

GENERAL CURIA

TEMPO FORTE CIRCULAR

(7-10 June 2011)

Rome, 23 June 2011

To the members of the Congregation of the Mission

May the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts now and forever!

1. Our **on-going formation session** this *tempo forte* was a sharing with the members of the Community in Dialog, an apostolate of confreres of the province of Rome, a 20 year-old program helping people deal with their addictions and giving them the opportunity to choose to live their life freely rather than enslaved by the world of drugs and alcohol.
2. We did **updates** on the following activities at the level of the international congregation.
 - We reviewed the **New Visitors Meeting** that will take place in January 2012.
 - We worked on the project of the **Ratio for Parishes**, dialoging at length over the results of the interviews of the questionnaire that was sent out. The two Assistants responsible for this project, Father Eli Chaves and Father Stanislav Zontak, will be readying a response to the Congregation regarding our reflection.
 - We dealt with a report from Father Stanislav Zontak and the committee that has been formed to renew the **Ratio Formationis**. The committee met in the Curia a few days prior to our *tempo forte* meeting to organize their activities. Those members are Jerry Luttenberger, Eastern Province USA, who was chosen as the coordinator of the team; Father Orlando Escobar, Colombia, the secretary; Father Jan Martinec, Sts. Cyril & Methodius; Father Joy Thuruthel, Southern India; Father

Robert Petkovsek, Slovenia; and a new member chosen to represent Africa, Father Dominique Iyolo, the former Visitor of the Province of Congo. Their plan is to do work and research at home and then return in 2012 to put together a concrete statement on the *Ratio Formationis* to be reviewed in the 2013 Visitors Meeting.

- We had a report from Father Javier Alvarez who was our representative on the new commission that has been formed regarding the **International Center for Vincentian Research** in Paris.

3. **General Curia.**

- An update on the situation of our modified **Statutes**. They will be sent to all the provinces in Latin, Italian which is the working language, French and Spanish. English is being translated at this time. Our intention is to send a digital copy of the Statutes.
 - Father Javier gave us an update on the most recent meeting of the **Union of Superiors General**.
 - We decided to have a special formation session on how to promote the **Patrimonial Funds project**.
 - We reviewed two programs that are being prepared by **SIEV** for 2012 dealing with helping to form Vincentian researchers.
 - We studied the minutes of the meeting of the **Commission for Systemic Change** and their project for the next five years. The General Council has decided in the next *tempo forte* to study more deeply the meaning of the systemic change and try to understand why there exist pockets of resistance to the concept.
 - We studied and approved the execution of a workshop regarding **Wise Money Management** for 2013 in Paris.
4. We received a report from the Director of the **Vincentian Solidarity Office**. Because of the smaller amounts of donations given to matching funds, we have cut drastically our support to provinces with special projects. At present we are not able to give further assistance for Vincentian Solidarity Office projects until 2013.
 5. Regarding **financial questions**, Father Geders shared with us a report from the **Curia Finance Committee** that met here at the Curia in May.
 6. With the assistance of Father Varghese, the Assistant for Missions and Father Geders we did the **Mission Distribution Fund** for 2011.

7. With regard to the **international missions**.

- We discussed two reports done by the Superior General on his visit to the mission in **El Alto and Cochabamba, Bolivia**. Then we reviewed a number of different correspondences that we had received from the mission superior in the **Solomon Islands**. The confreres there are involved in a project for building a center for formation for the Vincentian candidates.
- We received a **request from the Diocese of St. Ignatius of Velasco, Bolivia** for missionaries. That letter, written by the Vicar General, will be edited and published in the Mission Appeal letter of October.
- We reviewed the requests of two candidates for international missions.

8. **The Vincentian Family.**

- We reviewed the minutes of the **Executive Committee meeting of the Vincentian Family** that was held in January, including commentaries made by the Superior General.
- Father Eli Chaves gave an update on different activities of the Vincentian Family focusing principally on the **General Assembly of AIC** that was held in Spain and in which he participated together with the former delegate, Father Manny Ginete.
- He also gave us an updated report on the meeting that will be held in Rome in January for the **leaders of the Vincentian Family**. The program will be focused on the person Frederick Ozanam today related to the social teaching of the church and the millennium goals of the United Nations.
- The Superior General gave a report on the virtual meeting that was held of the new **Commission for Vincentian Leadership**. That Commission will have a meeting in Rome to organize and coordinate the different materials that have been published in the Vincentian Family on Leadership. The members of that Commission: Father Manny Ginete for the Congregation of the Mission; Mr. Mark McGreevy from DePaul International; Mr. Eduardo Almeida of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul; Natalie Monteza, AIC; Yasmine Cajuste the international President of Vincentian Marian Youth; Sister Denise LaRock for the Daughters of Charity; and Denise Khoury of the Vincentian Marian Youth. Any materials published on Vincentian Leadership are welcome (cmcuria@cmglobal.org).
- We studied and commented on a report received from Father Jean-Pierre Mangulu who is the newly appointed member from

the Province of Congo working with the Vincentian Family and the **project Zafen in Haiti**.

- We named the new **National Director of Vincentian Marian Youth in Spain** replacing Father Juan José Gonzalez. I thank Father Juan José for his many years of generous service as the National Director of Vincentian Marian Youth in Spain. The new National Director is Father Oscar Miguel Muñoz from the Province of Barcelona.
 - The Superior General gave a report on the activity of the Vincentian Family that he participated in during his most recent visit to **Central Africa**.
 - Our Secretary General gave us a report on his participation in the **MEGVIS** meeting of the different members of the Vincentian Family from the German-speaking world
9. We heard different reports from the General Assemblies of the **Conferences of Visitors**.
- APVC given by Father Varghese Thottamkara;
 - CEVIM given by Fathers Stanislav Zontak and Javier Alvarez;
 - COVIAM given by Father Zeracristos. At the same time, the Superior General shared with the Council a report on his visit to the new mission in Chad which is being sponsored by the Conference of Visitors of Africa and Madagascar (COVIAM) and the General Curia. We studied the reports of the **Delegate for the Formation of COVIAM**, Father Sy Peterka with reference to his visits to Rwanda-Burundi, Madagascar and Mozambique;
 - The Superior General gave his report on his participation in the meeting of the three Councils of the Provinces of the United States (NCV).
10. We had an interchange of our **calendars** for the months of July, August and September. I mention briefly here the activities of the Superior General. 13-21 August I will be in Madrid for the Vincentian Family Youth Gathering and the World Youth Day. 22 August I will collaborate with the Daughters of Charity from the Slavic provinces at the Rue du Bac in Paris. At the beginning of September I will visit, with the Director of the Daughters of Charity of the Province of Los Altos Hills, Magadan in Russia as well as California, Alaska and Utah. In the latter part of September I will visit Madagascar for the 100th anniversary celebration of the Province.
11. Following the *tempo forte* meeting there was a special session on Saturday 11 June during which the General Council discussed in

greater depth the responsibility of carrying out **canonical visits** in a way that would help to promote the internationality of the Congregation as well as know the reality of the individual provinces.

Your brother in Saint Vincent,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Gregory Gay, C.M.". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.
Superior General