

# Nuntia

Newsletter of the Congregation of the Mission

AUGUST 2019

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Congregation of the Mission  
Communication Office

# Fr. Tomaž Mavrič Blesses

## Workers in Napa Valley



### A dignitary's visit to Napa

A visit to Napa from the superior general of the Catholic Church's Vincentian society highlighted Sunday's Blessing of the Workers at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. But the wine country visit by Father Tomaž Mavrič was not confined to the sanctuary.

On Saturday, Mavrič visited OLE Health's medical center on Hartle Court, where he toured a community garden where fresh produce is grown in support of the clinic's healthy-food education program. That tour was a part of the Vincentian mission of ministering to lower-income communities worldwide, according to Father Mark Pranaitis, a senior vice president for the Vincentian society's international mission services.

"It's important to know we are not an island," Mavrič said Sunday after the service, as he prepared to meet with farmworkers and their families at the banquet. "... Jesus wants the best for all of us, to lead a peaceful and human life, for workers and the ones who give work to value each other and to know we are a gift to each other." – Howard Yune.

To read about the Blessing of the Workers, see the article by Howard Yune of the Napa Valley Register below:

Church thanks Napa Valley vineyard laborers with Blessing of the Workers

A celebration at a Napa church was the occasion for those who serve the wine industry to themselves be served – and honored.

Hundreds of worshipers packed the sanctuary of St. John the Baptist Catholic

Church for a Mass with a special purpose: to recognize the industry and commitment of men and women who tend the vines supplying the county's hundreds of wine-makers. During the Harvest Anticipation Mass and Blessing of the Workers, it was those workers who joined priests in front of the altar, and who received blessings from the head of a Catholic order devoted to serving the rural poor.

Father Tomaž Mavrič, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission – widely known as the Vincentians for St. Vincent de Paul, who founded the order in the 1620s – listened as more than 50 men and women flocked around him and asked for prayers: for a father who had not seen his daughter for years, for a mother whose son is battling cancer, for others seeking blessings on relatives recently arrived in the U.S. and searching for steady work.

After the Spanish-language service, those workers and many others would step through the church doors and into an ample banquet serving up plates of grilled chicken, carne asada, pupusas and more, with Mavric shaking their hands or greeting them at various tables.

Such gratitude for the valley's vital, but unsung, workers in years past seemed unimaginable to one spectator, who thought back to his arrival in the valley in 1964.

"Things were very different again, not even any Spanish services," recalled Jose Padilla, who still works in the industry at age 64. "I can't believe how things have changed over the years, over time. ... I feel very lucky for these people to come here and visit us and bless us – it's wonderful."

St. John's was hosting the Blessing of the Workers for the second summer, less than two years after a Napa couple's papal visit, organized by Mavric, drew a Roman priest's attention to the firestorms then raging across the North Bay.

That idea evolved starting in 2018 into

a full-fledged blessing ceremony at St. John's, combining a tribute to Napa Valley laborers with a festival to gift workers a moment of leisure as a gesture of gratitude. Underwriting Sunday's festivities were Frank Naeymi-Rad and Theresa Kepic, a couple that has bought vineyard properties in Calistoga – and who met Pope Francis at a time when their adopted home county was under grave threat. "The Holy Father said, 'I will pray for the vines, that they will give good fruit, and that the people will have work for their human dignity,'" said Mavric, an Argentina native of Slovenian descent. "And then Frank, because he spends time here in Napa, had the inspiration: What if we organize a blessing for the vineyard workers as a gesture of spiritual food?"

"What we have today is a gift from the pope to the vineyard workers," said Naeymi-Rad, whose wife is a cousin of Mavric.

With farmworkers dispersed across swaths of the Napa Valley during the work week, a house of worship proved to be the logical place to gather as many to be blessed and celebrated as possible, according to a co-founder of Ceja Vineyards.

