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The Joy of the Gathering
The Coming Together of the
European Students Pg. 02



Abundant Blessings Pg. 03



Poor People, Go Home! Pg. 04

International Day of
Indigenous Peoples Pg. 06

“Finding Vince 400” – Press
Conference at International
Film Festival in Venice Pg. 08

Visit of the Superior General to
the Mission of the Last Frontier Pg. 09

General Information Pg. 10

The Joy of the Gathering The Coming Together of the European Seminarians



Aarón E. Delgado Méndez, CM and José Luis Cañavate Martínez, CM

The European students of the Congregation of the Mission, together with some candidates for the Internal Seminary and three deacons, gathered together in Southern France at the Vincentian school located in Ville-bon-sur Yvette (August 25-30, 2018).

The forty missionaries in the process of formation had the opportunity to reflect, discuss and share their thoughts about their Vincentian identity as a gift that the Holy Spirit has given to the Church and to the present-day world. That gift is vital with regard to a sense of belonging to a family that impels its members to imitate Vincent de Paul and act with boldness and with characteristics that distinguish it from other ecclesial communities. Father Javier Álvarez, CM (Vicar-General) shared with us some ideas about this theme on Saturday, August, 25th.

Our vow of stability is grounded on that identity and is most important with regard to our missionary vocation and sustains the living out of the evangelical counsels, the missionary endeavor among those persons most in need and the ministry of the laity and the clergy. Father Corpus Delgado spoke about this issue and highlighted three points: the mystical element (the personal relationship of the missionary to Christ), the community element (missionaries have a shared mission) and the

missionary element (the center of a missionary's perfection). This leads individuals to engage in a process of developing their lives in an integral manner (Father Christian Mauvais, CM addressed this matter on Sunday, August 26th).

Father Frédéric Pellefigue, CM and Sister Marie Claire, DC were with us on Tuesday and led a discussion on formation of the clergy and collaboration with the laity (two ministries that have been prominent in our Congregation for the time of its origin).

On August 27th and 29th, we reflected on the footprints of our Founder in northern France, in Gannes-Folleville ... the place where the evangelizing activity of the Congregation began. We also reflected on the ministry that was carried out in the city of Paris.

On the last day we were blessed with the presence of the successors of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise: Father Tomaz Mavric and Sister Kathleen Appler who shared with us their vision with regard to collaboration with the other branches of the Vincentian Family. We then had an opportunity to share with them some of our concerns and engage in a dialogue with them.

Each day we prayed together Morning and Evening Prayers and celebrated the Eucharist (using the various languages of the participants). The richness of the Little Company was experienced in the sharing of experiences from the perspective of our various cultures and ministerial undertakings. Such is what we were able to live during that week long gathering and that experience enabled us to put into practice and share in the culture of the encounter which Pope Francis has frequently spoken about.

We want to express our gratitude to all those responsible for this initiative: the president of CEVIM, Father Ziad Haddad, CM and his secretary, Father Abdo Eid, CM; all those who presented the various themes, the translators, the formators and the community at Villebon who welcomed us in such a gracious manner, especially Brother Maxime

Margoux, CM who was attentive to all out different needs.

The European missionaries in formation express our intention to live a life committed to fulfilling our mission, using the words of St. Vincent de Paul: *All of us have made in the Company the resolution to live and die in it; we have brought to it all that we have ... why? To do what Jesus Christ did, to save the world. And how? By means of the connection there is among us and the offering we have made to live and die in the Company and to give to this all that we are and all that we do* (CCD:XII:85).

Translated:

Charles T. Plock, CM
Eastern Province, CM

Abundant Blessings



Gregory Semeniuk, C.M.

On Sunday, August 12, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, C.M., Fr. Miles Heinen, C.M., and Fr. Gregory Semeniuk, C.M. participated in a Mass to bless the harvest and the vineyard workers of the Napa Valley. The event was called, "Abundant Blessings." The valley is world famous for its wine production. The sponsors of the event were the Naeymi-Rad and Kopic Families. They are faithful benefactors of the Congregation of the Mission, particularly, our international missions. The parish of St. John the Baptist co-sponsored the event. Fr. Ismael Mora, pastor of St. John the Baptist

Parish, offered the church building and grounds for the occasion. The event focused on the blessing of the vineyard workers prior to the harvest.

