

# Nuntia

Newsletter of the Congregation of the Mission

MAY 2019

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**Congregation of the Mission**  
Communication Office

# 10th Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Blessed Marta Wiecka

## On the path to holiness



For the tenth consecutive year, the Vincentian Family organized a pilgrimage to the tomb of Blessed Marta Wiecka in Sniatyn. On 25-26 May, more than 600 persons participated in this event during which time they offered prayers to this revered woman. The life and ministry of Blessed Marta Wiecka has become known in the Ukraine and in many other places throughout the world. The National pilgrimage to the shrine of Blessed Marta

Wiecka has grown in numbers with each passing year. It was organized by members of the Congregation of the Mission, Daughters of Charity and other branches of the Vincentian Family. This event had the blessing of the Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops and the Synod of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine. During the past two years, the relics of the Blessed Marta Wiecka were venerated in many towns and villages (475 Roman

and Greek Catholic parishes from the east to west of Ukraine to Sniatyn). "Martha visited" all those who could not, for some reason, come to Sniatyn to pray at her tomb. When her relics were brought to the various parishes and communities, people prayed together for peace, unity and mercy.

The two-year pilgrimage of the relics of Blessed Marta was an event that coincided with the 400th anniversary of the birth of the Vincentian Charism. All of this began in 1617 when the heart of St. Vincent de Paul was enflamed with the love of God and love of neighbour, when he became a "mystic of charity", a father of the poor, a father of the poorest of the world.

This year, during the pilgrimage to the tomb of Blessed Marta, another important event occurred in the Ukraine. Two Vincentian priests from the Province of Italy, Fr. Salvatore Fari CM and Fr. Valerio Di Trapani CM, brought here some relics of Saint Vincent de Paul which will be venerated in all the places where the Vincentian Family is ministering. The relics will remain in the Ukraine until the end of December 2019.

During these days, many visitors from throughout the Ukraine and from other countries came to Sniatyn. Among these pilgrims, we welcomed visitors from the General Curia of the Congregation of Mission, the Superior General of the Congregation of Mission, Fr. Tomaz Mavrič CM, the secretary-general, Fr. Giuseppe Turati CM, and visitors from the United States, Poland, Germany, Russia, and Belarus. Bishop Vitaliy Skomarovskiy, ordinary of the Diocese of Lutsk, celebrated the Eucharist on May 25, and Father Tomaz Mavrič CM, gave the homily.

A solemn procession moved through the streets of the town where the faithful prayed together to Blessed Marta Wiecka and glorified God. Once again, on May 26, the Bishop of Lutsk, Vitaliy Skomarovskiy, presided at the celebration

of the Eucharist. All the events of May 25th were transmitted by National Catholic Radio Maria.

At the conclusion of the celebrations, the Visitor of the Vice-Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Father Jan Trzop CM, thanked all the guests and pilgrims, the organizers and all people of good will who made this celebration such a successful event. We are also grateful to Catholic "Radio Maria", staff and volunteers who helped to cover the event, inform the listening audience of the pilgrimage, and broadcast the Liturgies surrounding the pilgrimage in Sniatyn.

Fr. Mykhaylo Talapkanych CM  
Vice-Province of Saints Cyril and Methodius



# The Jubilee

Time for an inner revolution,  
for a revolution of Charity



On Sunday, 19 May 2019, the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, Father Tomaž Mavrič, presided over the Solemn Eucharistic celebration at the Parish of Saint Joachim in Naples. It was the opening of the Jubilee Year, the 60th anniversary of the parish, for, on 26 May 1960, the Visitor of the Vincentian Missionaries, Father Luigi Malara, blessed the Church. On 25 June of the same year, Cardinal Alfonso Castaldo established it as a new parish. At the beginning of the celebration the

decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary was read, on the mandate of Pope Francis, with the favorable opinion of Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe, Archbishop of Naples, with which the Jubilee Year was granted an attached plenary indulgence.