Kepic and Naeymi-Rad "asked me how they could reach as many people as possible, and I said that one of the largest churches that farmworkers attend is St. John's, and they loved the idea," said Amelia Morán Ceja, whose family-run firm has grape-growing operations in Napa and Sonoma counties.

"This is what unites the Napa Valley: not just religion but much deeper beliefs. How appropriate it is to bless the workers, without whom there wouldn't be a wine industry, in such a loving way."

Source: Napa Valley Register,  
Author: Howard Yune

# Meeting of CLAPVI North



Objective: (a) to evaluate the progress and to plan for the continuity of the Interprovincial Internal Seminary which since January has been located in Mixco, Guatemala and directed by Father Emmet; (b) to address other matters pertaining to this region.

The following participated in the meeting: Rafael Antonio President, Visitor of Central America; Williams Benavides, Vice-Visitor of Costa Rica; José Vicente Nacher, Region of Honduras; Alejandro Paulino, Visitor of Puerto Rico; José Manuel, Region of Panama; Emmet Nolan, Director of the Internal Seminary; Max Reyes Sánchez, Visitor of Ecuador; also present for the meeting were: Fr. Aarón Gutiérrez, Assistant General and Fr. Iván, representing the Visitor of Zaragoza.

We have a positive view of the experience of the Interprovincial Internal Seminary. We want to continue to work together on this project so that it takes on the characteristics of Vincentian Formation: international, interprovincial and missionary.

We shared some of our expectations for

the coming year and are expecting the following number of candidates:  
 3 from the Dominican Republic  
 4 from Mexico  
 2 from Zaragoza  
 2 from Panama  
 1 from Costa Rica

A Total of 12 candidates for the year 2020

We pray that these candidates will persevere so that they might all become servants of the poor.

This evaluation took place at the half-way mark of the program and some of the elements that we reflected upon were: difficulties, challenges, needs. There was time for each Visitor to dialogue with the seminarists from his region/province and a financial report was given. The matter of immigration and visas was discussed.

José de Jesús Plascencia Casillas, CM  
 Visitor of Mexico  
 Translated:

Charles T. Plock, CM  
 Eastern Province, USA

# The IV Meeting of the Vincentian Family at CIF



This meeting was organized at the International Center for Vincentian Formation in the Motherhouse of the Congregation of the Mission, (Paris, France).

Father Andrés Motto, CM (Director) and Father Emmanuel Typamm, CM (Vice-Director) welcomed the participants and outlined the program that would be developed during our time at the Center. Participants are from different branches and associations of the Vincentian Family.

Language has not been a barrier as a result of the translators. More importantly, we all speak the language of love.

This Vincentian formation session is intended to revitalize and strengthen us in the spirituality of our charism in order to encounter the living Jesus in the poor. This will be achieved through

- A series of presentations intended to deepen the participants in the rich Vincentian heritage;
- Guided visits to various Vincentian and Marian places where the Vincentian

charism left its mark;

- Personal and community prayer as a faith experience ... we prayer together in order to accomplish a common work;
- Community/communion in which our differences become a richness through the faith that we share (a common foundational charism which is a gift from God).
- A formational experience in every aspect that encompasses our whole being and all that we do ... this enables us to engage in a struggle for our own sanctification and that our brothers and sisters who are most in need.

On Monday, August 5, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, accompanied us. This was an opportunity for each of the participants to greet and introduce themselves. As Father Tomaž greeted each of the participants, he also thanked them for making such an effort to be present at that gathering. It is hoped, of course, that all the participant, with renewed spirits, will share this formation with others in their place of ministry.

During the first part of his reflection, Father Tomáš invited us to be clear about our Vincentian spirituality and charism because it is those realities that unite us as a Family. Father motivated us to introduce ourselves in a new way. Instead of saying: I am a member of the Congregation of the Mission, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, etc. to say instead: I am a member of the Congregation of the Mission which is part of the worldwide Vincentian Family; I am a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society which is part of the worldwide Vincentian Family ... such an introduction is much broader and is a clearer statement about who we are.

