Visit of the Superior General at the Province of Peru

The Congregation of the Mission in the Bolivian Mountains

The Visit of Father Tomaž Mavrič to the Mission in Beni

The Superior General in Chile and Mission of Punta Arenas

Final document of the 2018 FAVILA Gathering

Tanjomoha Residence, Madagascar

Communication for Promotion of Vocational Culture

Festival and Contest “Finding Vince 400”

General Information
Father Tomáš Mavrič, CM (superior general) and Father Aarón Gutiérrez (assistant general) visited the Province of Peru on March 6th and 7th.

Even though their visit was for a brief period of time, nevertheless it was very gratifying for the members of the Congregation of the Mission, the Daughters of Charity and the Vincentian Family. This visit was brief because the objective of the superior general’s visit to Latin America (a visit of some twenty-three days) was to come to a better understanding and analysis of the missionary activity that is taking place in the International Missions of Bolivia and Chile.

A few hours after arriving in Lima on March 6th, the superior general and the assistant general participated in a meeting with some thirty confreres who had gathered together on this occasion. After morning prayer and an introduction of welcome, the participants viewed a video about the ministry of the members of the Congregation in Peru. The superior general then explained some of the priorities that the missionaries should be mindful of during this year: [1] to keep before them their commitment to the mission and to charity (a reality that was highlighted during 2017 on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the origin of the Vincentian charism); [2] a calm but bold reflection with regard to the ministry of vocational promotion (accompanying young men and women in a process of discernment and the creation of a culture of vocation that will lead to some young men and women opting for a missionary life), [3] strengthening our spiritual life through reflection on the example of our Vincentian saints.

After a luncheon in the Provincial House in Lima, Father Mavrič presided at the Eucharist that was celebrated in the Provincial House of the Daughters of Charity. Members from all the different branches of the Vincentian Family participated in this celebration ... in Peru there are eighteen groups that share the Vincentian charism (lay groups and religious groups) and twelve of these groups actively participate in various activities throughout the year.

Father Mavrič encouraged those present to live the Vincentian charism with fidelity and creativity. Later, in the meeting room at the Provincial House of the Daughters, the provincial superior, the coordinator of the Vincentian Family in Peru, the superior general and the assistant general all spoke to those who had gathered together. All highlighted the need for a spirit of unity, the need to collaborate with one another, to make a commitment to live the heritage that was received from St. Vincent, and finally to respond to the challenges that the church and society present to us. The afternoon’s activities concluded with a musical presentation that was organized by the Daughters of Charity.

The following day, March 7th, the Visitor invited Father Mavrič and Father Aarón to visit some of the communities in Lima. We were accompanied by
Father Roberto “Tito” Romero who was our chauffer. We began at St. Vincent de Paul School where, after a prayer of thanksgiving, the director of the school, Javier Gamero, welcomed the superior general and showed a video about some of the activities that had taken place during the previous year (2017 – the Jubilee Year). The visit was concluded with a musical presentation.

Next to the school is the parish and the Vincentian Family Center. Father Benito Walther accompanied us as we visited the parish church and Father César Chávez “Chuno” pointed out the various service are offered by the Vincentian Family Office.

We then traveled to the parish of Corpus Christi where Father Orestes Ortiz walked us through the parish complex. After a quick cup of coffee, we went to the district know as Villa Maria del Triunfo, an area that came into existence in the 1960’s as people moved there from the surrounding mountain areas. Fathers Tomaž and Aarón were able to appreciate the arduous and tenacious work of so many families who struggled to create a more hopeful future for themselves in the midst of the city of Lima. From the time that this area became a “neighborhood” the members of the Congregation of the Mission has accompanied the people ... and it was pointed out that survival in this area involves great perseverance because of the difficulties in obtaining water. The process of evangelization in this area is coordinated by Father Francisco Domingo (pastor of St. Catherine Laboure parish) and Father Jesus Gurreonero (pastor of Our Lady of Hope parish) and has involved the establish of various social services (medical dispensaries, community soup kitchens) as well as on-going formation of the laity.

