

NOVEMBER 2016



NUNTIA



FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF FIDELITY TO ITS
CHARISM AND THE NEW EVANGELIZATION



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PROVINCIAL GATHERING AND THE VISIT OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL



On November 3rd 2016, some thirty members of the Province gathered together for the autumn formation session that took place at the Provincial House in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The meeting was attended by the newly-elected Superior General, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM (whose province of origin is the Province of Slovenia).

The day began with prayer in the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the burial place of the venerable servant of God, Bishop John Francis Gnidovec. After prayer, we gathered together in Gnidovec Hall at the student house. The Visitor, Father Pavle Novak, opened the meeting by welcoming all those present and offered some warm words of welcome

to our special guest, Father General. He then proceeded to present the most recent provincial statistics and continued with the presentation of the final document of the General Assembly 2016, which includes the lines of action that will be undertaken by the European Conference of Visitors, CEVIM.

The second part of our gathering involved a dialogue with the Superior General. He thanked us for all the prayers and the support that were offered to him at the time of his election as the twenty-fifth successor of Saint Vincent de Paul. He then invited us to consider some proposals as we begin to prepare for the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian

charism.

In order to facilitate this process we reflected on Part One of our Constitutions (Vocation, articles #1-9) and Chapter One of the *Common Rules* (The purpose and nature of the Congregation, articles 1-3) which resulted in numerous proposals for our consideration. Father General suggested that we decide on three that would involve all the branches of the Vincentian Family in a common project between Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After lunch we thanked the Superior General for his visit and his encouraging words.

Edited: Charles T. Plock, CM

THE FUTURE OF VINCENTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Vincentian Leaders convene to celebrate Past and Prepare for a Hopeful Future of Vincentian Higher Education

By John Freund, CM

As part of the 2016 bicentennial of the arrival of the first Vincentian missionaries to the United States, leaders from the three Vincentian sponsored universities in the United States (Niagara University, St. John's University and DePaul University) recently gathered in New York City for a two-day conference entitled: "Beyond the Bicentennial: The Promise of Vincentian Higher Education."

The conference, held in midtown Manhattan, saw representatives from all sectors of the three universities – University Presidents, trustees, senior leaders, faculty, staff and administrators, come together to discuss critical issues facing all three Vincentian universities and their ongoing mission of providing a quality, Catholic and Vincentian education to an increasingly diverse student population in the 21st century.

At the conference, guest speakers, panel discussions and group conversations explored challenges and opportunities facing Catholic Higher Education both now and in the near future. Topics explored during the conference included

managing changing students in and outside of the classroom, identifying and marketing the distinctiveness of a Vincentian and Catholic education, as well as concerns about accessibility, affordability and attainment for the under-served. The three Vincentian universities, while distinct, all have a shared mission of service to the poor with many of their students being first generation college attendees and many enrolled students coming from under-served and underrepresented communities.



Mr. Conrado "Bobby" Gempesaw, Ph.D., Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM., Fr. James Maher, CM., Fr. Dennis H. Holtschneider, CM.

The conference opened with greetings from His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Tenth Archbishop of New York, who described himself as a beneficiary of a Vincentian education as he "thanked almighty God for the gift of the Vincentians." Cardinal Dolan attended the Vincentian-run St. Louis Preparatory Seminary.

Also addressing the attendees of the conference was Very Rev. Tomaz Mavric, C.M., the newly elected Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, who leads the Vincentians



worldwide and demonstrated a profound awareness of the importance and value of the role of Vincentian higher education.

"It is not enough to teach job skills but Vincentian Universities must prepare students to lead a well-lived life," Rev. Mavric, C.M. said while thanking the attendees for their contribution to the work of the Vincentian order. "The world needs more Universities like Niagara, St. John's and DePaul to examine the causes of poverty and to work to implement solutions at the local, national and international levels. May St. Vincent DePaul and God be your guides as our Vincentian mission continues."

The conference concluded with the Eucharistic Celebration presided by Most Rev. David M. O'Connell, C.M., J.C.D., Bishop of Trenton, New Jersey.

"In the environment of Catholic higher education today, Vincentian universities are inspired by the charism of St. Vincent de Paul, who was not an educator as we are but still as a teacher and a pastor. Everything he preached and did and touched was motivated with a love for the poor and those in need,"

Bishop O'Connell, C.M. said in his homily.

