

**First Encounter of Vocation Directors
Of the Congregation of the Mission**

The International Formation Center (Paris, France) convokes the First Encounter of Vocation Directors of the Congregation of the Mission (November 19th – December 1st, 2018)

1. Introduction:

Having concluded the Jubilee Year during which we celebrated the 400th anniversary of the birth of the Vincentian charism, the International Formation Center of the Congregation of the Mission (CIF) proposes the convocation of this Encounter for three reasons.

First: the reality which we as a Congregation are presently experiencing, namely a decline in vocations in some provinces. Rather than viewing that situation as a threat, it should be seen as a challenge. At the same time, we have experienced an increase in vocations with new circumstances that also presents a challenge to the Congregation. It is, therefore, necessary to establish a culture of vocations in order to revitalize our charism and thus, ground our ministries on a vocational perspective.

Second: the superior general, Father Tomaž Mavrič desires to establish this culture of vocation at the very center of the Congregation. He has spoken about this reality in his letters and views this as one of the fruits of the Jubilee Year. This culture of vocation is intended to involve all the Missionaries so that each and every one becomes committed to proclaiming the richness of our charism to young men and women. This proclamation is done through the witness of one's life and by placing the vocational question in front of young people (and doing this in a very natural manner).

Third: this year the bishops will gather in Rome to discuss the theme, *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment* and has stated that *the Church has decided to examine herself on how she can lead young people to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective ways to announce the Good News today* (Introduction of the Preparatory Document).

We are aware of this reality and of the extraordinary ministry that the Vocation Directors carry on in their provinces, vice-provinces, regions, and international missions. Thus, this Encounter presents our confreres with an opportunity to participate in on-going formation and to share their experiences, hopes and dreams as they search together for a common vision in their daily ministry and in the new situations that they confront as a result of the development of technology ... technology that is used by young men and women in order to interact with one another. May this Encounter enable all the participants to experience themselves supported in the mission that has been entrusted to them by the Lord and by Saint Vincent.

2. Objective:

To provide those persons (in the provinces, vice-provinces, regions and international missions) involved in vocation ministry with an opportunity for on-going formation and reflection. This Encounter will attempt to do this through deepening our understanding of a culture of vocations (from the perspective of the Vincentian charism) and will provide the participants with tools for the development of a pastoral plan on the social networks.

3. Themes:

Time	Theme	Content	
Mon. (11/19)	15:00 Presentation of CIF and explanation of the Encounter	Presentation of the Encounter Review of general instructions and the schedule.	Fr. Jorge Luis Rodríguez, CM Fr. Andrés Motto CM.
	16:00 Introduction. 18:00 Eucharist 19:00 Dinner 20:00 Presentation of participants	Importance of Vocational Promotion for the CM: Dialogue with the Superior General.	Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM. Coordinating Team
Tues. morning (11/20)	1. Reality and context of Vocational Promotion	- New Situation and Youth Paradigm. - Digital Continent - Native and Immigrant users of digital technology	Fr. Jorge Luis Rodríguez, CM Communications Team
Tues. afternoon (11/20)	Group Work	Groups according to the Visitors conferences to share experiences A province, previously selected, will make a presentation and generate a sharing of experiences with a guide to facilitate the dialogue..	Fr. Rolando Gutiérrez, CM
Wed. morning (11/21)	2. Statistics and the reality of Vocational Promotion in the CM.	Chart comparing the statistics of the Congregation with the area of vocational promotion.	Fr. Rolando Gutiérrez, CM
Wed. afternoon (11/21)	3. Biblical foundation for a culture of vocations.	- Biblical background for a culture of vocations. - Vocations in the Bible. - Sacred Scripture and the process of vocational accompaniment.	Fr. Roberto Gómez, CM
Thurs. morning (11/22)	4. A culture of vocations.	Relation between the New Evangelization and a culture of vocations -Clarification of concepts.	Fr. Amadeo Cencini.

