

General Assembly 2016

“Reflection Sheet” for Domestic and Provincial Assemblies

**THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION:
FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF FIDELITY TO ITS CHARISM
AND THE NEW EVANGELIZATION**

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

I. 400 years as a Congregation allows us to remember our history

“God is the one who calls us and who, from all eternity, has destined us to be Missioners, since He didn’t bring us to birth either one hundred years earlier or later” (SVP XI, 98, Conference of 29.10.1638).

“You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things” (Vita Consecrata, 110).

1. Share with the confreres your experience in the Congregation (origins, crucial moments, joys, sorrows, etc.).
2. The Congregation of the Mission is called to follow Christ, evangelizing the poor. As we look at our life as Vincentian:
 - 2.1. at the local level:
 - 2.1.1 how do we manifest the charism?
 - 2.1.2 how not?
 - 2.2. at the Provincial level:
 - 2.2.1. how do we manifest the charism?
 - 2.2.2. how not?
 - 2.3. at the level of the Congregation:
 - 2.3.1. how do we manifest the charism?
 - 2.3.2. how not?
3. What recommendations do you have for the celebration of the 400th anniversary of our foundation:
 - 3.1. on the local level?
 - 3.2. on the Provincial level?

II. 400 years as a Congregation invites us to renew our Vincentian missionary vitality

“The Vincentian community is, therefore, organized to prepare its apostolic activity and to encourage and help it continually. And so, members, individually and collectively, should strive to fulfill their common mission through a wholehearted spirit of renewal in fraternal union” (C. 19)

Community and mission.

4.1. In what ways is the communal life in your province sustaining the Vincentian missionary vitality of your apostolates?

4.2. How not?

5.1. In what ways does the apostolate support community life?

5.2. How not?

The Lines of Action of General Assembly 2010

In 2010 the members of the Congregation of the Mission resolved to develop the following Lines of Action:

- 1. Formation (initial and ongoing)*
- 2. Reconfiguration*
- 3. Dialog with the poor and with the Vincentian Family*
- 4. Creativity in our ministries*
- 5. The methodology of Systemic Change*

6. How have the Lines of Action helped us to renew the Vincentian missionary spirit of our Province?

7. Which elements mentioned in the Lines of Action do we need to continue to develop over the next 6 years for the continued growth of our Congregation?

III. 400 years as a Congregation invites us to discover the possibilities and challenges for the New Evangelization

“We need to let ourselves be evangelized by the poor. The new evangelization is an invitation to acknowledge the saving power at work in their lives and to put them at the centre of the Church’s pilgrim way” (Evangelii Gaudium, 198).

8. *“All of us are called to take part in this new missionary “going forth”. Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out” (Evangelii Gaudium, 20).* Today, after 400 years, which five specific contributions should the Congregation offer to the New Evangelization?

9. Pope Francis invites us to be *“Spirit-filled Evangelizers” (Evangelii Gaudium, 259).*

9.1. What aspects of our Vincentian spirituality should be reinforced today?

9.2. How vibrant are the ministries of preaching and reconciliation in our lives and apostolates as Vincentians?

10. What should we do to help in the formation:

10.1. of the clergy?

10.2. of the laity?

11. *“Our gracious Father wants to hear the cry of the poor” (Evangelii Gaudium, 187).* How does the cry of the poor resound in/affect you?

12. *“All of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the “peripheries” in need of the light of the Gospel” (Evangelii Gaudium, 20).*

12.1. Where are the peripheries in which your Province is serving?

12.2. What are the peripheries to which your Province should move?

12.3. What are the peripheries to which the Congregation should go?

13. *“The Congregation of the Mission ... should take care to open up new ways and use new means adapted to the circumstances of time and place” (C. 2).* Furthermore, the New Evangelization reminds us that both as Church and Congregation we are international and multicultural, called to work in a spirit of collaboration and solidarity.

13.1. In regard to collaboration (personnel and projects) and solidarity (economic resources):

13.1.1. what is your local community doing?

13.1.2. what is your Province doing?

13.1.3. what more can your Province do?

13.2. In regard to multicultural and international nature of the Congregation:

13.2.1. what are the challenges for your local community?

13.2.2. what are the challenges for your Province?

13.2.3. what are the challenges for the Congregation?

13.2.4. should the Superior General and his Council promote the International Missions as a way to strengthen our international missionary vocation?

14. What other suggestions would you like to offer to your Province and the Congregation for consideration over the next 6 years?