The Superior General, Father Tomaž, in his homily, taking up the image of the ship (Acts 14:26), urged us to set sail to live the new commandment of love (John 13:34). It is – continued Father Tomaž – to perceive ourselves not only



as recipients of a love that precedes and dominates us, but also calls us to an active response, which, to be adequate, can be only a response of love.

In this regard, he recalled the story of charity that the parish is writing through the work of the House of Ephesus and through support for the Mediterranean Project, a Vincentian venture for the social and work integration of political refugees.

He concluded his homily by encouraging the community to live the Jubilee, a "holy and important work for our salvation" (Saint Vincent), as a time for an inner revolution, a revolution of charity.

At the end of the Eucharistic celebration, the material for the Jubilee prepared by Father Salvatore and Father Francesco was distributed: explanation of the Jubilee logo, indications on the plenary indulgence, the jubilee program, the text to help the faithful make an examination of conscious.

Fr. Salvatore Fari, CM  
Province of Italy

# The Superior General Visits Egypt

April 29 to May 4, 2019

At the invitation of Father Ziad Haddad, Visitor of the Orient Province of the Congregation of the Mission, Father Tomaž Mavrič, our Superior General, visited Egypt from April 29 to May 4. The primary purpose of this visit was to inaugurate the Vincentians' new mission in Cairo. The Superior General used this opportunity also to visit the various works of the Vincentian confreres and the Daughters of Charity in Cairo and Alexandria and to meet with the Vincentian Family of Egypt. He was thus able to see first-hand how vital and dynamic these works are despite the small number of confreres and sisters.

Egypt today has nearly one hundred million inhabitants. The confreres and the Daughters of Charity arrived there in 1844. Today, even with just five CMs in

the area, the confreres serve in multiple ways. They run a school serving 1300 students from Kindergarten to High School graduation. In addition, they serve as chaplains to the Daughters of Charity, they minister in Catholic Coptic parishes with Greek Catholics and Maronites, and they accompany various youth movements: the Vincentian Marian Youth, the Scouts, Patronage, and a Religious Training Institute for adults.

There are 38 Daughters of Charity present in seven communities: three in Alexandria, two in Cairo and two in Upper Egypt. These communities serve four schools, two in Cairo and two in Alexandria, four dispensaries, one in Alexandria, one in Cairo, and two in Upper Egypt – one in Koussieh and the other in Sedfa. A center in Alexandria welcomes people with





special needs. In addition to these works, the Sisters participate in catechesis, accompany youth movements, and serve through home visits and the promotion of women.

The Vincentians' new mission in Cairo. Until now, the Vincentians had led two missions to Alexandria. For more than thirty years, they have been trying to settle in Cairo, where hundreds of people from Upper Egypt arrived every day hoping to find a pour in the capital. It should be noted that Cairo has nearly twenty million inhabitants. Divine Providence inspired the Visitor, Father Ziad Haddad, to choose to settle at a mission of the Maronite Mariamite Lebanese Order. It had been abandoned for thirty years and was now in ruins, in Choubrah, a working-class neighborhood, just in front of Cairo Central Station, where today so many people are flooding in from Upper Egypt. Acquired for rent and now fully restored, this Saint George Mission was inaugurated on May 3 by the Superior General surrounded by the Apostolic Nuncio in Cairo, the Catholic Coptic and Greek Catholic Patriarchs,

the Maronite Bishop of Cairo, and those many confreres of the province of Orient, Daughters of Charity and the Vincentian Family, who were able to make the trip. This mission will serve the population of the Choubrah neighborhood, much of which is Christian, as well as offer popular missions in Upper Egypt. It will begin to function next September after the priestly ordination of our five deacons.

Yes, it is true that Eastern Christians today are living through difficult times, but they refuse to be defeated. This new mission, just created, greatly encourages them. It is a symbol of the dynamism of the Church despite everything.

Let us ask the Lord to bless this new mission and to strengthen the faith of these Christians who are facing all kinds of difficulties in the East.

