishop Janez Frančišek Gnidovec, CM

As we begin the fifth century of the Vincentian Charism, we are encouraged by the example of thousands upon thousands of our brothers and sisters in the Vincentian Family who lived, with all their hearts, souls, and minds, the Vincentian charism and spirituality throughout the 400 years since our foundation. They passed on to us God's gift, a way to sanctity, so that we, in turn, might hand it over to future generations. The Church also recognizes many of them officially as Saints, Blessed, and Servants of God.

Among these is the Servant of God, Bishop Janez Frančišek Gnidovec, CM, whose process for beatification has been completed and now is awaiting a miracle so that the Church might recognize him officially as blessed.

As members of the Vincentian Family, but, of course, not just limited to its members, we all have a wonderful opportunity to turn to the many Saints, Blessed, and Servants of God in our Family. We ask them to intercede for us before Jesus for our different intentions and needs, to help us, and all those for

whom we pray, on our day-to-day pilgrimage on earth.

At the end of January and the beginning of February 2018, the Superioress General of the Daughters of Charity, Sister Kathleen Appler; the General Councillor, Sister Hanna Cybula; the Visitor of our Province of Italy, Father Nicola Albanesi; the Visitatrix of the Province of Slovenia, Sister Francka Saje; the Superior of the community at the General Curia of the Congregation of the Mission, Father Giuseppe Carulli; and I visited Albania and Kosovo. In all the places we visited, we felt the vivid spiritual presence of and the memory the people have for Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She was of Albanian origin, born in Skopje, the capital of Macedonia.

In addition to Mother Teresa's spiritual presence and memory among the people in Albania and Kosovo, we also felt the same for the Servant of God, Bishop Janez Frančišek Gnidovec, CM. He was the Bishop of the Diocese of Skopje-Prizren, a territory where many Albanians lived, including Mother Teresa.

Bishop Gnidovec knew Mother Teresa from her childhood. He accompanied her in her early years and he was one of the tools in Jesus's hands to help Mother

Teresa discover her vocation to consecrated life and to make the final decision to give herself totally to Jesus. Bishop Gnidovec celebrated the Eucharist at which Mother Teresa was present before she left from home to enter the consecrated life.

Years later, when Janez Frančišek Gnidovec's beatification process began, Mother Teresa was asked to be one of the witnesses. She wrote a short note in the Croatian language. A copy, in her own handwriting, is attached.

The note reads:

Our Bishop Gnidovec was a saint. Everyone called him by this name. He was truly a priest according to Jesus's heart, with a gentle and humble heart.

When I was leaving for the missions, he celebrated the Eucharist for me, gave me Holy Communion, blessed me, and said:

“You are going to the missions. Give it all to Jesus, live just for Him, be only His, love Him alone, offer yourself solely to Him. Let Jesus be all in your life.”

I am convinced that he prays for me and that I have in him an intercessor before Jesus.

Mother Teresa, MC

<p>Rome, 28/9/82 Stari Nadbiskup Gnidovec On je bio 'sveta' osoba ga svi ljudi po svom imenu - On je bio pravi svetnik. prošao sam sa njim. blaga i plemenita osoba kad sam ja odlazila u Skoplje - On je pitao me za moju misao - da mi je sv pravo i blagovolje!</p>	<p>rekao: 'Ti odet ćeš misije Daj Jesusu sve - svi samo ka Mjega - ljudi samo Mjega - ljudi samo Mjega - ljudi samo ka Mjega - Mjega Jesus kaže 'Sve' a ti odet svote - 'Ja sam neposredno do tvojih misli - i da ti kažem ja imam kod Boga zaštitnika u tvojim mislima'</p>
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BLAŽENA AGNES GONXHA BOJAXHIU – MATI TEREZIJA IZ KALKUTE
 PISNO PRIČEVANJE O ŠKOFU GNIDOVČU (HRANI ARHIV MISIJSKE DRUŽBE V LJUBLJANI)

A saint speaking of another saint.

May this wonderful life story and example help us to regularly turn our eyes to heaven and ask for the intercession of the Saints, Blessed, and Servants of God of the Vincentian Family to accompany us who are still on our earthly pilgrimage. They are eager to help us!

Through our trust, confidence, and faith, miracles will continue to happen and those whom the Church does not yet recognize officially as Saints, Blessed, and Servants of God will, through our prayers, their intercessions, and the miracles accepted by the Church, be acknowledged formally as Saints.

Of course, the Saints, as such, do not need this recognition. It is for our sake. We need these extraordinary examples of Christian life to help us reach the ultimate goal of every Christian, of every human being, life in heaven, eternally united with Jesus, attaining all our deepest desires forever and ever.

