The Community in Dialogue: Young men and women are looking for life

"Mediterránea": Project of Systemic Change of the Vincentian Family

Formation of Formators – CLAPVI - Curitiba 2018
On June 16th, the Community in Dialogue celebrated its twenty-seventh anniversary. Father Matteo Tagliaferri, CM, during his greeting, reminded the thousands of young people who had gathered together for that celebration that they had not only reinserted themselves into society but had in fact become a point of reference for society and for their families. These young men and women had mutually supported the development of their interior well-being and had also created a new awareness with regard to the culture that had been responsible for so many of the problems that had afflicted them. Father Matteo has received many requests that in turn have encouraged him and the members of Community in Dialogue to establish this Association in other countries. For example, they have established rehabilitations centers, in Peru (fifteen years ago), in Colombia (ten years ago), in the Ukraine (six years ago) and in Argentina (less than one year ago) ... very soon a center will be established in the Czech Republic.

Father Matteo has chosen the following words to define the purpose of this organization: at the service of the integral development of the human person. The problem of dependency on drugs has not diminished, in fact the use of heroin among young people is on the rise and there has been a sharp rise in deaths as a result of an overdose. This has occurred because over the years people do not understand what young men and women (dissatisfied and discontented) are looking for. Father Matteo has stated that young men and women are seeking life but have been unable to find it because even though they may possess “many things”, the one thing they do not possess, nor have they discovered, is love.

During a recent celebration the young men and women were able to communicate to their families and to those who had gathered together with them the fact that they were no longer dependent on some external substance. Rather they had found an internal joy which they were able to share with others who entered into their life. That, indeed, was a radical change with regard to the manner in which they now lived their lives. What a great joy to see these young men and women reunited with their families and at the same time be able to make a significant contribution to society.
Many people came to celebrate this anniversary. Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, initiated this celebration by presiding at the Eucharist which was concelebrated by Father Matteo and other members of the Curia and members of the Province of Italy. At the conclusion one of those present read a message from Pope Francis. The previous day, the representative of Frosinone, Dr. Rosaria Amato, visited this group and expressed her admiration for all that they had been able to accomplish. Many other government officials participated in these celebrations.

Translated:

Charles T. Plock, CM
Eastern Province (USA)

Website: http://www.comunitaindialogo.it

"Mediterránea": Project of Systemic Change of the Vincentian Family

By Elena Grazini and Fr. Giuseppe Carulli, CM - General Curia

World Day of Refugees: For the social and labor integration of the political refugees

In our hearts and minds we still have the Vincentian Jubilee, the great Symposium or the social and labor integration of the political refugees the 400th anniversary of the birth of the charism inherited by our Founder. We have lived this event not as a celebration closed in itself, but considering it as a starting point, to begin to work on the charism throughout the fifth century and to respond to any challenge which new poverties present us today. In
the message addressed to the Vincentian Family, Pope Francis wrote to us:

“The testimony of Saint Vincent encourages us to invest in the creativity of love with the authenticity of a “heart which sees”. Charity, in fact, is not satisfied with good practices of the past but is able to transform the present. This is all the more necessary today with the ever-changing complexity of our globalized society where some forms of charity or assistance, although justified by generous intentions, risk supporting forms of exploitation and illegal activity and do not produce real and sustainable progress. For this reason, envisioning charity, organizing close relationships and investing in formation are timely lessons from Saint Vincent. His example, though, also encourages us to give time and space to persons who are poor, to those suffering from the new forms of poverty of our time, to the too many people living in poverty today and to make their thoughts and difficulties our own. A Christianity without contact with people who suffer becomes a disincarnated Christianity, unable to touch the flesh of Christ. Encounter persons who are poor and give poor persons a voice so that our culture focused on the ephemeral does not reduce their presence to silence.”

In this groove we located the Mediterranea project. This is another consecutive fruit of the Vincentian charism which consists of the requalification and valorization of the unused lands owned by the General Curia of the Congregation of the Mission (around 2 hectares, 5 acres of land) at 191 Via della Nocetta where a greenhouse specializing in plants from Mediterranean basin, an orchard, a garden with aromatic herbs and a factory producing various designed objects to be used in outdoor garden were created.

Mediterranea was born at the beginning of 2018 thanks to synergy between The Congregation of the Mission, groups of Vincentian Volunteers of Lazio Region, “Tre Fontane”, a social cooperative (an entity managing some centers of SPRAR - Protection System for Asylum Seekers and Refugees) and “Linaria”, an NGO which over time has acquired various experiences in urban space and integration).