During the conference, Conrado "Bobby" Gempesaw, Ph.D., President of St. John's University remarked on the importance of understanding the

history and maintaining the values of a Vincentian education.

"We all need to internalize the rich legacy of the Vincentian mission of education and service to the poor so that our service and impact will endure for the next 200 years or more."

Rev. James J. Maher, C.M., President of Niagara University stated: "It was very inspirational to see the three Vincentian universities come together to begin to think, plan and work with a broad vision for the future of Vincentian higher education. Together we will guide our students, faculty,

administrators, staff and campus communities through learning, faith, and service to answer the call of St. Vincent."

Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., President of DePaul University observed: "I was moved by the deep commitment of everyone who gathered last weekend to see that St. Vincent's work continues into the future," said the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul University. "It gave me great hope for the young people who present themselves to us each year, asking that we prepare them for the world ahead."

As the event concluded, conference attendees agreed to continue the conversation while working collaboratively to further the important work of the Congregation of the Mission, which is realized each day on the campuses of Niagara, St. John's and DePaul universities.



VISIT THE OFFICE OF THE CONGREGATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS



By Guillermo Campuzan, CM

During his visit to the United States to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the presence of the Congregation in that country, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, together with Father Robert Maloney, CM, visited the office of the Congregation at the United Nations. There they met with Father Guillermo Campuzano, CM, representative of the Congregation to the United Nations. Also present at the meeting were: Father Joseph Foleuy, CM, (former representative of the Congregation of the United Nations), Sister Catherine Prendergast, DC, Sister Margaret O'Dwyer, DC and Sister Julie Cutter, DC. The objective of the meeting was to

explore ideas that might give some new impulse to our celebration of the 400th anniversary of the birth of our charism.

The dialogue focused on specific manners in which the Congregation of the Mission and the Vincentian Family might commit themselves on a global level to the implementation of the agenda of the United Nations, especially with regard to the efforts that are being made to eradicate poverty and to fulfill the seventeen objectives for sustainable development. During the meeting the importance of the NGO's (especially those with a religious inspiration) at the United Nations was

highlighted. It was also stated that attention is given to their initiatives, especially those that deal with the implementation of a global agenda on behalf of the poor of this world.

After the meeting, Father Tomaž had an informal lunch with representatives of the various branches of the Vincentian Family to the United Nations. This provided an opportunity for the participants to come to a deeper knowledge of one another. Father General made it clear that he supported those initiatives that guarantee the presence of the Congregation at the various international organizations.

Translated: Charles T. Plock, CM

THE 88TH ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF SUPERIORS GENERAL



By: Tomaz Mavric, CM.

From 23-25 November, I participated in the 88th Assembly of the Union of Superiors General held in Rome. The motto was "go and bear fruit" and we reflected on the theme: "The Fruitfulness of the Prophetic in Religious Life."

During the Assembly, in addition to the richness of meeting with other Superiors General, topics such as "The Fruitfulness of Prophecy *ad intra* and *ad extra*," and "Youth and Consecrated Life" were addressed. These two reflections motivated the later dialogue. But the highlight of the Assembly was, undoubtedly, the meeting with Pope Francis. We met a simple Francis, dedicated, interested, and with the desire to share more than an official event, but to be at a meeting of brothers. Beforehand he had been sent some questions to which he then responded with serenity and with the confidence of being among friends and brothers. We were pleasantly surprised by the fact that he came to have coffee with us. Of course, he could not finish it, because everyone wanted to take advantage of the occasion for a photo and some to take the famous "selfie." I share with all the followers of this page the photos from that moment. o ignored

SIEV - INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF VINCENTIAN STUDIES

From November 11-17, the Provincial House in Madrid (c/. García de Paredes, 45) hosted the members of SIEV (International Secretariat of Vincentian Studies). Coming together from various parts of the world, the eight members of this group are: Fr. Javier Álvarez Munguía (Vicar General), Fr. Corpus Juan Delgado (Province of Zaragoza); Fr. Daniel Borlik (Western Province, USA) Provincia USA); Fr. Francisco Eko Armada (Province of Indonesia); Fr. Emil Hoffmann (Province of de Slovakia); Fr. Andrés Motto (Province of Argentina); Fr. Vinicius Augusto Teixeira (Province of Rio de Janeiro); Fr. Nélio Pereira (Province of Portugal).