As we continue or begin to take this road, I would like to ask you please to send information about graces and miracles received through the intercession of our Vincentian Family Saints, Blessed, and Servants of God to: the International Vincentian Family Office (VFO), Father Joseph Agostino, CM, at vfo@famvin.org.

That office will forward the information to the persons responsible for the various processes of our Blessed and Servants of God, the Vice-Postulators in the different countries where the processes are taking place or to the Postulator General for the entire Vincentian Family in Rome, Father Giuseppe Guerra, CM.

May our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Saints, Blessed, and Servants of God of the Vincentian Family, intercede for us!

A short biography of Bishop Janez Frančišek Gnidovec, CM:

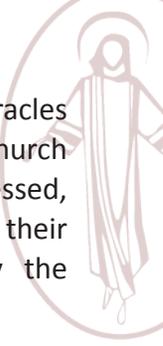
English: http://gnidovec.si/l_english.htm

French: http://gnidovec.si/l_france.htm

Spanish: http://gnidovec.si/l_spain.htm

Italian: http://gnidovec.si/l_italy.htm

German: http://gnidovec.si/l_germany.htm



Blessed Ramose Lucien Botovasoa, Martyr of Faith and Charity



+ Marc Benjamin Ramaroson, C.M. Archbishop of Antsiranana

Vohipeno is a district center of Madagascar's southeastern region and is located in the diocese of Farafangana, 42km from Manakara, the nearest town. An exceptional event took place in this village of more than 10,000 inhabitants. In three days, Vohipeno watched its population quadruple! Why? No words can properly describe this event that took place on Sunday, April 15, 2018. This day has seen crowds converging not only from the four corners of the island but even the world, a mass of people composed of Catholics, non-Catholics, religious, non-religious, believers, non-believers, politicians on all sides, from journalists eager for sensational news or those who were just curious... More than 80,000 people gathered in Vohipeno so that they would not miss a milestone event in all the history of this capital of the country, Antemoro, already well known by historians and anthropologists accustomed to historical events... However, there has never been a beatification in the region!

At the entrance to Vohipeno is a small hill of Tanjomoha. It was there that Father Deguise, a Lazarist (Vincentian) who became a monk, chose to live as a hermit. He was the first Postulator of the cause of Lucien Botovasoa in the time of the first Bishop of the Farafangana Diocese, Monsignor Chilouet, CM (1964) at Tanjomoha. Whether by grace or coincidence, it is

this same hill where, 50 years later, organizers chose to celebrate the beatification of Lucien Botovasoa.

For these 80 000 pilgrims Tanjomoha hill became a real "Mount Tabor" (the mountain of the Transfiguration, Mark 9). Why? For a few hours during the Beatification celebration of Lucien Botovasoa, the pilgrims experienced what the three disciples experienced at Mount Tabor during the transfiguration of Our Lord. Like Peter, everyone had a very intense moment and nobody wanted to leave... It was a real Pentecost too... Hearts were burning on hearing the beautiful homily of Cardinal Piat, the Pope's Legate, participating in the beautiful songs and together following the well-paced liturgical gestures. Like the disciples of Emmaus who, after having met the risen Lord, returned to Jerusalem to announce the joy of Easter, these crowds are now happy to have been touched by grace. After having seen the wonders of God, they wish everyone to be together; in the wake of the new Blessed Lucien Botovasoa, now they too desire to be peacemakers and reconcilers. And, why not? Why not be called to be witnesses to justice and truth? At this moment the country needs it so much!

But who is Lucien Botovasoa, the new Blessed? Let's just go back to the official presentation. Those who want to have more details can refer to the beautiful

book of François Noiret, the Vice-Postulator published by Editions de St Paul d'Antananarivo (there's both a Malagasy version and a French version). There is also a cartoon graphic strip (see photo).

“Lucien was born in 1908 in Vohipeno (Madagascar, Vatovavy Fitovinany region); he was baptized at 14 years old. Dying at age 39, he lived all his life as a Christian, a father, a Catholic teacher, and a committed Franciscan tertiary. He gave his all to the Lord and to others as a true apostle of charity and faith. But the summit of this life was the “crown of martyrdom” on April 17, 1947, when, during the unrest that broke out during the War of Independence, Lucien demonstrated his unending search for reconciliation.

Although he was not a writer, his life is a “book written in the light of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus”.