The main object of Mediterranea is to improve professional skills of the group of twelve SPRAR beneficiaries based generally in Rome, who aim to achieve integration into the labor and social structures of the capital. This systemic change project is in mind developing in the Vincentian Family in the last decade and the guidelines of the recently lived Symposium.

Thanks to all this, today you can find near the grounds of the General Curia:

- An organic vegetable garden and the garden with vegetables for sale in local markets and restaurants.
- A garden of aromatic herbs and a citrus grove which are used to produce salts and flavored sugars and organic jams in 50g jars for retail and online sale.
- A greenhouse to cultivate a precious and rare collection of “sweet pea” (plant of very aromatic vines) and “cosmos” (very rare, specific flowers) which come from specialized greenhouses in the United Kingdom; a wide range of cereals and Mediterranean plants (xerophilous plants which are adapted to live in environments characterized by long periods of drought, arid or desert climates) thanks to the collaboration with “Cascina Bollate”, the greenhouse similar to what Susanna Magistretti created in one prison.
- A workshop where designer outdoor decorations for gardens and terraces to protect and hold
plants and walls are made along with vertical gardens, garden tables and chairs, pots of iron and wood for all types and genres of plants.

We give thanks for the professionalism of Michela Pasquali (landscape architect and president of Linaria) a design and maintenance of gardens, terraces and balconies team.

We are hopeful that the growing collaboration with the social cooperative “Vincentian Welcome” will lead to a stable and professional entry into the world of labor and commerce, through the action of social enterprise supported on the local and national levels.

The initiative, besides bringing about complete and autonomous social integration for this group of political refugees, also wants to achieve strong social, economic and environmental impact. The dream is to be a pilot project that is is replicable in other urban properties that are public or owned by religious. These are two characteristics which in turn, are essential strategies for the methodology of systemic change.

This simple intervention in favor of SPRAR beneficiaries, asylum seekers and those under international or humanitarian protection, usually residents of Rome who knock on our doors is a concrete way of facing new challenges of poverty demanding our adhesion to the Gospel of Christ now in the 21st century. When this response is done with a vision of the whole person, it promotes an integral change in lifestyle and a true and authentic development by promoting dignity and restoring personal autonomy, a systemic change of their own existence.

“It is not jealous, it is not pompous, it is not inflated”…, as Saint Paul says, … “it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love never fails.”

To get more information you may visit their website (in Italian):

http://www.mediterranearete.org/

and their page on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/mediterranearete.

**Formation of Formators – CLAPVI - Curitiba 2018**

By: Roberto Adrian Fernandez, CM

Every two years the Conference of Vincentian Provinces in Latin America organizes an on-going formation session for those who are involved in the ministry of formation (formation at every level of accompanying those individuals who desire to enter the Congregation of the Mission).
This is a six-week on-going formation session which began on June 18th and will conclude on July 27th. All the different elements of formation (as outlined in the Ratio and in other church documents [Pastores Dabo Vobis and Evangelii Gaudium]) will be discussed.

This seminar is being coordinated by Father André Marmilicz, CM who was director of the Vincentian Seminary (Curitiba). Father André invited the various individuals who will give presentations and lead the participants in their discussion and dialogue. Father Eliezer Okonoski is responsible for the various logistical details that are involved in such a gathering.

There are some sixteen participants from distinct countries: Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras and Peru ... there is also one laymen from the Vincentian Family in Panama.

The following themes (among many others) will be dealt with during the formation session:

- Relation between the formator and those being formed (models of intervention) – André Marmilicz
- Affectivity and formation – Agostinho Busato
- Mediation and conflict resolution in the formation environment – Cloves A,orim
- Spirituality, a historical panorama – Luis Balsan
- Christian spirituality as life in the spirit – Luis Balsan

Last Saturday the participants were present for the diaconal ordination of Gilberto Rodriguez.

Translated:

Charles T. Plock, CM
Eastern Province (USA)

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**Invitation to the XXXI Session of On-going Formation at CIF**

By Andrés Motto, CM (Director of CIF)

The International Formation Center (CIF) extends this invitation to all the confreres of the Congregation of the Mission to participate in the XXXI session of on-going formation. This encounter will take place in the Motherhouse in Paris, September 10th – November 10th, 2018.

