

**LETTER FROM THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION
FOR THE 2016 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO THE VISITORS OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION**

“To all whom I send you, you shall go” (Jer 1:7)

March 25, 2014

Dear Confrere,

May the peace of Christ be with us!

The 42nd General Assembly of the Congregation of the Mission will be held at DePaul University in Chicago, IL (USA) from June 27 - July 15, 2016. The motto of the GA2016 is **“Let us allow ourselves to be renewed by the missionary vitality of our Vincentian vocation.”** The Superior General with his Council, in a letter dated December 23, 2013, has announced that the theme of the Assembly will be:

***“The Congregation of the Mission:
four hundred years of fidelity to its charism and the New Evangelization”.***

We, the members of the Preparatory Commission, met in Rome for a meeting on March 10-14, 2014, to begin our planning. Enclosed in this packet are items which we know will be useful for your Domestic and Provincial Assemblies.

We have included a **“Reflection Sheet”** to guide your local communities and your Province in its preparation for GA2016. You will notice that the questions recall the history of our foundation, the work of our previous Assembly, and the challenges which lie ahead of us over the next 6 years. Your response to these questions will aid the Commission in planning the *Instrumentum Laboris* for the GA2016.

We have also included a simple instruction sheet which explains the process we ask you to use during your Domestic and Provincial Assemblies. Along with these instructions, you will find a prayer asking God’s guidance during this process of preparation. Please invite the Confreres of your province to make use of it over the next two years.

Enclosed you will also find an article entitled “A Practical Guide to Provincial Assemblies”. It is meant to be an aid to you in your planning for your Domestic and Provincial Assemblies.

Some items are also provided to help you with the usual tasks:

1. “Indications for the Presentation of Postulates to the General Assembly.” Each Province and confrere has the right to present postulates to the Assembly.
2. “Certificate of the Election of the Delegates for the General Assembly.” Every Province elects delegates to the Assembly according to C. 139 and S. 89 §2.

3. “Data Sheet of Participants to the General Assembly 2016.” We ask that you fill out this form and provide us with a picture of each delegate.

We ask that your Province complete your Domestic and Provincial Assemblies by September 2015. All the results of your deliberations should be sent to the Secretary General so as to arrive at the General Curia no later than **September 30, 2015**. We also ask that all the material be sent by e-mail in Word format to the Secretary General (e-mail: ag2016@cmglobal.org). This will aid the Commission in its work.

2017 marks the 400th anniversary of the birth of our charism. We encourage every Province to celebrate it both on local and Provincial levels. You will see in the “**Reflection Sheet**” that we have provided you with the opportunity to begin planning for these events.

Thank you for your cooperation. May God fill us with his light and strength so that we might continue to be witnesses to those people who are most in need. Through the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul may our missionary vitality be renewed.

Your brothers in Christ,

Joseph Agostino, *Coordinator*
Adam Borowski, *Secretary*
Orlando Escobar
Joaquín González Hernando
Fernando Mucavele
Robertus Wijanarko