During his presentation, Fr. Tomáš took up some of the points that had been emphasized during the 400th anniversary of the birth of our charism. From this perspective Father spoke about:

- The pilgrimage of the relics of St. Vincent de Paul to the peripheries ... Father spoke about people in various places who are interested in receiving these relics;
- A book is being prepared about the pilgrimage of the relics;
- He recalled that Pope Francis was the first to venerate the relics in Rome during the 2017 Symposium;

- Vincentian Film Festival was a success and enable us to share the charism in a new way;

In addition to the Film Festival, Father spoke about the 13 houses project. This initiative involves the whole Vincentian Family as together we attempt to eradicate homeless from the face of the earth.

After his presentation there were various questions that in reality helped each of us and will enable us all to minister in a strategic manner on behalf of the human and spiritual promotion of those who are poor.

After this sharing we celebrated the Eucharist and were able to place on the altar our hopes and desires. May Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal bless us so that we might continue to be sign of God's love as we minister in the midst of those persons who are poor.

Sr Isabel Iris Luna Montes

Doughter of Charity

Translated:

Charles T. Plock, CM

Eastern Province, US



# XVII On-Going Formation Session at the CIF

## for Members of the Congregation of the Mission



From October 1 to October 31, 2019, a group of confreres from throughout the world will gather together in Paris in order to participate in an on-going formation session that has become known as "Vincentian Heritage".

This formation session is geared toward older confreres and is intended to provide confreres with an opportunity to revitalize their living of the charism. This will be accomplished by looking at the past, by attempting to discover the more urgent problems that we (as members of the Congregation of the Mission) and the poor must confront, by seeking possible solution to those problems (and doing so from the perspective of charity and the mission) and discerning how to act in light of the many different challenges that are before us.

All of this is an attempt to inject a new spirit into our living out of the Vincentian charism, that is, we will attempt to provide the participants with tools that will be enable them to be renewed, renewed in their on-going formation, in their prayer life, in their community life and in their apostolic ministry.

This formation session is a time to reflect on one's life and about the meaning of life and how one is to minister as a member of the Congregation and as a servant of those who are poor. It is also a time to dialogue about the contributions that the Congregation can offer the world.

This formation session will into take into consideration that which was proposed during the XLII General Assembly, that is, those lines of action that refer to the Good News of mercy, internationality and inter-

culturality, solidarity, missionary collaboration and formation for the mission.

This session will take place in the Motherhouse of the Congregation, located at 85 rue de Sèvres, (Paris - October 1-31, 2019).

This session will be given in English, Spanish and French. The total cost will be 2,200 euros and includes lodging, food, tours and didactic material. This is a very reasonable cost especially when compa-

red with usual prices in France and more specifically, in Paris.

In order to confirm your participation in this on-going formation session or to make any inquiry please contact me at: [andresmotto@gmail.com](mailto:andresmotto@gmail.com)

Translated:

Charles T. Plock, CM

Eastern Province, USA

# Vincentian Missionary Formation Session



A Vincentian missionary formation session will be held in Paris (November 10-30, 2019) and it is hoped that we will be able to offer this on-going formation each year. This formation session has been organized by the International Formation Center and has involved the collaboration of Father Aarón Gutiérrez, CM (Assistant General, responsible for the missions).

The purpose of this formation session is to give continuity to the new impulse with regard to the missions ad gentes ... a focus that was initiated during the time of Father Robert Maloney, CM who created new international teams to minister in various missionary areas. In a letter addressed to the Visitors, Regional Superiors and Superiors of the various International Missions, Father Aarón and Father Andrés

stated: formation is an on-going process in which individuals are able to reflect on their past experience and then share those experiences with others so that those experiences can be critically analyzed by the group with the expectation of more effective ministry in the future. This formation provides an opportunity for personal and community growth in the area of missionary outreach (an elements that has always been encouraged by our Congregation).