Antoine-Pierre Nakad, C.M.  
Province of the Orient  
Translation : Dan Paul Borlik, C.M.  
USA Western Province

# A Vincentian Brother Reflects on his life, ministry, and community

Brother Martin Schneider, C.M. and his 46 years at Niagara University



Today across the world, there are many young people aspiring to become Vincentians, including some who want to become Vincentian Brothers. But sometimes they do not know what the vocation of a brother really is or the role of a brother in the Church and in the Congregation of the Mission in particular. To give the opportunity to the younger generation to know what the vocation of a brother is all about and what it implies, Brother Martin Schneider, C.M. graciously consented to an interview in which he tells us about his life, vocation, ministry and vision for how to promote a culture of vocations.

Martial Tatchim: Br Martin, could you briefly introduce yourself?

Martin Schneider: I am a native of Brooklyn, New York and one of two children. My elder sister, married with children, lives in Florida. I grew up in Brooklyn, attended primary and high school there. After my high school graduation, I worked for a year before I entered the Vincentians. It was at that time my family moved to Florida, which has been my family's home for over fifty years.

MT: How did you learn about the Congregation of the Mission?

MS: I became acquainted with the

Congregation through friends who attended St. John's Prep in Brooklyn. That's how I came to know the Vincentians. At other times, CMs would come to our parish in Brooklyn to give a novena. It was my introduction to Vincentians at a young age.

MT: What made you want to join the Congregation of the Mission?

MS: Where we lived in Brooklyn, our neighbor had a relative who was an Irish Christian Brother. I would always find time to speak with him on his home visits. If I have to pick a point in time when I believe the "seed" for my vocation was planted, it was from him. And so, I began to explore different religious orders that had Brothers: Franciscans, Christian Brothers, the Vincentians, the Oblates, the Brothers of Mercy. Of all the information I received, the Vincentians impressed me the most. I knew they worked with the poor. One of the things that struck me was the work that St. Vincent did with the poor, and I wanted to learn more about that. Over the course of time I chose to seek admission to the Vincentians.

MT: You know that in the Congregation of the Mission, we have Brothers and Fathers. Why did you choose to become a brother? Could you tell us more about that?

MS: I just felt God was calling me to be a Vincentian in the capacity of the Brotherhood. And I felt that what I would be doing with my life would be very fulfilling and rewarding as a Vincentian Brother

MT: What are the ministries in which you served in the Congregation of the Mission? After your formation, did you begin by teaching or did you do other things?

MS: Once I finished my novitiate, I was assigned to Our Lady of Angels Seminary in Albany, NY. This was an inter-diocesan major seminary run by the Vincentians. I was assigned there for almost ten years as assistant Librarian and taught religious education in one of our local parishes in Albany. When

the seminary was closed, I was assigned to Niagara University and I have been here for forty-six years now. I am fifty-six years vocation.

MT: Can you say more about your current ministry here in Niagara as a teacher?

MS: Since Niagara was an educational institution, it was my desire to enter into the teaching part of the University. At first, I was assigned to the Theatre Department as assistant to the director. Finally, I decided after a number of years of administrative work that my call was to be in the classroom. Being a college teacher was good, but as a Vincentian and as a brother, this was the opportunity for possible vocations. Students would hopefully see that the Vincentians were a community of brothers as well as priests. After teaching, I became the director of student activities for almost five years giving me more exposure as a Vincentian to the student body.

Presently I am back teaching as a professor of Public Speaking, again giving the students the ability to see and know a Vincentian. Besides my teaching obligations I have been coordinating public events at the University, such as convocations and commencements for thirty-six years.

MT: We know that in the CM, there is a decrease in the number of clerical and lay confreres. According to you, what justifies this?

MS: Where we are today is not the same as thirty years ago. The attraction we had is lost. Young men and woman are no longer attracted to us. The vows that we take, are difficult for the young to accept. Hence, one of the reasons that vocations are few.

MT: As a response to this, what can the Church or the Congregation of the Mission do to remedy this problem?

