



CONGREGAZIONE DELLA MISSIONE CURIA GENERALIZIA

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SUPERIORE GENERALE

Rome, 8 March 2017

To all the Visitors of the Congregation of the Mission

Dear Confreres,

May the grace and peace of Jesus be always with us!

It is with great joy that I share with you the news of one of the initiatives for the 400th Anniversary Jubilee Year. A worldwide Vincentian Family Symposium will be held in Rome on the weekend of 12-15 October 2017. Our Jubilee theme, “Welcome the Stranger,” is the focus of this event.

I believe it is a gift from God to us to celebrate this event together with Pope Francis, who will join us on Saturday, 14 October. We too will be privileged to have the reliquary with the Heart of Saint Vincent, which has begun its journey throughout the world, with us in Rome for that weekend. What a beautiful opportunity for us to be renewed in our missionary zeal!

With this in mind, I would like wholeheartedly to invite all the members of the Congregation of the Mission, all the members of the branches of the Vincentian Family, all those who live the Vincentian charism without belonging to a particular branch – parishioners, school and university communities, healthcare and social service collaborators, etc. – to come to Rome for this Symposium.

Thinking of our own Congregation, I would like to extend this invitation to the Symposium to our men in formation. More details about this will follow shortly. It is my hope that this event will animate them and kindle in them a deeper love of the charism and their missionary vocation.

I know that provinces, which presently have many, many vocations, may not have the financial resources to pay for such a trip to Rome. Therefore, we have established a special fund to help these seminarians at all levels of formation to come to Rome in the largest number possible. Please let us know the number you hope to bring and your needs. Together, we will work out a plan for them.

So that this invitation to participate in the Symposium be extended to as many members of the Vincentian Family as possible, **I ask that you see to it that every confrere receives a copy of this letter.** We hope that they will spread the word to all the corners of the globe, mobilize, and organize those with and for whom they work and serve or collaborate in different groups to come to Rome and participate in the symposium.

We also extend a special invitation to **youth (ages 18-28)**. We hope that the Symposium will be a powerful time to animate them in the Vincentian vocation.

The Symposium will take place from Thursday (for registration only) through Sunday, 1:00 pm (13:00). Details about the Symposium are on the attached Information Sheet. As you will see, we also will be celebrating a prayer vigil in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside-the-Walls, as well as a closing Mass on Sunday in Saint Peter's Basilica.

The 400th anniversary of the charism provides us with a unique opportunity to celebrate our Vincentian heritage, to give thanks for all that has been done, and to develop ideas and plans for the future. The consideration of our changing demographics and social contexts, the pressing needs of the poor, and our ability to respond best to these as a Family are of great importance.

After receiving the "Save the Date" announcement a few weeks ago, a number of groups began to organize group travel and/or pilgrimages, which would include the Symposium. I ask you to encourage your confreres and their ministry groups – parishioners, schools and their alumni, etc., – as well as members of your volunteer groups, affiliates, and other collaborators to think along those same lines.

The attached Information Sheet includes details about some travel agencies, which may be able to assist you with lodging and transportation.

There is no registration fee for the Symposium. Each participant is responsible for his/her own expenses for travel, lodging, and food.

We have developed a website through which we will update you on the events occurring over that weekend: <http://famvin400.info/>.

To register please click on:

English form: <https://depaulhousingforms.wufoo.com/forms/z1435kgz00dvph4/>

before 1 September 2017. For questions regarding the Symposium please write us at: info.symposium@cmglobal.org.

Please note: if you require a visa to enter Italy and, consequently, a Letter of Invitation in order to obtain that visa, please click on this link:

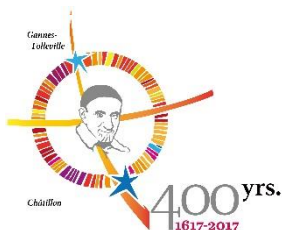
<http://famvin400.info/blog/2017/03/03/letters-of-invitation/> by 1 July 2017.

I look forward to being with you soon in Rome!

Your brother in Saint Vincent,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tomaž Mavrič', written in a cursive style.