We then spent some time at the “shanty town” known as 12 de junio (12th of June) ... difficult access, wooden chapel that provides the people with a place where they can be gathering together for prayer and for discussion.

The parish community of Nuestra Señora de la Asunción (the Assumption of the Blessed Mother), the place where the theologate is located, awaited us for lunch. Here father general engaged in a dialogue with the theologians and the formators. During that time the scenarists were encouraged to form themselves in an integral manner and to purify their motives and convictions. Some photos concluded this time of the visit of the superior general and the assistant general.

My last words are words of gratitude ... gratitude to Father Tomaž and Father Aarón for taking the time to visit our province and encouraging not only the members of the Congregation but all the members of the Vincentian Family. Their humility and simplicity has inspired all of us and their presence in our midst has provided us with a powerful symbol of the international nature of the Congregation.

Translated:

Charles T. Plock, CM
Eastern Province, USA
The Congregation of the Mission in the Bolivian Mountains

Diego Plá Aranda, C.M. and Cyrille de Nanteuil, C.M.

Visita del Superior General a la Misión Internacional de El Alto - Bolivia

The mission is located in an arid and cold mountainous terrain, serving 56 communities in Mocomoco and 31 in Italaque. All of them are scattered and access is difficult. In many of these communities, young people are leaving for new opportunities and the elderly remain. Only the population of Mocomoco and some of its communities is experiencing a return thanks to trade that has been implemented in recent years.

Building faith communities always has been the main pastoral challenge with visits to communities and work with catechists.

It is imperative to celebrate the Eucharist and to form people for the sacraments. The pastoral work is diversified: biblical circles, pre-sacramental courses, formation of catechists, pastoral work with families, preparation for feasts, formation of children and young people in groups. There are also programs that promote education, nutrition, health, and social services.

During their visit to the mission of El Alto (between 2600 and 4300 meters above sea level), Fathers Tomaž Mavrič, CM, Superior General, and Aarón Gutiérrez, CM, Assistant General, met on Thursday, 8 March, with Fathers Diego Plá Aranda, CM, and Cyrille de Nanteuil, CM, the missionaries present there and then with the Bishop of El Alto, Monsignor Eugenio Scarpellini. They celebrated the Eucharist with the community in Italaque in memory of Father Franc Pavlic, CM, who left this mission orphaned 13 years ago to depart for the mission of heaven. Later, they met with the pastoral teams of Italaque and Mocomoco to learn the Mission more thoroughly.

On Friday, the 9th, they participated in a pedagogical workshop on Resilience, the ability to overcome situations of social disadvantage, taught by Violeta Rodriguez, Director of the self-promotion project Sayt’asim (“Get up” in Aymara), to the 72 Aymara teachers of the three most important schools in the parish of Italaque. Then, they visited the Punama dressmaking workshop, which operates with the support of the same parish, and went to Ingas to celebrate Mass. On Saturday, the 10th, on having gone down to Huarcamarca, they participated in a biblical circle in Saphía, with a group committed to the renovation of the parish house there and in the production of rosehip. On Sunday, the 11th, they met again with the confreres to face the future of the mission.

During the Superior General’s visit to the mission of El Alto, which consists of two parishes, San Miguel in Italaque and San Pedro in Mocomoco, he called on the
parish communities where he was able to experience the faithful’s great welcome. He saw the women’s craft project and the solar tents of the food security project. The San Vicente Athletic Football School was inaugurated where the children of the football school danced and performed native dances. Truly, the Superior General got to know this international mission of El Alto, its geography, and its people.

The Visit of Father Tomaž Mavrič, C.M., to the Mission in Beni

From March 11th to March 14th, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM visited the International Mission in Beni, one of the newer missions that was undertaken in 2016 (the Daughters of Charity, however, have been present in this area for more than sixty-eight years).

Father Julio Cesar Villalobos, CM (Province of Peru) and Father Andreas Medi Wijaya, CM (Province of Indonesia) are ministering in this region. From the mission center at the educational institute in Kateri, these missionaries visit and accompany the people who reside along the river banks of the Isiboro and Securé Rivers (tributaries of the Mamoré River which is a tributary of the Amazon River).