The blessing of the workers took place after the closing prayer of the noon Eucharist. All the workers, men and women, young and old, were invited to come around the circular sanctuary. Over two hundred presented themselves for the blessings. The workers were most grateful for the attention and acknowledgement. Veronica, a parishioner,

commented, "Vineyard workers do backbreaking work. The harvest time is especially difficult because it requires long hours of hard work." She added, "I would like to see this event take place next year. It is so important for the Church to show concern for the workers and to acknowledge their contribution." Pedro and Amelia Ceja, vineyard owners, and former vineyard workers stated, "Without the workers, we would not have any way to harvest the grapes. The workers are essential. We want them to feel proud because their hard work contributes to Napa's wine production."

Upon exiting the church, the people received an image of the Mary Immaculate and a small holy water bottle. These gifts of devotion were bought and prepared by Theresa Kepic, M.D. and Fr. Mark Pranaitis, C.M. The priests stood at the exit of the church, distributing the articles to each family in attendance.

The mood shifted to festivity as the band began to entertain the faithful and guests. All in attendance enjoyed delicious paella and tacos served from three lunch trucks. Fr. Ismael Mora spent time in our company as did the Napa Chief of Police, Robert Plumber and his wife. Fr. Mora shared with us about the challenge of providing scholarships for the Catholic school to the many deserving children whose parents cannot cover the rising tuition costs. Fr. Mavrič mingled with the crowd and greeted the workers in their native Spanish tongue. People were impressed that he also help to break down the tables after the fiesta. In short, the Superior General's presence message and blessing brought important support to the vineyard workers.

Please keep them in your prayers as they work to provide for their families as the harvest begins.

Poor People, Go Home!



Alejandro Fabres, C.M. - Province of Chile

Today, one of the great problems throughout the world is that of immigration. At times, we think that this phenomenon is experienced only in Europe and the United States. We might, however, ask how are the Latin American countries dealing with this reality? Father Alejandro Febres, CM, from the province of Chile, shares some reflections with us.

About a week and a half ago fifty-one Colombians were expelled from Chile. According to news reports, all of them had been convicted of various crimes related to drug-trafficking and were serving their sentence. They were deported and were warned never to return to Chile.

According to polls, the majority of the people applauded this measure ... but a bitter taste remains, not because, as some people believe, we want to protect criminal and drug traffickers, but rather because we are criminalizing certain social groups, especially immigrants.

Not, however, just any immigrant, but rather those immigrants who are poor. In other words, poor immigrants are disturbing our peace, especially those who are African-American and/or members of some indigenous group and who speak a different language or have cultural customs different from ours.

Some ten years ago, Adela Cortina, a Spanish philosopher, created a new word to define what the people of Chile are living: **aporophobia**.

Aporophobia is fear/hatred (phobia) of those who are poor (aproros). The majority of people would deny this and say that the people who were deported were criminals, individuals who wanted to harm the people of Chile in some manner, parasites...

At the same time, however, we do not say anything about the foreign consortiums that have taken control of our water and our communication networks (the people in Chile have the most expensive telephone bills in Latin America). We believe these companies have come here to invest in our community. Whatever investment they make cannot be compared with the profits that they take out of the country ... profits that are worth at least three times their investment. We say nothing because they speak beautifully (we have a weakness for foreign languages, especially English, French, German, Yugoslav) and they have blue eyes and blond hair and they have come to our country to improve the race.

I recently heard that diseases such as tuberculosis, diphtheria, and measles have increased and tripled ... AIDS has exploded and has become an epidemiological problem. Over and over we hear people say that the Haitians have brought AIDS to our country because they are all infected with this disease. There is, however, no objective proof to



back up those words and no serious studies have been undertaken in this regard. The Department of Health has published these statements but it is widely known that AIDS has increased because sexual education policies geared toward adolescents and young people have been discontinued ... the arrival of immigrants has nothing to do with this situation.

People from Peru have been here for more than twenty years and presently are not the victims of discrimination. Many of them have found their niche in the food service industry and that has allowed them to improve their situation. They are raising their families and paying taxes, which in turn, gives them certain rights. They are integrating themselves into Chilean society, just as the Palestinian community did in the last century.

The people from Venezuela have come here seeking better economic opportunities while the people from Colombia seek refuge from the institutionalized violence that exists in Colombia. Ecuadorians, especially members of the Otavalo indigenous community, are mainly engaged in trade and the people from Haiti were seeking escape from their situation of extreme poverty and misery and have been able to improve their situation here in Chile.

Nevertheless, we have begun to criminalize many of them. The Colombians are here and work as prostitute and drug traffickers; the people from

Haiti do not speak Spanish, are not clean and for the most part are beggars; the people from Ecuador are traveling salespeople and those from Venezuela are taking away our jobs. Some municipalities are penalizing those persons who take their business from place to place (these people are viewed as a threat to established businesses). My question is the following: why are we punishing these business people? If we truly believe that the people from Colombia are all prostitutes and drug traffickers why not establish policies that will enable them to develop their possibilities and become integrated members of society. Is this not what happened to the people of Chile when they sought refuge from the military dictatorship and migrated to Norway, Finland and Sweden? ... and the same could also be said with regard to the people from Haiti and Venezuela.