During the time of this gathering there will be presentations on the spirituality, the pastoral approach, and the teachings of Vincent de Paul and those other persons who have contributed to the rich Vincentian heritage that has been entrusted to us. We will also deepen our understanding of
some aspects of the history of the Congregation. At the same time, we will examine possible solutions to the complex problems that affect the poor and the Church. This formation will be complemented with visits to some of the historical Vincentian sites in Paris and in other parts of France ... these trips will be undertaken as a pilgrimage, that is, as an opportunity to encounter God, to come to a better understanding of ourselves and to reinforce our sense of community.

We are extending this invitation to those confreres under the age of 55 --- those confreres who are older will be provided an opportunity for ongoing formation at a later date. These sessions will be offered in the three official languages of the Congregation, that is, English, Spanish and French. The cost includes food, lodging, travel to the various sites, entrance into museums, and didactic material. Registration should be completed by August 29th, 2018.

For further information contact Father Andrés Motto, CM (Director of CIF) at:

andresmotto@gmail.com
cifparis@cmglobal.org

Translated:
Charles T. Plock, CM
Eastern Province (USA)

Towards a renewed Culture of Vocations
First meeting of confreres responsible for vocational promotion in the Congregation of the Mission
CIF - Paris, 19 November - 1 December 2018

By Tomaž Mavrič, CM - Superior General

To the Visitors, Vice-Visitors, Regional Superiors, and Superiors of the International Missions

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

With tremendous joy, zeal, and enthusiasm, I write to you today to announce the first meeting of confreres responsible for vocational promotion in their respective Provinces, Vice-Provinces, Regions, and Interna-
tional Missions of the worldwide Congregation of the Mission. It will take place at the International Formation Center (CIF) at our Motherhouse in Paris from 19 November to 1 December 2018.

The celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism last year gave us an impulse to go out to the peripheries of the world to share the Vincentian spirituality and charism that we have received as a gift, spreading them to the ends of the world. As we begin the fifth century of the Vincentian Charism, it is of utmost importance and a priority to do all in our power to help the young around the world respond with a clear “Yes,” to the call of Jesus to follow Him as a brother or priest in the Congregation of the Mission, in the footsteps of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Jesus is calling today as He called in the past on every continent and in every country, city, and village of the world, regardless of political, social, economic conditions, etc. The “Here and Now” of Jesus’s call and invitation to consecrated life is born and flows from the “Heart of the Gospel.”

Initially, Saint Vincent was reluctant to pray for vocations, as he explains,

\[\text{I thank God for the special devotions you are planning in order to ask God, through the intercession of blessed Saint Joseph, for the spread of the Company. I ask His Divine Goodness to accept them. For more than twenty years I have not dared to ask this of God, thinking that, since the Congregation is His work, its preservation and growth should be left to His Providence alone. Reflected, however, on the recommendation given us in the Gospel to ask Him to send laborers into His harvest (cf. Luke 10:2) I have become convinced of the importance and usefulness of this devotion.} \]

However, having reflected on the need, he encouraged others to do the same.

\[\text{We also need men for Scotland and the Hebrides. We've been asked for them in some other place in the Indies as well, but we can't take on all that at the same time, since we don't have enough men; for now, we'll simply try to give some for Madagascar, while waiting until God is pleased to send us workers.} \]

\[\text{That, my dear confrères, is a beautiful field of action, as you can see; that's why we ask God to be pleased to send good subjects to the Company.} \]

\[\text{We should lament before God at seeing so many needs in the Church, and ask the Divine Goodness to be pleased to remedy them and to send good workers into His vineyard (cf. Matthew 20:1).} \]

From this deep-down conviction that Jesus's call is “Here and Now” and that we are instruments and collaborators in the harvest, we are organizing a meeting of confreres from around the world who are responsible for vocational promotion. Preparation for this meeting has been in the works for many months. A lot of prayer, thought, reflection, and planning has gone into organizing it. It will encou-
rage, support, give new ideas to, and help those responsible for vocational promotion in all the corners of the world where the Congregation of the Mission is present, so that, God willing, the harvest will yield more laborers.

To this letter, I am attaching the program. The meeting will include simultaneous interpretation into different languages, so that every confère will be able to participate actively.

Dear Visitors, Vice-Visitors, Regional Superiors, and Superiors of the International Missions, I ask each of you to send one confère who is responsible for vocational promotion in your area to this meeting at CIF in November 2018. In case some of you do not have yet a confère dedicated to vocational promotion in your area, please choose one to participate in the meeting. I ask you to make it a priority to send a confère to the meeting.

We are going to meet in the surroundings where everything began. The Motherhouse in Paris will be the site of our reflections, sharing, planning, and common dreams. I am very excited, full of hope, and convinced that this coming event will bring an over-flow of blessings.

