

PRESENTATION OF THE DOCUMENT OF CONSULTATION*

THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION

The members of the Preparatory Commission of this Assembly have met three times in Rome, 9-13 June, 2008; 15-19 June 2009; 7-11 December 2009 respectively.

At the end of the second meeting we sent to all the provinces a questionnaire to stimulate reflection and dialog in four areas:

- An evaluation of the progress made since the AG 2004
- The topic of on-going formation
- The concept of faithful creativity to the mission (which is the title of this Assembly 2010)
- Dialog with the Vincentian Family and the poor

We asked first the Domestic Assemblies and then the Provincial Assemblies to work on these topics. A “synthesis” of the ideas and most significant experiences were to be sent to the Preparatory Commission by October 31, 2009. This has been done.

At the third meeting, the Preparatory Commission reviewed the material sent from the Provinces and, at the suggestion of the Superior General and his Council, have not prepared a *documentum laboris*, but a *Document of Consultation*, to bring together and put in order this material to send it to the participants of the Assembly, so that they will be able to prepare adequately to be ready to dialog, which will be the focus of this General Assembly.

A Document of Consultation seems to be a more adequate instrument for an Assembly that is characterized by dialog rather than a final document. For this reason, you will not be asked to vote on it at the Assembly (cf. *Directory* 26, #2). The Assembly, in fact, is free to use it as they wish.

This document that is sent to all the participants at this Assembly two months before its beginning (cf. S 88, § 2, 4) consists of three parts linked logically together. The first is entitled “a look to the past”

* The entire Document of Consultation was published in *Vincentiana*, 54th Year, N. 2, April-June 2010, pp. 163-180.

and is intended to make an evaluation of the progress made in the last six years.

The second part is entitled “a look at the present” and is intended to focus the attention of the members of the Assembly on the signs of the times to interpret and from this, to seek new ways and new means for the apostolate.

The third part is entitled “a look to the future” and contains the themes central to the Assembly, which the members of the Assembly are called to reflect on and dialog about among themselves. These themes are: creative ministry, systemic change, on-going formation, reconfiguration, the Vincentian Family and the poor.

As the Commission that has prepared this Document of Consultation, we wish fervently that it will serve to stimulate reflection and dialog. With this intention we have prepared it, with this hope we consign it to you.

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