SIEV was established on December 15th, 1982 ... at that time the Statutes of this organization were approved by the superior general, Fr. Richard McCullen. The coordinating commission was composed of five missionaries. From the time of its establishment, this international Vincentian organization promoted various gatherings, colloquies and Vincentian study months. At the same time this group fostered the exchange of experiences and publications. In 2014,



By: Celestino Fernández, C. M.

Father Gregory Gay, superior general, gathered together ten missionaries from various provinces and cultures to reflect on the mission of SIEV and to give greater precision to the purpose and the objectives of this organization.

During the meeting that was held in Madrid many themes were discussed among which were the following:

- Revision of the list of members;
- Development of a possible study guide for

our Constitutions;

- Possibility of publishing the study guide in *Vincentiana*;
- Meeting of archivists of the Congregation;
- Implementing the on-line Masters degree in Vincentian studies; verifying which of the universities is able to accredit this degree;
- In order to move forward with this plan three steps are absolutely necessary:

contact the Visitors and ask them to present candidates; seek possible tutors; review all the material that will be necessary to make these studies a reality;

- Develop a manual of

Vincentian doctrine;

- Other matters (though not as important) must also be developed: methodology, organization, planning etc.

The members of this group engaged in intensive days of work with some time allotted to view the sights of

Madrid and the surrounding areas. The members are also grateful to the confreres at the Provincial House for their hospitality during the days of their meeting.

Translated: Charles T. Plock, CM

25TH ANNIVERSARY IN NACALA MOZAMBIQUE



By José Luis Acevedo, CM – Visitor

November 6th, 2016 marked the closing of the Jubilee Year that commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Nacala. Our confrere, Dom Germano, has been the bishop of this Diocese since the time of its foundation.

There in Nacala the evangelization in Africa began in 1948 with the celebration of

the first Mass ... Nacala was the port of entry for the Gospel”.

The anniversary celebration was presided over by the Apostolic Nuncio, Bishop Edgar Peña Parra. Seven other bishops concelebrated as well as priests and deacons from neighboring dioceses and from various religious congregations. Father José

Luis Azevedo (Vice-Visitor of Mozambique) was among the confreres who participated in this celebration. Also participating in the celebration were countless women religious and faithful from throughout the diocese. This event was also celebrated in the parish of Saint Augustine where Father José Eugenio López serves as pastor.

The Vice-Province of

Mozambique was founded in 1965. Nacala is part of the Province of Nampula, in the northern part of the country. There in 1994 the confreres from the province of Salamanca established a mission house which in 2011 became part of the Vincentian Province of Mozambique.

At the present time the Vincentian Missionaries live together in one house and minister in three of the twenty-four parishes in the diocese (Saint John the

Baptist, Saint Augustine and Saint Joseph). In addition to parish ministry the confreres serve in the diocesan seminary in Nacuxa, in various schools, at the radio station Watana and in the agricultural institute that is also located in Nacuxa.

The community is composed of three confreres: Father Eugénio López (from the Province of Salamanca and serving in that country since 2001), Father Nicholas Boniface Ikpeme (from the Province of Nigeria and serving

in that country since 2015) and Brother Licínio Loureiro Miguelo (from the Province of Portugal and having arrived in that country in 2016). Another Vincentian Missionary will soon join this group. From the perspective of reconfiguration, in 2017 the confreres will add to their ministry the diocesan seminary of Saint Francis Xavier and will hand over to the diocese the administration of Saint Augustin's parish.

Translated: Charles T. Plock, CM

FOUR HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE VINCENTIAN CHARISM

Celebrate this historical event as a special time of grace and renewal

By Eli Chaves, CM
Belo Horizonte – MG (Brazil)



In 2017, the Church, and more particularly, the Vincentian Family, will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of the Vincentian charism. This is a significant event and can be a special time to enlighten and revitalize the Vincentian mission of service on behalf of the poor.