Father Tomaž was accompanied by Father Aarón Gutiérrez, CM (assistant general). The purpose of their visit was to attain first-hand experience of the reality of this region ... at the same time, they wanted to animate and encourage the missionaries in their commitment of service on behalf of the indigenous people who live in this part of Bolivia.

From the time of his arrival, Father Tomaž was open to the program that had been prepared and so he began with a visit to the Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Nursing Home (administered by the Daughters of Charity and a group of lay professionals). This provided a wonderful opportunity to meet with and celebrate the Eucharist with the members of the Vincentian Family ministering in the city of Beni.

In the same way, Fathers Tomaž and Aarón, making use of the most common means of transport and after an eight-hour journey, arrived at Kateri, a formation center that is composed of a secondary school, an agricultural institute (Kateri Tekawita) and dormitories for young men and women). There was a dialogue with Bishop Julio María Elías, the Franciscan bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Beni at which time the presence of the Congregation of the Mission in that particular church was affirmed. During that dialogue Father Tomaž was requested to consider taking on responsibility for “Kateri”, which is part of a larger project known as EPARU (Rural Pastoral Team). The
After an eventful departure from the airport in Santiago – which, in these days, due to the expansion works at the air terminal, presents serious difficulties for the arrival and departure of vehicles that transport passengers, – the Superior General, Father Tomaž Mavrič, accompanied by the Assistant General, Father Aarón Gutiérrez, finally arrived at the Central House of the Vincentian Missionaries on the afternoon of Friday, 16 March. The Visitor, Father Fernando Macías, and the Provincial Assistant, Father Mario Villar, as well as the missionaries who were at the Central House at that time, welcomed them.

Daughters of Charity had administered that project for some thirty years and presently it is led by a “Council of teachers” who have taken responsibility for forming Christian leaders who serve the indigenous communities of the Vicariate.

The last day of their visit to the mission involved participating in the celebration of the Eucharist that was presided by Bishop Julio María Elías, (Apostolic Vicar), participating in morning prayer with the diocesan clergy and then sharing a breakfast with them.

During his visit, Father Tomaž dialogued with the members of the Congregation in order to understand their experience and to listen to their dreams and hopes. He also spoke with the Daughters of Charity and finally, his visit to the educational center was concluded with a festive celebration of the Eucharist in the chapel at the center.

The Superior General in the Province of Chile and in the Mission of Punta Arenas

Carlos de la Rivera, C.M. Province of Chile

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Translated:
Charles T. Plock, CM
Eastern Province, USA
After resting a short time, they all moved to the house of the Daughters of Charity on Venice Street. There, the successor of Saint Vincent, first visited the elderly Sisters of La Asunción house with whom he chatted for a few minutes.

Later, he presided at the Eucharist in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Rays, together with representatives of the entire Vincentian Family. During the homily, he expressed his joy at being in Chile, thanked everyone for the welcome and recalled the challenges that the International Vincentian Family faced on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the Charism and the beginning of its fifth centenary.

At the conclusion of the Eucharist and after a “serenade,” where a group of children presented the national dance, la cueca, the sisters invited the Superior General, the missionaries, and representatives of the Vincentian associations to share a fraternal dinner.

Following a good night’s sleep in the Central House of the missionaries, on the morning of Saturday, the 17th, the Superior General, together with Father Aarón and several confreres, traveled 110 kilometers by car to the city of Valparaíso, to participate in the Diaconal Ordination of our student Álvaro Tamblay. It took place in San Vicente de Paúl Parish, run by our missionaries. In a beautiful celebration, Monsignor Jorge Patricio Vega, Prelate of the Territorial Prelature of Illapel, conferred the ordination.

The Ordination was followed by a pleasant sharing, where Father Tomaž could speak with the confreres, the faithful of Valparaíso, and those from Santiago who came to accompany the new deacon, as well as with the relatives of the ordained.

After this event, the Visitor led the visitors to the Santiago airport, stopping for lunch on the road, because at 5:00 pm they had to board the plane to travel to Punta Arenas.

