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NUNTIA

Four hundred years of fidelity to its
charism and the New Evangelization



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Superior General presents at CIF

By: Andres Motto, CM

On Saturday, October 15, 2016 our Superior General, Tomaž Mavrič, visited the CIF group in Paris. In the morning, from 9:00 to 12:00 he gave a conference to the confreres and entered into a dialogue with them. He invited the participants to follow Saint Vincent de Paul, the Mystic of Charity. He also called the group to work together with all the branches of the Vincentian Family. Indeed, the Congregation of the Mission experiences herself as a part of this great Family and not in any way separated from it. Together, we can be more effective in our mission of

evangelizing the poor. After Father's presentation there was an opportunity for questions and dialogue. At 3:30pm, in one of the chapels at the Motherhouse, we celebrated the Eucharist in a very simple but very emotional manner. In the homily, those present were invited to minister on behalf of the poor ... and to do so with respect and a spirit of faith. The 14 participants, together with the three coordinators and the Superior General, then, shared a meal in which several members of the house accompanied the CIF group.



Slavic Provinces of the Daughters of Charity hold joint meetings

Sr. Metka Tushar, DC

On October 20th, the members of the provincial councils of the Slavic Provinces of the Daughters of Charity held joint meetings at Saint Joseph's House in Celje ... at that time the participants introduced themselves to one another.

The members of the various provincial councils were joined by the provincial directors. The participants represented Poland, Slovakia, Croatia, Kosovo and Albania. The meeting was also attended by the major superiors from Paris: the Superior General – Sr. Kathleen Appler, the director general, Fr. Bernard Schoepfer, the general adviser to the Slavic language, Sister Hanna Cybula, and the Superior General of the

Congregation of the Mission, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič.

On the first day, each province presented an outline of the various services that are being provided to those persons who are poor. Special attention was given to the mission in Eastern Europe, that is, in the countries of the former Soviet Union: Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan ... the Daughters from Poland and Slovakia are ministering there. After these presentations, Superior General, Sr. Kathleen Appler, addressed the participants and encouraged all to engage in a radical following of Christ and to serve those members of the human living on the fringes of society. Thus, the following of

Jesus Christ should be seen as an invitation to continually return to the gospel and to opt for a lifestyle that will enable all the Sisters to draw closer to those who are excluded from participation in society and who suffer from various forms of violence.

In the afternoon all the members participated in a special Eucharist on the occasion of the celebration Mission Sunday. On the second day, the Director General, Fr. Bernard Schoepfer, reflected on the parable of the Good Samaritan and affirmed the words of Mother General with regard to the need for a radical following of Jesus Christ. Later that day, the participants joined the members of the local community as they engaged in various ministries. On the third day, the General Superior, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, addressed all the participants and spoke about the mysticism of charity. He encouraged everyone to promote collaboration among the various branches of the Vincentian

because it is only then that the voiceless are given a voice and the present situation of poverty and misery becomes transformed and changed ... he also challenged us to be mindful of the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian charism.

These three days together enabled us to share our

various experiences and in doing so we felt encouraged and challenged to move forward in our ministry on behalf of those less fortunate members of society.

Edited: Charles T. Plock, CM



Today, 22 October, a new interprovincial community of Sisters of Mary of the Miraculous Medal in Ukraine was founded in T. Remeta (Perechyn District, Transcarpathia, Ukraine). The new community was established by Sisters from the Slovenian and Croatian Provinces. This is an event we desired, prayed, and prepared for a long time. The Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM; the new Superior of the Vice-Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Father Jan Trzop, CM; the Provincial Superior of the Province of Croatia, Sister Kai Lyubas; the Provincial Superior of the Province of Slovenia, Sister Slavica Lesyak; guests and friends

from Ukraine arrived for this solemn occasion. His Excellency Antal Majnek, OFM, Bishop of Mukachevo Diocese, was the main celebrant in the Eucharistic celebration.

The Bishop thanked the Sisters and expressed his joy at the establishment of a community of Sisters who want to help the poor and witness to the Gospel by their lives. He emphasized for the Sisters, the words of Saint John Paul II, so that they would not be afraid of difficulties: "Do not be afraid of difficulties. Do not be afraid to tackle difficult cases and solve them."

In his sermon, Father Jan said: "... is God's providence, it is God who cares about people, it is

God who decides, not a superior, whether a community will be established here. It is really God who cares about you. The Sisters will work here and pray. This is an example of charity, so that you can learn the acts of charity and piety from them. That is the way God wants to take care of you."