Thurs. afternoon (11/22)	Continuation of the 4th theme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vocational Theology and attitudes. - Sensitivity or Spirituality. - Praxis or pedagogy. 	Fr. Amadeo Cencini.
Fri. morning (11/23).	5. On-going formation and creation of a vocational culture for the Congregation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The path toward a culture of on-going formation. - After 400 years of existence how to create a culture of vocations in the Congregation? 	Fr. Robert Maloney, CM
Fri. afternoon (11/23)	Continuation of the 5th theme		Fr. Robert Maloney, CM
Sat. morning (11/24)	6. Vincentian Tradition and Vocational Challenges for the CM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History of the CM in the area of vocations. - Contributions of Vincent de Paul to the theology of vocations. -Vincentian Reading in this area. 	Fr. Jorge Luis Rodríguez, CM Communications Team
Sat. afternoon (11/24)		Tour the city	Fr. Andrés Motto, CM
Sun. (11/25)	Free	Tour the city/shopping, etc.	
Mon, morning (11/26)	Vincentian understanding of a culture of vocations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vincentian attitudes - Vincentian sensitivity - Vincentian pedagogy. 	Fr. Rolando Gutiérrez C.M. (Costa Rica)
Mon. afternoon (11/26)	7. The Ministry of Vocational Promotion in the Ratio Formationis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pedagogical Proposals in the RF - Scope of limits of the RF with regard to a culture of vocations and its challenges. - Delayed vocations and the challenges that they present. - Relation between the Vocation Director and the other members of the Vocation Team 	Fr. Javier Álvarez CM
Tues. morning (11/27)	Feast of the Miraculous Medal - Free	<p>Eucharist</p> <p>Tour the city/shopping/procession.</p>	
Wed. morning (11/28)	8. Vocational pedagogy and accompaniment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stages of vocational development and accompaniment. - Reality and motivation of the pastoral agent - Canonical obligations of vocation ministry. 	Fr. Benoit Kitchey, CM.

Wed. afternoon (11/28)	8. Second part of the 8th theme.	- Psychology of vocational accompaniment. - Vocational discernment. - Suitability and pathologies in candidates.	Fr. Jacek Piotrowski CM
Thurs. morning (11/29)	9. Digital Communication in the Promotion of Vocations	Panorama of Digital Communication Web 1.0 Web 2.0 Web 3.0	Fr. Jorge Luis Rodríguez C.M., Communications Team.
Thurs. afternoon (11/29)		Tour of the city	Fr. Andrés Motto, CM
Fri. morning (11/30)	Continuation of theme #9.	Social networks: logic, languages, content, development of a content plan for vocational promotion (I)	Fr. Jorge Luis Rodríguez, CM Equipo Comunicaciones
Fri. afternoon (11/30)	Continuation of theme #9	Development of a content plan for vocational promotion (II)	Fr. Jorge Luis Rodríguez, CM Equipo Comunicaciones
Sat. morning (12/01)	Conclusion of the Encounter	Evaluation Final Document	Fr. Jorge Luis Rodríguez, CM

4. Methodology:

Presentations, group work, visit to significant places in the life of Vincent de Paul and development of a Final Document.

We have opted for a methodology that requires the physical presence of the participants. There will be intensive work sessions with supporting didactic material (texts, videos, presentations, workshops, evaluations) ... there will be time for prayer and meditation.

During the Encounter we will make two visits to significant Vincentian places in Paris (places where St. Vincent and the Congregation of the Mission ministered on behalf of the poor).

5. Dates:

From November 19th to December 1st, 2018. We ask all the participants to plan to return to their provinces between the afternoon of December 1st and December 2nd. Another group will be arriving on December 3rd and so all the rooms must be unoccupied and cleaned before the arrival of the next group.

6. Languages:

The Encounter will be in English, French and Spanish (there will be simultaneous translation).

7. Cost:

800 Euros (includes lodging, food, visits to the various Vincentian places, translation and material)

8. Place:

The Motherhouse of the Congregation of the Mission, 95 rue de Sèvres 75006 Paris, France. This building is located in the heart of Paris which facilitates movement to and from the airport.