Following the four-hour flight, they arrived in the city of Punta Arenas at 9:00 pm, where they had a very festive reception at Presidente Carlos Ibáñez Airport. Awaiting them were missionaries, Daughters of Charity, and laity from the Vincentian Family. There was music, singing, dancing, and photos. Then they moved to San Miguel Parish, where the missionaries serve, in which there was another celebration to welcome the successor of Saint Vincent to these southern lands.

On Sunday, the 18th, the Superior General celebrated Mass with the members of the local Vincentian Family in the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal Shrine inside the “Hogar del Niño Miraflores [Miraflores Children’s Home],” which is run by the Daughters of Charity. Concelebrating with him were Father Aarón and the three members of the mission, Fathers Pablo, Margarito, and Rafał. Later there was a sharing with the whole community. Afterwards, missionaries and Daughters of Charity, including the sisters who came from Rio Gallegos, Argentina, went to lunch in the town of San Juan, about 180 kilometers from Punta Arenas.
Below, we present the final document of the VIII Latin-American Gathering of the Vincentian Family, which took place in Cochabamba (Bolivia), from March 13 to 18, 2018. In the document, we reaffirm the importance of collaboration among the Vincentian branches in the service of the poor.

The national coordinator of the Vincentian Family in Brazil, Father Joelson Sotem, CM, participated in the event and wrote a brief testimony concerning the meeting’s conclusions:

We of the Vincentian Family have our feet on the road and we now are walking. There are times when we are sure of the road, but at other times we find ourselves at a crossroads and we need to discern which is the best way. It seems to me is that we should never lose sight of what always guides us in that journey: the Vincentian charism based on Vincentian spirituality. The tools at our disposal are the strategies of Systemic Change in each and every effort at COLLABORATION. We do have many projects now taking place to defend our Poor in Latin America, but we must dedicate ourselves more, so that we truly become the voice and defenders of the poorest of the poor. And, together with those who are poor, let us rescue the dignity that has been taken from them.

Final Document of the VIII Latin-American Gathering of the FAVILA

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“THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY: LET US TOGETHER RESPOND WITH GOD TO THE OUTCRY FOR LIFE”

In Cochabamba, Bolivia, from March 13 to 18, 2018, under the motto: “Vincentian Family: let us respond with God to the outcry for life”, we have had the experience of God’s passage by means of the Latin American and Caribbean Vincentian Family through 93 delegates from 18 countries.

In this meeting we shared in the great wealth of:
• Festive liturgical celebrations
• An environment filled with fraternal joy
• Presentations by very significant people reflecting on the charism

We highlight especially the presence of Fr. Tomás Mavric, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and of the Daughters of Charity and General Director of several associations.

During our proceedings, participants resonated mainly to the calls to be:
• a Vincentian family that reaffirms the centrality of Jesus Christ and His option for the reign of God.
• a Vincentian Samaritan family, that is prophetic in choosing life.
• a Vincentian family that is politically effective.
• a Vincentian family that appropriates available structures in order to work as a network with common objectives.
• a Vincentian Family called to be accountable to contribute significantly towards concrete actions within the “Alliance for the Homeless”, based on the methodology of systemic change and strategies of collaboration.

These are our commitments:
• To sensitize the Vincentian Family to the poverty of migration and human trafficking, learning from each country’s reality and to carry out the commitment assumed in this regard.
• That each national council design new strategies so that the Vincentian Family can open up to the current perspectives, taking a new look at reality, about the poor and about ourselves.

We conclude the meeting with profound thanks for the efforts of each person involved in the organizing and carrying out this event. Our next calendar appointment is set for the year 2021 in the Dominican Republic.

Translated from Spanish into English by Dan Paul Borlik, CM
A Home for Life, especially for the disabled

- The “Tanjomoha Residence” is located at Vohipeno, on the southeast coast of Madagascar. It’s mission is to welcome the poorest and most abandoned of the surrounding Malagasy society to assist them in finding lasting solutions to heartbreaking limitations that they could never manage on their own. Founded in 1986 by Father Vincent Carme, Vincentian Missionary, it is led by members of this same congregation, in close collaboration with a community of Daughters of Charity.