The Superior General, Father Tomaž, emphasized that Pope Francis, in this year of Divine Mercy, invites us first to feel God's mercy in our lives, to feel the love of the merciful Father who is watching and waiting for us every day, and then to show our kindness to a neighbour. He is watching from a distance and waiting for those who will come nearer to him.

This is how we experience the merciful God in our lives. Recall how many examples of kindness you have seen.

Today a house, where Sisters Yozhitsa and Ivanchitsa will live, was consecrated. They are full of inspiration and enthusiasm and are ready to take on the job. Although it was raining in the morning, it did not affect the mood – it is God's blessing for good beginning.

In the evening, the guests had the opportunity to visit the Mount with the Way of the Cross, which was built by Mr. Stefan Valyo, a local businessman in 2001 (nine-meter oak cross, 14 chapel-stations, and the road around the whole mountain that



connects all the stations). Now everyone has the possibility of coming and praying. From the very top, one can see the beauty of Perechyn and its environs. When it gets dark, the shadow of the Cross goes straight into the sky, to our Father, and a blessing from the Father comes back through the Cross of our Savior to us, his faithful children. It is difficult to describe in words. This Way of the Cross serves as an example that we should not be afraid to do good deeds, even if it is difficult, it is necessary to do them. God will always be with us and will help us in this.



CLAPVI

Formation Session for Local Superiors

By: Sergio Plana, CM
Province of Argentina

Translated: Charles T. Plock, CM

On October 24th, in the Seminary of Saint Vincent de Paul (Santiago, Chile) the formation session for local superiors was initiated ... this opportunity for on-going formation was sponsored by CLAPVI. Father Corpus Delgado (Zaragoza) animated and directed this encounter. Using the *Practical Guide for the Local Superior*, Father facilitated the participants in their reflection on the ministry of the local superior and on the exercise of authority as service for communion and the mission. These reflections were enriched

by the congregational experiences of Father Corpus and by the contributions from the various confreres. In light of the Constitutions and the Statutes of the Congregation of the Mission and some other ecclesial documents the participants attempted to give new life to the Practical Guide.

The following participated in this encounter:

Jesús García, Mario Yopez Barrientos and Rafael Buendía (Perú).

José Vicente Nacher (Zaragoza

ministering in Honduras). Edison Famanía and José Manuel Delgado (Region Panamá – Province of Philadelphia) Luis Carlos de Oliveira (Curitiba). Paulo José de Araujo (Rio de Janeiro). Rodis Christensen, Gastón Parada, Carlos de la Rivera, Mario Villar, David Paniagua, Alejandro Fabres, Hipólito Hidalgo and Fernando Macías (Chile). Rafael Antonio Presidente and Miguel Ángel Aguilar (Central America).

Meeting of Superiors and Economes from the Province of Italy — Rome, Via Ezio, October 19-20, 2016



By: Nicola Albanesi, CM
Visitor Province of Italy

Translated: Charles T. Plock, CM

Recently the superiors and the economies from the new province of the Vincentian Missionaries ministering in Italy (forty-two in number) met together for the first time. The participants also included the members of the provincial council. This gathering was developed in two sessions and prior to the meeting three reports were distributed to all the participants.

[1] The Visitor's Report (Father Nicola Albanesi)

The Visitor gave a report on the present state of the new province and spoke about some of the work that is foreseen for the near future. The primary objective of the province is to create local communities in which the members live in true communion with one another. The methodology that might be utilized in the governance of the province consists of confronting a situation of crisis or emergency and at the

same time engaging in a process of reconfiguration that will involve the sale of certain assets and a projection into the future. It is not easy to respond to the question regarding what must be done. The Visitor did, however, point out that we ought to strive to live a good Christian life and therefore, as the Pope and our new superior general have stated, everything should be done from the perspective of the gospel and the poor (*Evangelii Gaudium*).

There was a discussion about certain aspects of our life together, aspects that enable the confreres to live the Vincentian charism in a faithful and creative manner.

[2] The Econome's Report (Father Roberto Lovera)

Father explained the various aspects of his ministry. He explained his activity in light of obtaining a better understanding of the reality of the local communities. He also informed the group that for the 2017

budget proposals a new unified form will be utilized.

[3] Pastoral initiatives

With regard to the celebration of the 400 anniversary of the birth of the Vincentian charism, a national gathering is being planned with the participation of some five hundred people who will share their experience in living the charism. At the same time we will celebrate the Year of Refugees: assistance will be provided to individuals so that they can become documented and obtain work, language courses and other formation opportunities will be made available to "our new neighbors"

It was also decided to highlight the ministry of popular missions in our parishes as well as the organization of charitable groups, an aspect that is part of our tradition.