I ask those requiring a visa to enter France to begin the application process as soon as possible. For those who may have some difficulty in covering the travel costs, as well as the expenses related to participation in the meeting, please write to the Director of CIF, Father Andrés Motto, who will try to find a way to help you. In this regard, I especially have in mind our Regions and International Missions. I also encourage you to begin registering immediately, so that the organizing committee can have everything prepared on time.

I am looking forward very much to meeting all those responsible for vocational promotion in the worldwide Congregation of the Mission on the first day of the meeting.

We place this event in the hands of Divine Providence, through the intersession of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Saint Vincent de Paul, and all the other Saints, Blessed, and Servants of God of our Little Company, as well as of the whole Vincentian Family! Superior General

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1 CCD V, 468-469; Letter 1956 to Étienne Blatiron, Superior in Genoa, 12 November 1655. CCD refers to the series, Vincent de Paul, Correspondence, Conferences, Documents, translated and edited by Jacqueline Kilari, DC; and Marie Poole, DC; et al; annotated by John W. Carven, CM; New City Press, Brooklyn and Hyde Park, 1985-2014; future references to this work will use, as above, the initials, CCD, followed by the volume number, then the page number.

2 CCD XI, 294; Conference 146, Repetition of Prayer, 27 February 1656.

3 CCD VII, 559; Letter 2837 to Jacques Pesnelle, Superior in Genoa, 9 May 1659.
The members of SIEV (the International Secretariat for Vincentian Studies) met at the General Curia from June 18-22, 2018.

The participants included Fathers Javier Álvarez, Amada Riyanto, Emil Hoffman, Andrés Motto, Daniel Pilario, Vinicius Teixeira, Guenolé Feugang and Corpus Delgado. Fathers Nelio Pito and Dan Borlik were unable to participate because of previous commitments in their respective Provinces.

The meeting dealt with the following matters:

- The results of Father Armada’s meetings with representatives from the various universities of the Congregation of the Mission.

- The conclusions and proposals from the Encounter of the Librarians and Archivists ... Father Motto presented the results of this gathering which took place in Paris.

- The openness of the Jesuit University in Spain to offer a master’s degree in Vincentian Studies ... this was the result of a meeting that took place between the University administration and Father Javier Álvarez and Father Corpus Delgado.

- The various meetings and the promotion (on the provincial and the continental level) of the publication of courses on the inculturation of the Vincentian charism.

- Progress with regard to the work on a Vincentian bibliography (analysis of the data that the members were able to gather together from the various provinces and geographical areas). This work will lead to the development of a digital catalogue that will be available on the web.

- The possibility of reflecting on the realities of globalization and multiculturalism and Vincentian holiness from the perspective of the encyclical *Gaudete et exultate*.

After the meeting, the members engaged in a dialogue with the superior general. At the same time, Father Jorge Rodriguez presented the new design of web page of the Congregation where there is space to promote the publications and the activities of SIEV.

The members wish to thank the superior general and the other members of the Curia for their hospitality and for providing them with the space to conduct their meeting.

Translated:

Charles T. Plock, CM
Eastern Province, (USA)
Vincentian Family Office

Dear Members of the Vincentian Family,

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

The Registration Form for Finding Vince 400 has been activated and can be found at fv400.com. All are invited to join us for another historical moment in our life as a Vincentian Family as we seek to continue to promote the globalization of charity and the eradication of poverty through the arts.

An overview of our schedule includes:

Thursday, 18 October:

9 AM to 6 PM: Registration

3 PM: inauguration of the Film Festival and an opportunity to begin viewing the films that have been submitted.

Friday and Saturday, 19 – 20 October:

Panel discussions on the arts with a variety of actors, directors, and practitioners;

Further opportunities to view the films that have been submitted.

6:00 - 8:00 PM: VF 400 moves to the Vatican, where there will be a special program with the Bishops who have come to Rome for the Synod of Bishops on Youth. The proposed theme is “Youth and the Globalization of Charity.”

Sunday: 21 October:

There will be additional film viewings in the morning and a special recognition luncheon to close the Festival at 1:00 PM.

Soon we will send the more detailed schedule of the whole Vincentian Film Festival. We hope to see you there!

Your brother in Saint Vincent de Paul

Rev. Tomaž Mavrič, CM

President, Vincentian Family Executive Committee

https://www.facebook.com/FindingVince/

http://fv400.com/english/
## NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

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<td>VÁSQUEZ MARÍN Diego Luis</td>
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## NECROLOGIUM

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