The poor complicate our situation because then we have to share our resources with other people, resources that we believe are ours.

Everything that I have stated here, I have heard from other people, including many Catholics who justify their fear of migrants and mask it Christian charity

... they will say: we should be concerned first of all with our own people who are poor; they would be better off in their own country; I say these things for their own good. We forget that as Christians we are commanded to care for the widows and the orphans and the poor ... for foreigners. Let us recall here the words of Scripture where it is stated: *I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*

We should not allow ourselves to be guided solely by the words that we read in our newspapers, on the internet or in the various social networks. Immigrants are not better or worse than we are, rather they are exactly like us. Their professional, social, and work formation is like ours. They are not going to harm us and in fact, immigrants have always enriched us; they make us more tolerant of our own defects. Let us open ourselves and our society to greater cultural diversity!

Translated:

Charles Plock, CM

Eastern Province, USA

International Day of Indigenous Peoples



Congregation of the Mission United Nations Office

The 5000 indigenous peoples scattered throughout the earth (90 countries), with their thousand-year-old cultures and languages (7000), are a permanent memory to humanity that nature is still waiting, it

cries out, for our ecological conversion. This is the same conversion to which Francis called the Church in *Laudato Si* (No. 217).

Through our charism, the Congregation of the Mission and the Vincentian Family work with indigenous peoples in many corners of the world since these 370 million people (5% of the world's population) are among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable populations and they represent 15 percent of the poorest people on the planet. Being so culturally distinct, the indigenous peoples of the world share common problems when it comes to protecting their human and territorial rights as different peoples.

Due to the evident vulnerability of these peoples, the international community now recognizes that special measures are needed to protect their rights and maintain their cultures and ways of life. This is why the United Nations declared August 9th as a day to protect indigenous cultures and to reclaim the respect of rights of indigenous peoples.

The 2018 theme of this international day will focus on the current situation of indigenous territories, the root causes of migration, trans-border movement and displacement, with a specific focus on indigenous peoples living in urban areas and across international borders. The observance will explore the challenges and ways forward to revitalize indigenous peoples' identities and encourage the protection of their rights in or outside their traditional territories.

From the UN, the Congregation of the Mission has been committed to having representation of indigenous peoples as part of the working group of NGOs that politically denounce extractive industries

and advocate for the right to drinking water for all people on earth. Through this presence we are connected to the Ecclesiastical Pan-Amazonic Network (REPAM) and the representative of the CM in the UN is part of the international advocacy team of this network. In addition, CLAPVI –the conference of Latin American provinces- was officially linked to this network a couple of years ago.

The celebration of this year has a special meaning for the Church since Pope Francis has summoned a synod about the Amazon in October 2019. In this synod the reality of indigenous Amazonian peoples will be discussed and from them -common realities and related challenges – the reality of the indigenous peoples of the planet.

We would like to invite you all to join us in the celebration of this day and from the heart of the indigenous peoples, to re-read the essential lines of the encyclical Laudato Si. Indigenous peoples constantly remind us of the responsibility we have to take care of our common home. "The cry of the earth is closely related to the cry of the poor –and to indigenous peoples- who suffer the most from the consequences of environmental degradation. A joint cry springs up from the same pain, caused by a system of predatory production and consumption, which has put economic benefit at the center instead of the defense of life." We have known this for some time. LET'S ACT... We still have time!



"Finding Vince 400" - Press Conference at International Film Festival in Venice



Office of Communication - Congregation of the Mission

On Sunday, September 2, on the occasion of Film Festival in Venice, Italy, a press conference when "Finding Vince 400", international film festival dedicated to San Vincent de Paul was presented. Speakers were Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of Daughters of Charity, Monsignor Davide Milani, President of the Ente dello Spettacolo Foundation, host of this event, director Andrea Chiodi, who will be responsible for the festival agenda at the Auditorium Conziliazione in connection with Synod of the Youth, on Saturday, October 20.

"Finding Vince 400" will take place in Castel Gandolfo from October 18 to 21 and will focus on the globalization of charity following the example of Saint Vincent de Paul who, as Fr. Tomaž said, "did everything possible to help the poor spiritually and materially". To do this requires a culture capable of promoting helpful relations, as Superior General continues, "globalization of charity is possible, but we are all called to collaborate to make it happen!"