Tomaž Mavrič, CM
Superior General



12 – 15 October, 2017 Vincentian Family Symposium: Welcome the Stranger

Information Sheet

REGISTRATION: *There is no fee to register for the Symposium!*

To register: <https://depaulhousingforms.wufoo.com/forms/z1435kqz00dvph4/>

For questions: info.symposium@cmglobal.org

LETTERS OF INVITATION: If you must present a Letter of Invitation to enter Italy, please fill out the attached request form. We are not able to provide letters stamped by the Secretary of State, except for members of the Congregation of the Mission and Daughters of Charity. If this is a requirement of the Embassy in your country, please seek alternative means to receive the documentation that is required of you.

If your country requires a hard copy of this form (as opposed to an emailed copy), you are asked to send €30 Euros (\$32 USD) to cover the DHL cost. Please follow this link:

<http://famvin400.info/blog/2017/03/03/letters-of-invitation/>

ACCOMMODATIONS, MEALS, TRAVEL: Participants are responsible to arrange for their own accommodations, meals, and travel. If assistance is required, you may wish to contact one of the following travel agencies, or one of your own choosing:

- **TMC Travel**, Daniela Fecchio Email: vfs@tmctravel.it Telephone: +39 06. 85304600
- **ERNESTO TRAVEL:** Wojciech Goj Email: poland@ernesto-travel.pl Telephone: +48 12633 6556
Website: <http://ernesto-travel.pl>
- **Perillo Tours:** Email: info@learningjourneys.com Telephone [855-784-7687](tel:855-784-7687)
- **Catholic Journeys:** Jimmy at jimmy@catholicjourneys.com or Ann Marie at office@catholicjourneys.com. Website: <http://catholicjourneys.com/>
- **Speed System:** Renata Azevedo or Lilian de Paula Telephone: 0055313298-1000
Website: <http://www.speedsystem.com.br/>

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Participants are responsible to secure their own travel insurance for medical emergencies. Residents of the European Union may obtain the European Medical Insurance Card (E-111).

ROME TRAVEL TIPS:

Currency: The Euro is the currency in Italy.

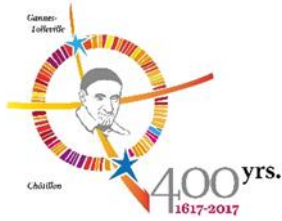
Electricity: The electrical current in Italy is 230V 50 Hz. Please make sure to bring your own charger.

Climate: In October, the average **temperature** starts off at around 19°C (66°F) and gradually drops until it reaches 14°C-15°C (57°F-59°F) at the end of the month.

Visit this website for additional information as you prepare for your trip to Rome.

<http://www.fodors.com/world/europe/italy/rome/travel-tips>

Please visit the Symposium website at <http://famvin400.info/> for the latest updates!



12 – 15 October, 2017
Vincentian Family Symposium:
Welcome the Stranger

SCHEDULE

We ask that you please plan to be present for the entire Symposium

Thursday, October 12:

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM (21:00): **Registration at the Collegio Apostolico Leoniano; Via Pompeo Magno, 21; Rome (RM)**

Friday, October 13:

9:00 AM: Conferences

12:00 AM: Break and Lunch

3:00 PM (15:00): Conference and Opportunity for Questions and Answers

5:00 PM (17:00): Celebration of the Eucharist

Evening Free

Saturday, October 14:

Celebration of the Eucharist in private

8:30 AM: Paul VI Auditorium (at the Vatican) opens

9:30 AM: Symposium Program begins

11:30 AM: Session with Pope Francis followed by Break and Lunch

8:30 PM (20:30): Prayer Vigil at the Basilica of St. Paul outside the Walls

Sunday, October 15:

8:30 AM: St. Peter's Basilica opens

10:30 AM: Celebration of the Eucharist in St. Peter's Basilica

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST: *Priests are requested to bring their own albs and stoles for the celebrations of the Eucharist during the Symposium.*

Please remember: all meals are on your own.

Further details will be provided as registrations are finalized.

<http://famvin400.info/>