[1] It is important to celebrate this significant Vincentian event as a special time of grace and to search for the light and the strength that will lead to the revitalization and the

strengthening of the Vincentian mission during this time of crisis, challenge and new possibilities. In an article on the time of Pope Francis, Father Manoel Godoy presents various meanings to the word *time*¹, reflections that are grounded on the writings of the theologian, Albert Nolan. I believe that we will find there profound insights that can deepen our understanding of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Vincentian charism.

[a] When viewed as an empty space, measured and enumerated, time is *chronos*; it is the time of the calendar, quantifiable, situated in history in which events, of varying degrees of importance, occur.

[b] Time is also *kairós*; in Greek mythology, Kairós was the son of Chronos, the God of time and the seasons. Kairós expressed a metaphorical concept of time, making it indeterminate and immeasurable; this is an understanding of time as a quality, as a unique, favorable and opportune moment in which something can be accomplished. In biblical language, time, as such, signifies a new and important event for the People of God; it is a special grace and the Incarnation of the Word is the best example of *kairós*.

[c] Time can also be viewed as *escaton*, that is, an event that is to take place in the near future, an action of God that determines the quality, the moral environment and the gravity of the present moment. In the prophetic literature, the day and the time of judgment is an example of *escaton* ... an event that is good news for the poor and

ruin for the rich and the unjust. In light of the resurrection, *escaton* is an opening of doors to a new era ... it is also *kairós*, an opportunity for conversion and an opportunity for rejoicing in God's liberation and the gift of grace.

[2] The four hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Vincentian charism can and ought to be an event that produces many fruits of mission and charity ... but this is so only as it relates to, is understood and carried out from the perspective of those three different meanings of time.

[a] The four hundredth anniversary is a chronological event: during the course of the year we will remember, deepen our understanding and celebrate two important historical events that Vincent de Paul experienced in 1617. The events that occurred in Folleville (the first sermon of the Mission) and in Châtillon (the organization of the Confraternity of Charity) were two special and complimentary events which, as a result of the discovery of the social and pastoral abandonment of the rural poor in France during the seventeenth century, created in Vincent a new understanding of the reality that surrounded him, a new understanding of his faith and of his priesthood. Those two decisive events led to the discovery, the acceptance and the deepening of a special grace (charism) that had been gifted to Vincent and that enabled him to respond in a concrete and innovative manner to God's call. The four hundredth anniversary is a time to know and deepen our knowledge about that

historical experience of Vincent de Paul, its evangelical richness, its historical expansion and incarnation during the past four hundred years. Following the example of Vincent de Paul, now is the time to come to a deeper knowledge of the present reality of those persons who are poor and to evaluate our various ministries; now is the time to give thanks for the gift of this charism and to strengthen and renew those commitments that have been embraced by the followers of Vincent de Paul throughout these many years.

[b] The celebration of the four hundredth anniversary is an opportune time, kairologically, to visit Folleville and Châtillon, to recreate and actualize (existentially and spiritually) Vincent's spiritual experience. Vincent had a profound encounter with Jesus that changed his life: Jesus was sent by the Father to evangelize the poor and is, therefore, present in the suffering and abandoned poor men and women ... and this Jesus called Vincent to the mission and to charity. By vocation and through the grace of God, Vincent accepted Christ, as his first and definitive love, as the evangelizer of the poor, as the ideal which grounded the remainder of his life (a life of total dedication to the mission and to charity on behalf of the poor). The four hundredth anniversary is an appropriate time to return to the sources and discover the vigor and the newness of the Vincentian charism, deepening our experience of an encounter with Christ, evangelizer of the poor ... an essential condition in order to experience the

vitality of our Vincentian vocation. It is a kairological time for individuals and communities to recover the vitality of the charism, to overcome routine and weariness and historical misunderstandings; it is a time to introduce the newness of the charismatic heritage that we have received from Vincent de Paul ... and to do this in a creative manner. This is the appropriate time for the Vincentian Family to engage in the dynamic of on-going conversion: to live in greater solidarity with those who are poor, to listen to their cries, to become renewed in the mystical and charismatic inspiration of Vincent de Paul and finally, in light of the Spirit and the new historical demands, to continually reaffirm that inspiration as an orientation for our life and ministry.

