



Nuntia

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The Visitation of the Superior General, Father Tomaž Mavrič, to the RDC (Democratic Republic of the Congo)



P. Zeracristos Yosief, CM - Asistente General

“Every successful person has a painful story. Every painful story has a successful ending. Accept the pain and get ready for success.”

It was a long-awaited visitation. In fact, since his election on 5 July 2016, the visitation to the RDC was among his priorities. For one reason or another, however, it was postponed until, 6-18 September 2018. The primary reason for this short visitation was to resolve some matters that regard the Congregation of the Mission. Despite the full and busy schedule, Father General was able to meet all the members of the Congregation in two places (Bikoro and Kinshasa), many of the Daughters of Charity, and all the Vincentian Family branches present in the country. The Congolese Vincentian Family gave him a very warm welcome and the Superior General was very grateful for the opportunity to meet all the Vincentian Family Members and for their warmth and fraternal welcome.

In synthesis, the message he delivered to the Vincentian Family was:

That each branch of our Family is God’s gift and an enrichment for the other branches; all members of the Family are different but share the same charism ... we all are united by the same charism: Jesus’ gift to all through Vincent;

As we start the Vth century of the birth of our common charism, the Superior General exhorted the members of every branch of our family to remain united and to cultivate those virtues that have been given to us as a common heritage: *humility, simplicity, meekness, mortification, and zeal*. These virtues, he reminded us, are the cement that unite us within our own branch and with all the other branches of our Family;

If we live and practice these virtues, we will naturally “collaborate and work” together for good and for the salvation of the poorest of the poor in the Church. No one in our Family should feel alone and/or isolated. We are all called to *pray, witness, and serve the poor: our lords and masters*.

Referring to all the people who, in one way or another work or are actively involved in the service of the poor, mainly those who work and collaborate with us in the parish and education ministries, without being attached to any branch of our Family, he said: *they are “Anonymous Vincentians,”* because they are living and witnessing the Vincentian Values!

Finally, he reminded the members of all the branches of the Vincentian Family to be “fruitful”. We have an obligation to pass on to the next generation what we, in our turn, have received from the Lord Jesus: the Vincentian charism! Attempt to increase

the membership of the Family by extending an invitation to one other person to become a part of this worldwide family.

In synthesis, the message he delivered to the CM members is as follows:

He expressed his joy to be in their midst and to see the good work they are doing ... assured them that the members of the Curia are ready to help in whatever way they can;

The Superior General encouraged all the confreres to preserve the spirit of "unity" in the Province and the whole Congregation. He exhorted them not to give up and not to fall into the trap of tribalism or regionalism ... ism's that betray our vocation and mission;

He reminded all the members to be transparent especially with regard to the projects they submit to or-

ganizations like Vincentian Solidarity Office or other Church organizations. Transparency and timely reporting are very important not only for the success and credibility of present projects, but also, and above all, for future projects. He insisted on good and transparent management of the projects.

Last, Father Tomaž Mavrič, strongly recommended that all the confrere have with them three books: *the Bible, our Constitutions, and the Breviary!* Without these instruments, it is quite difficult for any member of the Congregation to live the four vows in the way that Saint Vincent wants us to live them. Let us give honor to Jesus by living our four vows, as we should and thus, become role models for the young people in our formation houses.

Edited: Charles T. Plock, CM

Eastern Province, USA

At the Foot of the Cross



Francisco Vilhena - Seminarista Provincia de Portugal

This day was not chosen randomly ... this day on which each one of you becomes a member of the Congregation of the Mission. Father Ziad Haddad, Visitor of the Province of the Middle East, began his homily with those words as he addressed the five seminarians who began a new phase of formation in the Internal Seminary. This house of formation is an interprovincial house located in Chieri (Italy) and this period of formation was begun on September 14th, 2018 (the feast of the Exultation of the Cross).

Today, the sound of those nails that were hammered into the hands and the feet of Jesus ... that sound still resounds in history. Today at the foot of the cross we can listen to Jesus as he points out the way with his words: *I thirst* (John 19:28). An innocent man who died on the cross amid laughter and mocking insults and false accusations became victorious. At the foot of the cross we are able to contemplate the sign of God's infinite love for each one of us because from that cross flowed mercy. At the foot of the

cross we are able to contemplate Jesus' redeeming action as he remained faithful to the Father ... acted in that manner in order to save humankind. At the foot of the cross we are able to see that belief in the cross necessarily means that we follow in Jesus' footsteps. Saint Vincent stated: *at the foot of the cross ... is the best place in this world you could be*. Yes, September 14th, the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, was not chosen randomly as the beginning of the Internal Seminary. Clothing oneself in the spirit of Jesus Christ who loves us and laid down his life for us is a challenge for all Christians, but even more so for these five young men who will always remember this day as the beginning of their vocation in the Congregation of the Mission.