Witness of a Vincentian Missionary Who Began the Mission in Haiti Thirty Years of Vincentian Presence in Haiti (1986-2016)



Father Santiago Arribas, CM, who resides in the community house in Granada and who is pastor of the parish, *Regina Mundo*, has sent us the following reports and photographs ... all of which chronicle his visit to the island of Haiti, a visit that took place just a few days before the hurricane, Matthew, assaulted this country with death and destruction.

The primary motive for Father Arribas' visit was the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the establishment of the Congregation in that nation. Father Santiago was the first Vincentian Missionary to serve in Haiti (September 27, 1986). Therefore, his eye-witness account some thirty years later has great historical importance. What follows is the transcript of the chronicle that he sent us.

Chronicle:

I will attempt to give you

a brief but succinct account of my visit to this beloved land. The 30th anniversary of the presence of the Congregation of the Mission can be summarized by referring to two significant events.

Thus, the first event, a celebration that took place on September 19, 2016 in Puerto Rico. Since one is unable to reap what one has not sown, we began by giving thanks to God for our missionary vocation. Father Maximiano Santos is certainly one of those outstanding and distinguished individuals because he has dedicated his whole life (fifty years of vocation) to the mission in Santo Domingo. Because of his health, Father Maximiano was unable to accompany us in this celebration. Nevertheless, we remembered him and at the same time gave thanks to God for the presence of Manuel Aznar Bello, CM and Santiago Arribas, CM (both of whom participated in the

celebration of this event). All the confreres in this area participated in the celebration of the Eucharist and in the fraternal meal that followed. The young priests who were present at this celebration spoke of feeling encouraged to follow in the footsteps of those pioneers who gave such a powerful example of commitment and dedication.

The second event was a celebration that took place on September 27, 2016 in Haiti. The story takes us back to 1985. At that time, the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, Father Richard McCullen, CM, made a canonical visitation of the Province of Puerto Rico. The Visitor of the Province, Father Gregory Joy, CM, and his council rented a plane and took Father McCullen to Haiti. That was October 14, 1985. The situation in Haiti was not and still is not widely known. When the earthquake of January

12, 2010 was reported to the international community, news agencies had to use their maps to find out where this island nation was located. Haiti became known to people as a result of the earthquake that occurred some six years ago and because of the frequent overthrowing of the government. Haiti is known for its dependency and for its lack of projects that contribute to the development of the people. Once again, on October 6, 2016, the worldwide news focused on Haiti where so many people were killed and were suffering as a result of the destruction that hurricane Matthew inflicted on this island country. But I am getting ahead of myself ... back to where we were, that is, with Father McCullen and his interview with the Archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Monsignor François Wolf Ligondé, who exclaimed: "Haiti is a Vincentian country". The Daughters of Charity had been serving and evangelizing in that country for some thirteen years ... they had constantly requested

the presence of the members of the Congregation of the Mission. Thus, on September 27, 1986, Father Santiago Arribas arrived in Haiti in order to engage in the mission that had been established there. At first, Father resided at the diocesan seminary. Then, two years later, after some cultural and language studies, Father began to look for a place where the Congregation could lay down some roots. At the seminary in Santo Domingo there were several seminarians from Haiti and others who accompanied Father Arribas during the years that he served in that country. Therefore, on September 27, 1990, the Congregation of the Mission established the Mission House in Tabarre/Fleuriot.

Today, there are twenty-one priests and one brother in houses in Puerto Príncipe, in Thomazeau and in Jacmel. From that small seed, the Congregation has flourished and grown and despite the political and economic situation, it continues to grow today. The Sunday and feast day

liturgical celebrations are festive and participative (some of these celebrations will continue for three or four hours and no one complains or heads for the doors). These celebrations are animated by song and dance ... and the joy becomes contagious.

The participation in the celebration of the Eucharist on the feast of Saint Vincent 2016, filled the Church, the plaza and the surrounding area. The Vincentian Missionaries, who had established the mission in this country, were introduced: Santiago Arribas, René Suffrin and Faustino Burgos. The younger confreres were encouraged to engage in the process of evangelization on behalf of the people of God. Indeed, it has become clear that from its humble beginnings the Congregation has grown and produced much fruit.

Translated: Charles T. Plock, CM

New Visitor for the Southern Indian Province

By: J. Santhosh, CM

The term of Fr. Matthew Onatt CM as visitor to Southern Indian Province was coming to an end. An election commission was appointed in province for the election of a new Visitor. The members of the Southern Indian Province elected Fr. Tomichan Mattathiveliyil CM and the same was confirmed by the General Curia.