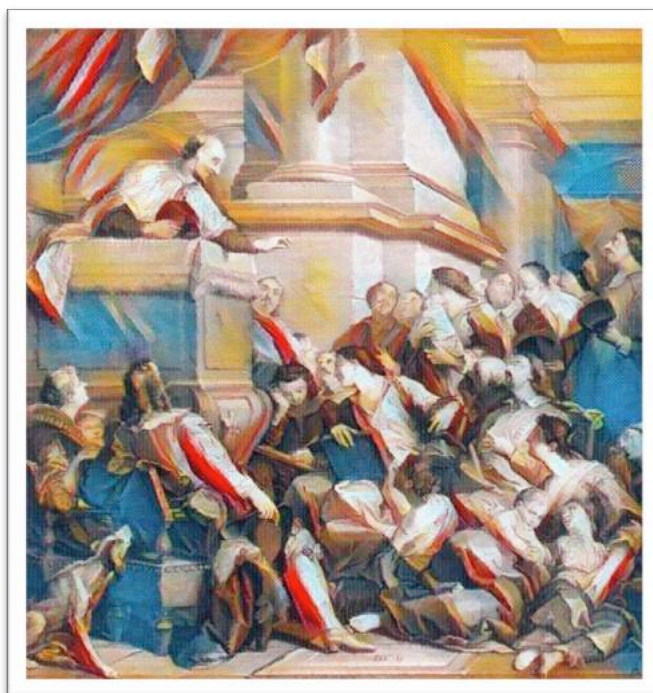
[c] The celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of the Vincentian charism invites us to engage in a profound evaluation with regard to the manner in which we have assimilated and lived the Vincentian charism ... and to do this with the vision of creating a new time of hope, a time of renewed and creative commitment and service on behalf of the poor. It is time to open the doors to the future, a future of greater prophetic commitment to building up a better and more just society in which all people can live with dignity. The experiences of Folleville and Châtillon led Vincent de Paul to read his reality from the perspective of faith ... which in turn led Vincent to deepen his faith from the perspective of his reality. That experience led

Vincent to make certain changes in his life and to become present in a new way in the midst of the social and ecclesial realities of his era, present with new commitments and new plans, present with a profound love for Christ present in the poor. The four hundredth anniversary is a time to dream, to unite our efforts, to create a new era that incarnates Jesus' preferential love for the poor (and does that in accord with the example and the spirit of Vincent de Paul). It is the time to make a serious effort at discernment in order to guarantee happiness without falling into the temptation of repeating the past or accommodating ourselves and/or becoming caught up in practices and attitudes that are incompatible with the present demands of the Vincentian charism. This is the time to renew and reconfigure the Vincentian mission "in accord with the movement of mercy". Now, in the midst of a world

marked by the end of utopias and marked by the presence of a culture of apathy and individualism and consumerism ... now is a privileged time to renew and accept the utopia of the Kingdom which belongs to those who are poor.

The celebration of the four hundredth anniversary is not only an historical, chronological moment that is to be celebrated with many activities and then, concluded at the end of the next calendar year. Rather, it is a time of special grace that enables the Vincentian Family to renew and strengthen the primary reason for its existence, that enables the Vincentian Family to build a fruitful future of mission and charity for the well-being of the poor and the glory of God. May this anniversary be a time of growth in creative fidelity for all the members of the Vincentian Family and *may they not lose the love that they had at first* (Revelation 2:4)!

Translated: Charles T. Plock, CM



NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

GUERRA Giuseppe	01/11/2016	Procurator General
	15/11/2016	Postulator General

Ordinationes

DAS Sujesh	Sac	InM	24/11/2016
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NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
FORTENBERRY Jerome D.	Sac	05/11/2016	Occ	90	69
FERNÁNDEZ MASIDE Antonio	Sac	06/11/2016	Sal	83	65
PALAYILTHAYIL Augustine	Sac	13/11/2016	InM	82	61
ZWARTHOED Jaap Nicolas	Sac	13/11/2016	Cgn	80	61
AHERNE Vincent	Sac	15/11/2016	Occ	90	71
GOYENECHE SABALZA Venancio	Sac	20/11/2016	Cae	86	67
PINEDA AGUIRRE Jorge Rafael	Sac	25/11/2016	Col	88	69
CÂNDIDO DA SILVA Raimundo Nonato	Sac	28/11/2016	For	51	23