

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010 CONVOCATION LETTER

Rome, 14 April 2008

*To All the Members of the Congregation of the Mission*

Dear Confreres,

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

Our Constitutions 107 4° instructs the Superior General to convoke the General Assembly, and I hereby do so with this letter.

With the consent of my Council, I have decided that, in light of the celebration of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. Vincent de Paul, the General Assembly be held in Paris, France. The Assembly will begin on Monday June 28, 2010 at 9 in the morning and will end on Friday July 16. The confreres are asked to arrive either on June 26 or 27 and to leave on July 17 or 18. The Assembly itself will be held in the large auditorium of the Daughters of Charity having at our disposition the facility for simultaneous translation. Small group discussions will also be carried out in the same location.

All our liturgical celebrations, that is morning and evening prayer as well as the Eucharist, will be celebrated in the Maison Mère of the rue de Sèvres. We will have at our disposition the main chapel and a number of the smaller chapels throughout the house for our small group gatherings. All our meals will be taken in Maison Mère of the rue de Sèvres as well. Housing will be in the Maison Mère or localities within a very short walking distance of the rue de Sèvres.

The motto chosen is:

**350 and Beyond — the Mission continues**

The theme is:

***“Faithful to the gospel... attentive to the signs of the times... open up new ways and use new means... remain in a continual state of renewal” (C 2)***

It is our hope that we harmonize with the previous General Assembly, particularly its final document, with the meeting of the Visitors in Mexico which focused on on-going formation. Our desire is to ever deepen our identity in light of our charism which is given concrete expression in and through our mission.

Part of the task of the Domestic Assemblies, which will be spelled out by the Preparatory Commission, will include: an evaluation of our living out of the final document of the Assembly of 2004; a deep reflection on the importance of initial and on-going formation as a way of sharpening our identity; the continuing study of our Statutes as prepared by the Commission on Statutes.

Other matters which make up the purpose of the General Assembly will be discussed in way to include a broad-based participation of the members of the Congregation of the Mission. Such matters are: an in-depth study of the reality of the poor in the world in which we live today in the different places where the Congregation is established; an update on the state of the Congregation in its entirety and in its parts; studying of other postulata presented by the Provincial Assemblies or individual confreres; the election of the Superior General, Vicar General and Assistants.

As previously stated, the Preparatory Commission has been established and will have its first meeting during the *tempo forte* in June 2008.

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, stylized initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.  
Superior General