This was a day of joy and perhaps of some anxiety but nonetheless a day of conviction as these five young men seek to know God's will for them. During this time of the Internal Seminary, Elie Chamoun and Jose Bassila (Province of the Orient), Jean Baptiste Gning (Province of France), John Ashu (Province of Ireland) and Francisco Vilhena (Province of Portugal) will begin to live their life and their mission in the Congregation and with the help of Father Stanislav Zontak, CM (Director of the In-

ternal Seminary – Province of the Orient) and their formators, Father Patrick Issomo CM (Province of France) and Father Gherardo Armani, CM (Province of Italy) they will come to a clearer understanding of their vocation as they prepare themselves for incorporation into the Congregation.

Present for this celebration were: Father Nicola Albanesi, CM (Visitor of the Province of Italy), Father Christian Mauvais, CM (Visitor of the Province of France), Father José Augusto Alves, CM (Visitor of the Province of Portugal), Father Paschal Scallon, CM (Visitor of the Province of Ireland), Father Pietro Angelo Fanzaga (Superior of the local community in Chieri) and Father Roberto Lovera, CM and Michelangelo Santià, CM from the community in Turin.

May this time deepen the “thirst” of these young men ... a thirst to learn the art of seeking, collaborating and becoming passionate in service, a “thirst” that is like the wheel of the potter (allowing oneself to be molded by God). May each one be able to say with Frederic Ozanam: *Lord, I want what You want, I want it as you want it and for as long as you want it, I want it because You want it*.

A short report on the Province of Indonesia



P. Mathew Kallammakal - Asistente General

The canonical visitation of Province of Indonesia was conducted from 1-24 September 2018 by Fr. Mathew Kallammakal, Assistant General. Indo-

nesia is a Muslim majority country with a population of 260 million. The catholic population is around 6.9 million. In the year 1923 the Dutch

province of the Congregation of the Mission responding to the call of the Propaganda Fide to set up missions in East Java sent five confreres to Indonesia. This is the beginning of Vincentian presence in Indonesia. In the subsequent years many more Dutch, Italian and French missionaries joined the mission and their work was abundantly blessed by God resulting in the formation of Indonesian Province in the year 1958. At present all foreign confreres except 3 have gone back to their country of origin or expired. The province has at the moment 99 confreres and 55 seminarians at various stages of formation.

Indonesian province is one of the vocation rich and growing provinces in the Congregation of the Mission. It is engaged in various ministries like parochial ministry, educational ministry, social developmental ministry, youth ministry, laity formation, popular missions, formation of the diocesan clergy and mission Ad Gentes.

The strength of the province is that it has a solid team of formators and well-designed formation program. One can reasonably assume that a committed team of formators and good formation program have contributed mightily to keep the province free from serious issues and problems and thus enabled the province to focus on bestowing Vincentian services to the less fortunate brothers and sisters in the society.

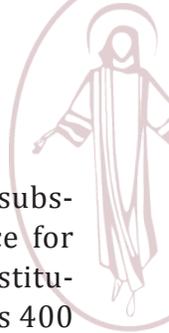
The Province, in a substantial way, is engaged in the formation of the diocesan clergy. Article 15 of the Constitutions speaks about a foundational work of the Congregation that is the formation of the diocesan clergy. During the seventeenth century, the Congregation of the Mission became increasingly involved in seminary formation. From the death of the founder in 1660 to the end of the century, the Congregation staffed thirty-four seminaries. In the next century the work broadened further, both in number of seminaries and in their scope. In many countries Vincentians staffed seminaries in a significant way. However the involvement of the Congregation of the Mission in the formation of the diocesan clergy has been gradually declining and it has declined very

much at the present time.

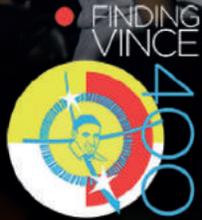
In this context it is encouraging to note the substantial contribution of Indonesian province for the formation of the diocesan clergy. The Institute of Philosophy and Theology at Malang has 400 seminarians from various dioceses and religious congregations. This Institute is managed by the Vincentians and Carmelites combined. The rector of the Institute is a Vincentian and eight other Vincentians are teaching in the Institute. Besides, Vincentians are involved in the running of two minor seminaries of different dioceses. The seminarians from the 3 diocese of Solomon Island are formed in the Holy Name of Mary Seminary in Honiara, Solomon Island. The administrative responsibility of managing the Holy Name of Mary Seminary in Honiara, Solomon Island, is taken by the Indonesian Province since 2017. Indonesian province staffs this major seminary.

