

*Vincentiana*, novembre-décembre 2005

Rome, January 21, 2004

*To the Visitors of the Congregation of the Mission*

My very dear Confreres,

May the grace of Our Lord be always with you!

I write today to inform you that, after a wide process of consultation, and with the consent of the members of the General Council, I have named Fr. Javier Álvarez as the Director General of the Daughters of Charity.

Fr. Francisco Javier Álvarez Munguía of the Province of Madrid was born in Pedrosa de Muñó (Burgos), Spain on March 20, 1954. He entered the Congregation of the Mission on September 11, 1973. On November 8, 1982, he was ordained a priest by Pope John Paul II in Valencia (Spain).

During the first two years after his ordination he served at the Apostolic School of Tardajos (Burgos). In 1984 he was assigned to the Theologate of Burgos as a formator and, at the same time, obtained a degree in Spiritual Theology. Subsequently, he earned a degree in Philosophy from the Pontifical University of Salamanca. In the year 1997, he defended his doctoral thesis in the Faculty of Burgos to obtain a Doctorate in Theology.

From 1986 on, he served as Director of Students of the Province of Madrid in Burgos, and from 1991-1997 as Provincial Councillor; also from 1987-1997, he collaborated with the Faculty of Theology of Burgos, teaching courses in the "Religious Life" department.

From 1990 on, he was a member of the Commission organizing a program in Vincentian Studies offered each year in Ávila for the confreres and sisters. In this program he taught various subjects.

On July 22, 1997, he began his service as Director of the Daughters of the Province of Santa Luisa in Madrid.

As Fr. Javier undertakes the ministry of Director General, I know that I can assure him of your prayer and mine, asking the Lord to pour out his Spirit on him and to give him abundant wisdom and deep pastoral charity.

On this occasion I also want to express my deepest thanks to Fr. Fernando Quintano whom I have had the great pleasure of working with over the last ten years. During the General Assembly last year, I was struck by how many positive comments were made about the dedicated, creative service that Fr. Quintano has rendered to the Company as Director General. I feel the same sentiments

myself. Not only have I found it easy to work together closely with Fr. Quintano, but I have also consistently enjoyed his company and his good humor. I ask the Lord to bless him as he begins to prepare for a new form of service in the Congregation of the Mission.

Your brother in St. Vincent,

*firma autografa*

Robert P. Maloney, C.M.

*Superior General*