He was born on 10th of August 1967 as the 5th child of Joseph and Catherine in St George's church, Muhamma, of the Archdiocese of Changanassery in Kerala. Fr. Tom joined the Congregation of the Mission in 1982



and was ordained a priest on 04th January 1993 by His Grace Mar Joseph Powathil, the Archbishop of Changanassery. As a young priest he worked in different parishes and seminaries. From the year 1999 for the last 17 years he was working in Germany in various capacities such as in the parish as a pastor, among the youth as a youth animator and in the areas of social work. He is a member of the diocesan senate of the diocese of Munster and is the president of the federation of foreign religious congregations

working in Germany.

Rev. Fr. Tomichan Mattathiveiyil CM was installed Visitor on the 24th of October 2016. During the Holy Eucharist, Fr. Mathew Onatt CM read out the appointment letter of Fr. Tomichan Mattathiveiyil CM. Fr. Bijoy Nayak, the Visitor of North Indian Province, Sr. Rose Chirayil D C the Provincial superior of South Indian Province of the Daughters of Charity, along with a number of Confreres, other religious and brothers graced the occasion.

The Southern Indian Province whole heartedly thank Rev. Fr. Tomaž Mavrič C M, the Superior General and the General Council, for their guidance and support. Graciously acknowledging the valuable contribution of Fr. Mathew Onatt CM for the life of the Province we render our prayerful wishes and seek God's blessings through St. Vincent for Fr. Tomichan Mattathiveiyil CM.



predecessors - Fr. Paul Roche CM, who was a founder and the first Vice-Visitor and Fr. Tomaz Mavric CM. Then, as he reflected on the liturgical readings, he stated that he was filled with hope and courage as he began this new ministry in the Vice-Province. The gospel referred to a fire of love that Jesus brought to the earth and Father stated that he realized that he was not alone in his ministry. He felt united with the 25 and 30 members of the Province of Saint Cyril and Methodius whose hearts are burning with this love and who seek to follow St. Vincent as they proclaim Good News to the poor. Father Jan urged all the confreres and all the member of the Vincentian Family to collaborate with one another and he concluded by asking those present to continue to pray for him.

Finally, Father Anatoly Tovkan CM, Superior of the house, congratulated Father Jan and called upon God to bless his ministry of leadership. Then Father Anatoly invited all the participants to share a festive dinner and agape.

New Vice-Visitor of the Vice-Viceprovince of SS. Cyril and Methodius

September 27, 2016 Fr. Tomaz Mavric, CM, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, appointed Fr. Jan Trzop CM as Vice-Visitor of the Vice-Province of SS. Cyril and Methodius. Father Jan has ministered for more than 20 years in the Ukraine.

The installation of new Vice-Visitor took place on

October 20 in Kiev in the house "God's gift". During the celebration of the Eucharist, Fr. Jan made a profession of faith and took the oath of Fidelity. The confreres from different parts of the Ukraine and from Poland and Belarus participated in this important event in the history of the Vice-Province.

Fr. Jan thanked his

Sister Marie Claire Narainen, DC

Since 2005 Sister Marie Claire Narainen, DC has served as a member of the team at the General Secretariat of the Congregation of the Mission. She will now begin a new ministry at the General Secretariat of the Daughters of Charity in Paris. She accepts this change with a certain sadness because she most happy to be able to serve here in Rome where she gave everyone her very best. Sister, however, engages in this period of transition a spirit of faith ... for as Saint Vincent stated: I am neither here nor there but only where God wants me to be. On behalf of all the members of the Curia we want to thank Sister for her ministry and pray that she be equally bless in his new ministry.

Sisters bids farewell to us and also thanks the many confreres who worked with her in the Curia during recent years, especially Father Gregory Gay, Stanislav Zontak, Eli Chaves, John Maher and so many other. She assures all of us of her prayers.



Visits in the General Curia



On October 18th we were pleased to receive Father Fabián Edgardo Marcelo Pedacchio Leániz, a priest from Argentina who has the honorary title of chaplain to his Holiness. Father was also appointed as Pope Francis' personal secretary, a position he has held since April 2014.

Bishop Varghese Thottamkara, CM, bishop of Nekemte in Ethiopia, has been spent some time with us here at the Curia.



Nominaciones / Confirmationes

GONÇALVES ALVES José Augusto	01/10/2016	Visitor for Portugal
CARMONA MORALES David	18/10/2016	Visitor for Saragosa (Reconfirmed)
MATTATHIVELIYIL Tomichan	24/10/2016	Visitor for the Southern Indian

Necrologium

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
DECAMP Charles Louis	Sac	19/10/2016	Fra	104	85
VERRAEST Bernard	Sac	21/10/2016	Fra	71	50