His martyrdom, like that of all Christians throughout the ages since Saint Stephen, imitates Jesus’ passion. All that Jesus lived from the Roman courts to Golgotha, we find almost to the letter in the story of our own Blessed’s martyrdom. I quote only this prayer that he pronounced before dying: “O God, forgive my

brothers who are here, because they now have a very difficult duty to fulfill regarding me. (Andriamanitra O Mamela ireto rahalahiko ireto fa sarotra aminyizao adidy ataony amiko izao.) Indeed, like Saint Stephen’s prayer, Lucien’s prayer Lucien was “powerful”, since it brought about the conversion of Tsimihino, the King who had promulgated the death sentence.

Lucien is the one who lived out the real battle, the fight against those evils that eat away at our societies: jealousy, pride and human respect (henamaso) that hides the truth in the face of one’s neighbors so as not to destroy their good favor (ny fihavanana); and it is these same evils which prevent the true development of our Nation.

What especially characterized Lucien’s martyrdom was his love for his compatriots and his persecutors. He has been called Rabefihavanana (the Reconciler).

Translation from French into English

by Dan Paul Borlik, CM Western Province, USA

Archbishop Anton Stres, CM, new adviser at the Pontifical Council for Culture



Archbishop Emerit Anton Stres, CM as the new adviser at the Pontifical Council for Culture. According to Archbishop Janusz, this decision of the Holy Father is a personal recognition not only of Archbishop Stres, but also of the entire Church in Slovenia.

The Pontifical Council for Culture was established to promote the relationship between the gospel and culture. It also strengthens the relationship between the Holy See and representatives of the world of culture and promotes dialogue with various contemporary cultures.

A few days ago, Archbishop Stres celebrated his 50th anniversary as Vincentian priest. At 7:30 in the morning, April 20, 1968, Archbishop Jožef Pogačnik ordained Anton Stres a priest in his private chapel. The next day he celebrated his first Mass in Brezje, and two days later, he returned to France where he continued his studies at the Catholic Institute in Paris

Archbishop Juliusz Janusz, the Apostolic Nuncio in Slovenia, announced that Pope Francis appointed

The Commission for the Promotion of Systemic Change



Fr. Jorge Luis Rodríguez, CM - Communication Office

Each year the General Curia in Rome welcomes the members of the Commission for the Promotion of Systemic Change. This year the meeting took place from 17 to 19 of April with an agenda of evaluating the different activities completed in the last months and of programming what they will do next.

In dialog with the Director of the Office of Communication, Fr. Jorge Luis Rodríguez, some of the members spoke of the difficulties, the positive aspects and the challenges encountered which the Commission will need to address in the future.

The members of the Commission are James Claffey, SSVP; Sister Teresa Mueda, DC; Fr. Mizaël Pogglioli, CM; Sister Teresa Kotturan, SCN; Juan Pablo Jácome, VMY and Fr. Giuseppe Turati, CM, the coordinator of the Commission. While the group manifests a wide cultural and language diversity, over the course of these past months, they have learned to use the richness of this diversity to enhance their work. A Vincentian spirit of service unites them.

The evaluation of the work realized in these last months was very positive. They underlined as successes the harmony in their teamwork as they

overcame the obstacles posed by distance, time and culture. They also noted that in some countries teams are forming that are implementing some interesting projects. Little by little, the continental teams are also becoming stronger in promoting Systemic Change.

Among the deficiencies that the team noted, there are some instances that, after the workshops in the countries or regions, the people leave full of enthusiasm; but then, when it comes to putting theory into practice, they begin to lose their enthusiasm. Another challenge is the lack of commitment of some members of the Vincentian Family to support initiatives. However, we should not generalize this reality because there are countries where collaboration among the Vincentian Family produces extraordinary projects. We are taking steps in the right direction, but it is clear that there is a long way to go.

This year the Commission for Systemic Change, in addition to the formation workshops that they will do in some countries, such as Indonesia, commits itself to support and collaborate with the “The Vincentian Family Initiative on Homelessness”.



General information

NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

RATAJ Franc	27/03/2018 (Start 14/06/18)	Visitor of Slovenia
MÓL SÁNTOS Geraldo Eustáquio	05/05/2018	Visitor of Rio de Janeiro (Confirmed)

ORDINATIONES

NARAPOGU Nageswararo (Yesu)	Sac	INM	14/04/2018
SECLÉN SANDOVAL Cristhian Brian	Sac	PER	21/04/2018

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
LYNCH Francis A.	Sac	27/03/2018	ORL	96	74
ANGULO ARNÁIZ Luis	Sac	04/04/2018	COL	89	71
DA SILVA MARTINS Américo	Sac	11/04/2018	LUS	78	61