- Young people with motor disabilities were at the heart of Father Carme’s concern when he founded the Tanjomoha Residence and this continues to be true today. These poorest of the poor have no state support; they constitute a heavy burden for their families, themselves often destitute, who sometimes reject them. Because of costly procedures, special education and wearing orthopedic equipment, parents are unable to provide any medical treatment for their children with disabilities. In addition, families also often do not send them to school, so young disabled people stay at home, sitting around doing nothing. This residence exists to meet such crucial needs, offering these young people both an effective treatment of their disability and an education updated to new possibilities all to help them to lead the most independent life possible:

Established based on serious research in adaptation:

“It is through education,” said Fr. Carme, “that we can offer a job to young people with disabilities, as well as better social integration and a fulfilling family life.” We find, therefore, at the Residence:

- a literacy class for those who cannot read or write: headed by a specialized teacher, herself disabled, Mrs. Léonie,

- a school of sewing and embroidery, the school housewives’ program: led by a sister and assisted by four teachers, this school effort is designed for girls but is open to those boys who have the taste. Upon graduation, each will receive a sewing machine as a gift to enable them to fit into the world of labor.

- a workshop for learning carpentry: there’s a sector open to disabled boys who have enough strength in the arms and have at least a good leg, because this training requires a fairly good balance and more physical strength. Students learn to make all kinds of furniture from straight stools to chairs, beds, wardrobes, panel doors, school benches, windows,
etc. Here again the practice is of special importance, which is marked by the average of 12 as the minimum average. On leaving, they receive with their diploma a well-stocked toolbox so that they can work and earn a living. A Vincentian Missionary, Father Prosper, runs the school of carpentry. Three monitors assist him.

The residence also offers the opportunity for young people to continue their secondary studies and send them to Sainte Geneviève College, run by the Daughters of Charity where they prepare for the BEPC or the BAC. We also help them to pursue higher education such as management, languages, electronics, or paramedics. A case in point is that of Julien who went as far as his doctoral degree in management.

We felt that practical knowledge of IT and applied management offered a better chance of finding a job. That is why we created, at the end of 2013, with the encouragement of our superiors, Visitor Lazarist and Bishop, a two-year training of BTS type, called ESIGAT (School of Computer Science and Applied Management Tanjomoha). Mainly, this training welcomes disabled graduates and capable young people from our other homes, Deguise and De Carme.

Actual disability treatment: the treatment of disability is an integral part of the Tanjomoha Residence project. It is one of two essential components, along with studies. It aims to provide young disabled people the maximum physical autonomy possible. There are various means available to these young people:

- Orthopedic testing: which is done each year in June by a team of doctors, physiotherapists and technicians for fitting, who come from the CRMM of Antsirabe,

- Orthopedic surgical operations: First performed at the CRMM Antsirabe, they are done since 2008 in Vohipeno, at the Henintsoa hospital, run by the Sisters of Mercy, close to Tanjomoha,

- Rehabilitation: The treatment of disability consists mainly in rehabilitation and the wearing of orthopedic equipment. Young people with disabilities who study at home must do one hour of rehabilitation a day under the direction of Sister Honorine, assisted by two assistants.

- Orthopedic shoe repair: While they traditionally worked only in leather and iron, in September 2016 they moved to the manufacture of prostheses with plastic tips and levers also in plastic, thanks to the technical support of a Spanish specialist who also provides us with all the necessary materials and components (machined tubing, prosthetic feet, resin, and other necessary materials.

Support for other types of disabilities:

Schooling for the blind and visually impaired: at-home studies for 25 young blind and visually impaired in specialized schools in Farafangana, at an old institution held by Protestant Lutherans, and more recently in Fianarantsoa, at Ephata School, administered by the Sisters of Mary Immaculate.

- Schooling for deaf-mute and hearing-impaired: the residence is also providing studies for 25 deaf-mutes and hearing-impaired at a specialized school in Antsirabe, administered by Protestant Lutherans who are pioneers in this area.