Province's commitment to have ministry among the youth deserves appreciation. Vincentian youth are organized locally and nationally. Annual gathering of Vincentian youth from different parts of the country for seminar, sharing and formation sessions goes on every year. The three retreat centers in the province are used to provide seminar and formation sessions to children from the seven school in the province. They come batch by batch to attend the programs organized by the confreres.

Another noteworthy and reassuring aspect the Province is the high level of willingness among the confreres to go to the peripheries. There is significant presence of Indonesian confreres in the domestic mission areas of West Kalimantan, South Borneo and West Papua. Besides Indonesian confreres render their services in Solomon Island, Papua New Guinea, China, Suriname, Bolivia and Philadelphia. In the past the Dutch, French and Italian missionaries came to Indonesia for continuing our mission of evangelizing the poor and now the Indonesians do the same; going to different parts of the world to continue our mission of evangelizing the poor.



Let us meet in Rome on 20 October to share the Charism



**The Vincentian Family,
together with the Synod of Bishops,
invite you to a wonderful experience of theater,
music and testimonies
during the "Finding Vince 400" Film Festival**

**SATURDAY
20
OCTOBER
6:00 PM**



**WHEN
CHARITY
CALLS YOU**

Charity as a privileged place for vocational discernment

The Vincentian Family, during the "Finding Vince 400" film Festival, is organizing an event with the Synod of Bishops titled "When Charity Calls you", at the Auditorium Conciliazione in Rome, on Saturday, 20 October at 6:00 PM. It is an opportunity to use the language of art to think about Charity and God's love, experienced in the poor and the outcast, that changed the life of Saint Vincent de Paul and still calls men and women from around the world every day to counter new forms of poverty. Jim Caviezel, who played Jesus Christ in Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of Christ*, will share his spiritual journey in a candid interview. Piera degli Esposti and Massimo Popolizio will read excerpts from C. Peguy's *the Portico of the Mystery of the Second Virtue*. Sarah Maestri and Giovanni Scifoni, who will read texts by Saint Vincent and the rewritten story of the

Saint's life, will make us rediscover his story, his life and way of praying. Songwriter Ron and the international musical group Gen Verde will entertain us with their music: together, they will bear witness to Saint Vincent de Paul's action at the beginning of the fifth century of the Vincentian charism, through a story told by images, music and entertainment, directed by Andrea Chiodi and hosted by Arianna Ciampoli.

This event is open for everybody. However, number of seats in the Auditorium is limited.

To book your reservation, write to:

20ottobre@famvin.org

The Heart of University Life is a Project of Discovery



P. John Freund, CM - Eastern Province USA

In his September 25 visit to Niagara University, Superior General Tomaž Mavrič, C.M., spoke powerfully of the heart of university life as a project of discovery.

Discovery of one's calling in life begins when we have the courage to encounter ourselves and our world with compassionate hearts. Our families share their values and their faith with us, and we set out on life's path. On each stage of the journey, we encounter others who help sharpen our skills, open our minds and form our choices. Eventually, we choose a career path which gives clearer focus to the road ahead.

A crucial point on that path, for many, is the time we spend at university. Here at Niagara University, you have developed an educational process that assists the young in developing their gifts:

- through rigorous study and demanding departmental curricula,
- through career-focused experiences in your Impact program, your specialized internships, and your commitment to faculty and student research, and
- through countless opportunities and activities on and off the campus.

He drew out the implications of the vision for both students and faculty.

To the faculty:

First, the most influential relationships that young people will have at Niagara are, or can be, those they have with you. Make it your goal to open your students to their possibilities and to their responsibilities.

To students:

Make an impact here and now. Work to dismantle racism, sexism, and those structures of inequity and economic oppression that are some of the root causes of homelessness. Be Vincentian and find your vocation. Give of your very best. Don't be afraid to give all. You will find yourselves.

He quoted Frederic Ozanam, who as a young student set in motion a movement of nearly one million members in over 150 countries of the world.

"To be a martyr is to give back to heaven all that one has received: his money, his blood, his whole soul. The offering is in our hands; we can make this sacrifice. It is up to us to choose to which altars it pleases us to bring it, to what divinity we will consecrate our youth and the time following, in what temple we will assemble: at the foot of the idol of egoism, or in the sanctuary of God and humanity."

His final words..."There is great power at this university. I ask you to use it in ever more creative ways. Let us enter together, the sanctuary of humanity."