MS: What we should do is what we are trying to do at Niagara: have a presence in the classroom on a day-to-day basis. We as Vincentians should be in the classroom as much as possible. Teach more classes if possible. Presence is the



key factor. That brings our presence to them. We need to socialize more with the students, especially now that we are very few.

MT: Do you think there is something to change or renew in our approach?

MS: Yes, I think we do have to change a few things we do. We have to start by being aware of what is going on in society, especially with what is going on in the lives of the young people. Walk around, come to them, be more visible to them, socialize with people, go to them, they might not talk to us, but our presence can be consoling or of interest. We need to be more open,

and not appear like a closed community. We need to invite them to our home on occasions and let them see the way we live. See how we live and pray. These could be a points of attraction.

Interview directed by Martial TATCHIM, CM  
New York, Niagara University

# A Newly Ordained Vincentian Priest for the Western Province USA.



Fr. Bemnet Melaku, C.M. was just ordained priest on Saturday May 18, 2019. He is a member of the Congregation of the Mission in the Western Province of the United States of America.

Fr. Melaku was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He moved to the United States about 20 years ago and lived in Texas. Melaku's vocational journey began back in his native country, Ethiopia. When he was just 13 years old, he had his very first experience of formation in a religious community after he joined the Order of Franciscans (Capuchins). He was in the formation program of the Franciscans for about ten years and during that time, he made progress in his academic studies. Fr. Bemnet graduated with a Bachelor in Philosophy and was able to study two years of theology. Then, Fr. Melaku decided to go on a different path. He left the formation program and moved to Dallas, Texas. There, he continued his academic preparation which allowed him to acquire some other skills. After some years living in the United States, Bemnet Melaku began to think anew about following Jesus on the path to the priesthood.

This time he decided to join the Congregation of the Mission. He moved from Texas to Chicago, where he completed the required studies demanded by the priestly formation program. While in Chicago, he lived in a Vincentian community house and continued his studies at the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) where he graduated with a Master of Divinity (M.Div). He did his Internal Seminary (2016-2017) in the Eastern Province in Philadelphia, PA. and was ordained to the transitional diaconate on October 20, 2018. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 18, 2019 at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Chicago by the Most Reverend Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M. and celebrated his first mass of thanksgiving on Sunday May 19, 2019 in the same place. God has truly blessed our Congregation with a new priest in the Western Province of the United States of America. May God continue to bless Fr. Melaku as he begins his ministry in the Church.

Fr Luis Romero, CM  
Eastern Province USA

## Ordinations in the Region of Kenya



On Friday, May 24, Kevin Ochieng' Nyanjom, CM and John Mburu Ngugi, CM, were ordained priests and Julius Maina, CM, Michael Mogusu, CM, and Leonard Muthoka, CM were ordained deacons. The Archbishop of Kisumu, Philip

Anyolo, presided at the ceremony. The celebration included the participation of some 2,500 persons and was enlivened with hymns and dance and prayers of the country.

## Priestly Ordination of Ricardo Rozas, CM



May God who began this good work in you, bring it to completion! Those words, proclaimed by Cardinal Archbishop Carlos Osoro, echoed throughout the Basilica-Parish of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Madrid. Those words grounded the ordination ceremony of Ricardo Rozas Pérez, CM which took place on May 1, 2019.

Once again, the Vincentian Shrine of Our Lady was filled with joy and much celebration. Last year, on September 29, Ricardo Rozas, CM was ordained to the diaconate. This year, on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, with greater solemnity, Ricardo was ordained a priest. This event has much significance for the Church, for the Congregation of the Mission, and for

the evangelization of the poor especially at this time when vocations to the religious life have decreased.

At noon on May 1, 2019 the celebration of the Eucharist began and was presided by the Archbishop of Madrid, Carlos Osoro. Fifty priests (the majority, members of the Congregation of the Mission) concelebrated. Among the priests were members from the local communities in Madrid, Sevilla, La Coruña, Los Milagros, Salamanca, Valencia, Burgos, Valladolid, Ávila, Barkaldo (members of the Province of San Vicente de Paúl – Madrid, as well as the Province of Zaragoza). Some diocesan priests were also among the concelebrants and two deacons (who studied with Ricardo).