Internationally recognized actors will be present at the Festival like Jim Caviezel, who took a role of Christ in Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ". But the real stars will be works submitted to the competition which faces about 3,000 artworks from 109 countries describing poverty and service to the poor from a new perspective. In fact, creators, screenwriters and storytellers from

everywhere have responded to the appeal launched by the Vincentian Family in the voice of actor and director of "Finding Vince 400" Clarence Gilyard to participate in three competition categories: short and feature film, screenwriting and "Seeds of Hope", category for those under the age of eighteen.

During the press conference, in striking words, Msgr. Milani was explaining how "Finding Vince 400" goes to help the FEDS [Fondazione Ente dello Spettacolo] mission in promoting cinematographic skills and educating young people in the audiovisual culture. He emphasized, that above all he is the spokesman of the paradigm change thanks to "the courage to couple charity and Vincentian Charism with cinema. Usually, cinema makes it academic way. But cinema is an art and it must touch the heart and make immersive experience. This is the way to be global."

"We need fresh look", continued Msgr. Milani, "because the current look communicates you are interesting for me if you bring me a profit. We need to look around and make you understand that you are interesting, because you are next to me, you are on the way, the Lord has placed you on my way. The poor are not only those who have no food, but all of us are poor, beggars. Everyone is missing something because we all need an other one."

This other one, different from us, but for who

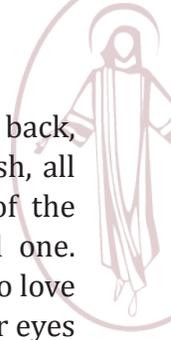
becomes reason of our vocation for us, will be the recipient of this charity, which is the theme of the Festival, according to desires of the Conference of Italian Bishops, which encouraged us to reflect on love as “a place to discern the vocation”.

At the conference, in the aspect of being charitable as a sense of life, we also saw director Andrea who read excerpts from disarming poetry of Charles Peguy taken from the book: “The Porch of the Mystery of the Second Virtue” [original: “Le Porche du mystère de la deuxième vertu”] which we quote here:

“Charity goes by itself unfortunately. Charity walks alone. To love one’s neighbor is enough to just let go, to just look at such misery. In order not to love one’s neighbor, one should violate, torture, torment,

and contradict. Stiffen. Get hurt. Distort, look back, revert. Go back. Charity is all natural, all fresh, all simple, all quiet. It is the first movement of the heart. And the first movement is the good one. Charity is a mother and a sister. In order not to love your neighbor, my child, you should close your eyes and ears. In the face of so much cry of misery.”

It only remains to wait for the festival in Castel Gandolfo from 18 to 21 October and in the Auditorium Conciliazione, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, October 20, open to young people aged 16 to 35. It was created in collaboration with the Synod of Bishops and Ente dello Spettacolo Foundation of the Conference of Italian Bishops!



Visit of the Superior General to the Mission of the Last Frontier



Jesús Gabriel Medina Claros, CM

On 17 August 2018, we had the enjoyable presence of our Superior General, Tomaž Mavrič, to this Alaskan Mission. We are happy with this first visit made by the Superior General to this International Mission. Sharing with him was very simple, but quite significant. During the three days that he was with us, he also traveled to and got to know some significant sights in Alaska, such as glaciers, and also saw dog sledding, wildlife, and the beautiful summer nature.

The mission of Alaska has been reinforced with the arrival of a new confrere from the United States, Father Henry Grodecki. We are now three priests on

the mission; that is, Shijo Kanjirathamkunnel (South India), Henry Grodecki, and Jesús Gabriel Medina (Colombia). Also present are three Daughters of Charity, as well as the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

We three missionaries live in the parish called Our Lady of Guadalupe and from there we go every month to attend to different Hispanic Communities and English speaking in the three dioceses of Alaska here in the city of Anchorage, in the city of Fairbanks, and on Kodiak Island. Thank you, Father Tomaž, for visiting us.



General Information

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
ROMÓN VITA Miguel	Sac	02/08/2018	SVP	83	64
EGIDO SÁNCHEZ José	Sac	05/08/2018	SVP	92	75
MAHUMOT MOLON Ranilo Jose	Sac	06/08/2018	PHI	63	41
FERNÁNDEZ MUÑOZ Ricardo	Sac	13/08/2018	POR	87	67

CONGREGAZIONE DELLA MISSIONE - CURIA GENERALIZIA

Via dei Capasso, 30 00164 ROMA

Tel: +39 06 661 30 61 - Fax: +39 06 666 38 31 - Email: nuntia@cmglobal.org