- Schooling for mentally handicapped young people: the home helps a dozen children and young people with mental disabilities to study in a specialized school in Manakara, the CES, which is a branch of the Presentation of Mary College, run by the Daughters of Charity.

Finally, in addition to the studies discussed above, the educational project set up by the Tanjomoha Residence includes moral education and a plan for spiritual formation. As we follow the Residence’s activities, our next article will continue these reports for you.

Translated from French into English by Dan Paul Borlik, CM
The last two General Assemblies proposed evangelization in the field of communication as an apostolate that is necessary for carrying out our mission in today's world. In addition, it is evident that we need to avail ourselves of the technological means to keep in contact with the more than 3000 missionaries of the Congregation of the Mission who are present on the five continents.

For this task, the Communications Office of the Congregation of the Mission has assembled a team of volunteers from different provinces, who, for some time now, have been providing assistance from a distance, in content editing, development of materials, and many other services that are required to keep alive the Congregation's communication channels.

The Province of Peru hosted a meeting, which took place from 25 March to 2 April during Holy Week, on the premises of the Bethlehem Propaedeutic Seminary. It brought together eight confreres and six seminarians from different parts of the world, headed by Father Jorge Luis Rodríguez, CM, Director of Communications.

The confreres who met were: Brother Adriano Ferreira Silva, Province of Rio de Janeiro; Fathers Jacek Piotrowski, Province of Poland; Kit Torayno, Province of the Philippines; Dario Jean, Province of Madagascar; Rolando Gutiérrez, Vice-Province of Costa Rica; César Chávez and Francisco Améksiquita, Province of Peru; Jorge Luis Rodríguez, Director of Communications; Deacon Álvaro Tamblay, Province of Chile; and the seminarians Carlos Villanueva, Province of Mexico; Felipe Cano, Province of Colombia; Patrik Boržecký, Province of Slovakia; and Vero Urbina and Roger Mamani, Province of Peru.

The Communication Project for the Dissemination of Vocational Culture was finalized at this meeting. It seeks to be a useful tool for the provinces and their work in vocational promotion. Father Jorge Luis Rodríguez, Director of the Communications Office, indicated that many hours of work went into consolidating the process:

“This project represents the consolidation of the Superior General’s dream about vocational promotion. Many confreres, who are committed to the development and dissemination of content for the diffusion and consolidation of a vocational culture, have been involved in it.

This project also coincides with the upcoming launch of the new website of the Congregation, giving continuity to the revitalization of the Charism after the 2017 celebration of the 400th jubilee, in this case through the Congregation of the Mission’s own media.”

Holding the meeting during Holy Week provided the occasion to celebrate the Paschal Triduum with two communities of Saint Catherine Labouré Parish. Four confreres serve that parish in Villa María del Triunfo, one of the poorest districts located south of Lima. Celebrating Easter with the community was a moment of grace.
The preparation of the film festival and art contest entitled “Finding Vince 400” continues, which will take place in Rome, from October 18 to 21.

There are already many who have sent their work ... but yours is missing! Join in and participate!

How to be part of the story

The first section entitled “Seeds of Hope” is aimed at the “under 18:” the contestants of this section are invited to use any creative expression (story, poetry, image, sculpture, music, etc.) that inspires direct service to the poor. The artists selected by the judges will be invited to the festival and awarded a trip to Castel Gandolfo.

The second section is dedicated to screenwriters: five will win a trip to Rome and a grant to produce their screenplay for a short film. These short films will be premiered at Castel Gandolfo.

The third section will see short films or films in competition on the theme “Finding Vince 400.” The judges will select films that inspire direct service to the poor and change our vision of poverty. These films will be premiered at Castel Gandolfo during the Festival.

The only condition necessary, which unites all three sections, is the theme: service to those in poverty.

For more details about how to attend FV400 at: https://facebook.com/FindingVince #findingvince, #fv400. Find out how to submit at fv400.org.
**General Information**

**NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES**

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<td>ZAPOTOCZNY Bogdan</td>
<td>14/03/2018</td>
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<td>VAN KNIPPEMBERG Mathieu</td>
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<td>Subdirector</td>
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**NECROLOGIUM**

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• This information has come this month.