All this took place not far from the scenic wonder of Niagara Falls, where Niagara University has conducted its Vincentian Mission since 1856. Fr. Jean Baptiste Etienne consented to the request of Bishop John Timon, C.M. to send missionaries to found a seminary to be called Our Lady of Angels. That seminary later became Niagara University under the leadership of Fr. John Lynch, C.M.

On Tuesday, September 25, 2018, Niagara was honored with a visit from Etienne's successor, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, C.M. He toured the University's systemic change initiative in the South End of Niagara Falls, and was honored with an honorary doctoral degree: Doctor of Humane Letters.



Special thanks to Tom Burns, Michael Freedman and Aidan Rooney for supplying photos and background to this story.

Poor Church for the poor – Medellín, 50 years ago



Guillermo Campuzano, CM.

The cry of the poor, the cry for life amidst the cry for a new way of being the Church. This is not an official account, not does it intend to be, of the event that took place in Medellín this past August. It is a personal reflection, the fruit of my own experience.

In Medellín, we took on the cry of the poor, the cry for life, and the cry for a new way of being the Church. Coming from all over the continent and the Caribbean, we gathered about 500 people to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 2nd General Conference of the Latin American Episcopate in Medellín, using the motto: "Prophecy, Communion and Participation."

Thus, we re-launched the option for the earth and impoverished people who are subject to a socioeconomic system of exclusion that prevails in the continent and which often makes us feel powerless.

In the face of numerous and incessant aggressions against Mother Earth, caused by state-sponsored multinational companies through mining, hydroelectric facilities, oil companies, agro-industries, and logging companies, as well as shocking socioeconomic inequality, growing violence, political corruption, militarism, climate change, migration and mass displacement, and the progress of an agenda that systematically violates people's rights, we heard that tumultuous cry for life,

which, demanding justice, reaches God, from the lips of the poor and the belly of the earth.

We reflected in many ways about the opportunity that is offered in the encyclical *Laudato Sí* and Pope Francis' common good agenda, which he continues presenting to us vehemently. This invitation encourages us to work together to change this reality by caring for our common home: humanity/Earth.

However, much of our time was spent on the news of the scandals that came from the Church in Philadelphia, the letter of the ex-nuncio Viganò who asked for Pope Francis' resignation, and the power struggles of a Church that is fractured in its essence and severely weakened in its credibility. In this context another cry was clearly heard, this time coming from inside, the cry for the urgency of a new way of being the Church today. It was said, in various ways, that the hierarchical structure has a lot to do with everything that is happening to us.

The sexual, economic, and power abuses, and that of the control of conscience that Francisco has condemned in his last letter to the "Pueblo de Dios", have much to do with a model of a clerical and hierarchical Church that refuses to die against the overwhelming proposal of the Council's reform that has asked for a "Pueblo de Dios" Church.

In this reconciliation model, the equality of the baptized highlights a path of prophecy, communion, and participation. Although, from Medellín 68 until today, women and secular people have gained some significant spaces in ecclesial life, injustice, gender violence, inequity and the marginalization of these groups persists in discernment, in decision-making and in the carrying out of programs that make the Church new. This could all be the real example of our decision to continue listening and to walk in the direction marked by the cries of life: it is in those cries that God calls and speaks to us.

A voice of solidarity and commitment was raised for the victims of the abuses of the clergy that cause deep shame and indignation for us.

Nowadays, the cry of the poor and the earth and, in them, the cry of life is inseparable from the cry for a

new Church in which all human and economic resources and ecclesial structures are oriented with resoluteness and solidarity towards what it is essential: caring for life on this earth, our common home, which is in danger and stress, and for the defense of abused, marginalized and excluded people, just as Jesus did and proposed in his Gospel.

For those of us who work at the UN representing catholic-based NGOs and religious congregations, this is a particularly challenging time. Today our work has become more difficult due to the weakened credibility of the church worldwide. There are always those who doubt our proposals and agenda. It is necessary to define our options clearly and our commitment to continue to contributing with humility to the implementation of the UN 2030 agenda that places the global alternative for the common good over the individual good. The common good and not only that of the 1% of the population, which continues enriching itself through its almighty capacity to impact and corrupt corporation's political world and through the consumption it imposes on the anonymous masses, which is a model that makes life on the planet unsustainable in the medium and long term.