The celebration was both simple and solemn. Among the many participants were family members and friends of Ricardo, members from the parish of Our Lady of Monteolivete (the parish of Richardo) and many Daughters of Charity.

By: Celestino Fernández, CM  
Province of St. Vincent – Spain

## Appointment OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY OF THE PROVINCE LA MILAGROSA BOGOTÁ-VENEZUELA



On May 14, 2019, the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity, after due consultation and in accord with Statute 56a, has appointed Father Alvaro Mauricio Fernández Monsalve, CM, Director of the Daughters of Charity of the Province La Milagrosa Bogotá-Venezuela in accord with the Constitutions and Statutes of the Company of the Daughters of Charity. Father has been appointed for a term of six years and enjoys all the rights

and duties as stated in the guidelines for the effective ministry of the Director.

Since 2015 Father Alvaro has ministered in the General Curia as the Advisor to the International AIC, editor of the publication, *Vincentiana* and Assistant Secretary General.

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

# The Berceau School Formation for the Vincentian Family

In Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay



From May 17-21, members of the Vincentian Family from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay came together in the house of the Daughters of Charity located in Santiago, Chile. The purpose of this gathering was to participate in a formation session that revolved around the theme of Vincentian spirituality, a program that is called The Berceau School. This was the first of three gatherings that are programmed for May 2019, October 2019, and May 2020. This program arose from the lines of action that were developed during the Provincial Assemblies of the Daughters of Charity and the members of the Congregation of the Mission.

The Provincial Councils affirmed these lines of action. The objective of this time together is the following: to provide the participants (laymen and women who collaborate with the Daughters and the members of the Congregation in their ministry) with a time for formation in the Vincentian charism; to provide the participants with a set of tools that will make them dynamic protagonists in giving life to the Vincentian charism. This first session is an opportunity for the participants to return to their roots, to explore the historical and ecclesial context with regard to the life and ministry of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac. These themes were developed



by the members of the Congregation who are involved in the program of Vincentian Studies at the University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain). An introduction to this theme was developed by Sister María Dolores Yáñez (the introduction revolved around the development of projects from a systemic-change perspective).

There were 45 participants in this program: 33 lay members of the Vincentian Family, 2 Daughters of Charity from the Congregation of the Daughters of Zagreb; 4 members of the Congregation of the Mission and 6 Daughters of Charity.

These participants returned to their countries and will conduct similar sessions with other members of the Vincentian Family residing in their respective countries.

By: Hugo R. Sosa, CM  
Province of Argentina

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

## NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

CABALLERO ANTONIO Amado III	08/05/2019	Director of DC Saint Louise de Marillac - Asia (Reconfirmed)
FERNÁNDEZ MONSALVE Alvaro Mauricio	14/05/2019	Director of DC La Milagrosa Bogotá - Venezuela

## ORDINATIONES

ROZAS PÉREZ Ricardo José	Sac	SVP	06/05/2019
MELAKU Bemnet Atraga	Sac	OCC	18/05/2019
NGUGI John Mburu	Sac	OCC	24/05/2019
NYANJOM Kevin Ochieng'	Sac	OCC	18/05/2019
WOJEWÓDKA Jarosław	Sac	POL	24/05/2019

## NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
KOWALIK Jan	Sac	04/05/2019	POL	87	69
CALCAGNO Luigi	Sac	16/05/2019	ITA	99	82
RODRÍGUEZ LÓPEZ José	Sac	16/05/2019	SVP	85	66
ALONSO SANTAMARÍA Julián	Sac	21/05/2019	PER	83	66
FISZTER* Peter (Franz)	Fra	30/05/2019	AUG	97	70
HOUSEY Walter L.	Sac	30/05/2019	OCC	88	72



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