Currently, establishing strategic alliances that advance the proposal for a renewal of the church, which favors life and impoverished people, is urgent. This is why it is important to continue being in communion with the Global Catholic Climate Movement, World Council of Churches, Churches and Mining Network and Pan Amazonian Ecclesial Network (REPAM in Spanish),



among others, and join the preparation for the Amazon's synod, which will take place in October 2019, along with Latin America's social movements, in which indigenous people must be given special focus. It is also important that, for the sake of believers, our presence in the UN, and in every place where we may find ourselves, we work for the creation of permanent, virtual and face-to face groups of guardians of the creation. In addition, we, the clergy, have an important role in the renewal of the Church based on a new lifestyle that en-

compasses the reinterpretation of the charismatic nature of our community in light of the challenges of this time in history, the effective and brave experiences of new, more prophetic, non-clerical ecclesiastical ways, and the communion and true participation of women and secular people who renew the structures of the Church from the inside

Traduction de: Jpic-jp.org



Meeting of Vocational Promoters

WE ARE JOURNEY TOWARD A NEW CULTURE OF VOCATION

Call to the First Meeting of Vocational Promoters.

On several occasions, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, Superior General, has insisted, through his letters and talks, on the need to deal with the vocational issue in terms of challenge rather than crisis, calling first of all to move toward a renewed culture of vocations.

I would like to invite us to unite all our efforts at showing the children, youth, and adults of today, who are caught in this "Anti-Culture of Vocations," the beauty, attractiveness, and life-giving meaning of responding with a resounding "Yes" to Jesus's call! I call us to demonstrate to the children, youth, and adults that it is normal to respond affirmatively, with a loud "Yes," to Jesus's invitation and not abnormal. We must strive together for a renewed Culture of Vocations (Letter of 25 January 2018).

In addition to the signs that current times offer us – such as the decrease in the number of missionaries in many provinces, stability problems both in young confreres and in those with a good number of years of vocation, among other difficulties that are not entirely new – there is the recently inaugurated XV Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on *Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment*, that make us feel

that we are at a key moment to reflect on, develop, and invest efforts in the apostolate of vocations.

Against this background, the International Formation Center, in coordination with the Communications Office of the General Curia, has organized the First Course of Vocational Promoters of the Congregation of the Mission. It is ready to be held at the CIF facilities in Paris, 19 November to 1 December 2018.

The activity aims to provide those persons (in the provinces, vice-provinces, regions, and international missions) involved in vocation ministry with an opportunity for ongoing formation and reflection. This Meeting will attempt to do this through deepening our understanding of a culture of vocations (from the perspective of the Vincentian charism) and will provide the participants with tools for the development of a pastoral plan on the social networks.

Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, will begin the course and several speakers both from the Congregation and from outside are expected. Among them is Amedeo Cencini, an outstanding vocational theologian, who is involved in priestly formation. In addition, the preparatory commission has developed a curriculum that covers the current reality of new youth cultures, as well as the biblical aspects and dimensions of the Vocational Culture. There also will be pedagogical tools for the accompaniment of young people and ideas for specific issues that are related to Vocation Ministry, such as ongoing formation and the challenge of late vocations. The Superior General is counting on at least one representative from each province, vice-province, region and international mission of the Congregation.

Information: Andrés Motto: andresmotto@gmail.com



General Information

NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

SANZ PORRAS Enrique	13/06/2018	Director DC Madrid-St. Vincent
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ORDINATIONES

RANDRIANANTENAINA Jean Claude	Sac	MAD	28/07/2018
FREDI SUNARKO NJOO Alexius	Sac	IDS	27/08/2018
LAKO Leonardus	Sac	IDS	27/08/2018
NOVAN AGESTYO Ignatius	Sac	IDS	27/08/2018
SANDY DHARMA KUNCARA Gregorius	Sac	IDS	27/08/2018
VÁSQUEZ LÓPEZ Edwin Gabriel	Sac	AMC	08/09/2018
CAÑAVATE MARTÍNEZ José Luis	Sac	CAE	15/09/2018
RAMÍREZ RUIZ Wimer Alfredo	Sac	CAE	23/09/2018
MARATOETSE Leonary	Sac	MAD	27/09/2018

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
STANČEK Lubomír	Sac	12/07/2018	SLK	62	42
RIVA Domenico	Sac	01/09/2018	ITA	92	74
PASCUAL PASCUAL Pedro	Sac	03/09/2018	SVP	89	70
TONDOWIDJOJO Joannes	Sac	05/09/2018	IDS	83	60
BÓRIO Lauri Vital	Sac	08/09/2018	CUR	63	41
EKPE CHIANAKWALAM Collins Ignatius	Sac	22/09/2018	NIG	47	27
LÓPEZ CUESTA* Clemente	Fra	25/09/2018	SVP	90	59
MINSTER Louis	Sac	27/09/2018	FRA	98	77

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*"I belong neither here nor there,
but wherever God wants me to be"*

S. Vincent de Paul