Objectives of this formation session:

- To give new life to the experience of being sent forth as disciples by Jesus Christ in order to continue his mission.
- To reaffirm and strengthen the commitment to evangelize in places that are beyond the borders of one's homeland. To move from a certain provincialism in order to clothe oneself in the universal aspect of the Church and the Congregation and in order to discern the signs of the time.
- To deepen their understanding of the Ratio Missionum of the Congregation in order to grow in accord with the criteria, values and attitudes of their missionary vocation and to live that vocation in a more committed and radical manner.

This formation session is composed of

three modules: [1] missionary insertion; [2] Biblical, theological and congregational understanding of mission; [3] mission: personal and community growth.

The organizers appeal to the generosity of the major superiors in the hope that they will send new missionaries to this formation session and encourage those who are ministering in the missions to participate in this formation session in order to be more effective in their ministry.

For further information and in order to register please direct your messages to:

Director of CIF:  
**Fr. Andrés María Román Motto, CM**

Email: andresmottot@gmail.com

Tel: 33 1 45 49 84 84

Fax: 33 1 45 49 85 07

General Coordinator:  
**Fr. Aarón Gutiérrez Nava, CM**

Email vicnoragu51@gmail.com

Tel: Mexico - 52 55 35 12 87 62

Europe - 39 32 05 77 68 45

Translated:

Charles T. Plock, CM

Eastern Province, USA



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



I belong neither here nor there, but wherever God wants me to be.[1]

In an article that was posted on the internet about a year ago, Father Mario Di Carlo stated: The missionary dimension of the Congregation of the Mission already appears in its official name and emerges as a fundament requirement from St. Vincent's experience and teaching.[2]

In fact, the first article of the Constitutions of the Congregation state that the vocation and the purpose of the Congregation is to follow Christ evangelizing the poor.

Father Mario Di Carlo explained that Vincent insisted on the fact that the Congregation was not an outside entity but was a part of the Church. For this reason and in light of the Extraordinary Missionary Call that has been made by Pope Francis, our Little Company has decided to be present with the fruits of the journey that was begun last year.

In 2017, the Superior General invited the whole Congregation to sustain, reinforce and increase our presence in the International Missions. He asked the confreres to consider the missionary call to minister in the missions ad gentes.

Father General then made the following promise: Holy Father, the Congregation of the Mission, after having prayed, reflected and studied the various possibilities for said Congregation and based on your invitation that was extended to the Universal Church, we are filled with joy and happiness ... a joy and happiness that has been given to us through God's mercy. We are happy to announce, your Holiness, that by October 2019, our Little Company will have sent 1% of its members (approximately thirty confreres) to minister in the missions ad gentes.

This promise was concretized during the March 19th visit of the members of the Curia with Pope Francis. On that occa-

sion His Holiness was presented with a symbolic gift: a poster of the 1% ... thus renewing the promise of thirty confreres.

Up to this date, twenty-five confreres have responded to the call. We need only five more confreres in order to maintain our missions and to be able to rejoice that more people have responded to the call to serve their brothers and sisters who are poor.

What does it mean to respond to this call?

Responding to this call means saying: Yes, here I am Lord! It means to reveal one's willingness to serve in this manner by communicating with the Visitor ... and then wait. A simple "yes" to God and God will provide the rest.

The missions that need new missionary resources are the following:

Angola, Bolivia, El Alto, Kateri, and Huaylani, Cochabamba, Chad, Tunis, Alaska, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tefe in Brazil, Mozambique, Cuba, Costa Rica, Honduras.

On our official website you will find more information about each of these international missions. Furthermore, it is important that we achieve our objective.

Those who are unable to serve in the missions ad gentes are invited to pray for vocations and for the missions. Those who are involved in formation and pastoral ministry are invited to inspire and touch the hearts of young men and women. Those who have doubts and are unsure about the missionary calling are invited to communicate with us and to speak with your spiritual director.

May Saint Vincent intercede on our behalf so that God the Father might guide us in the same way that he guided his Son, Jesus!

Translated:

Charles T. Plock, CM

Eastern Province, USA



## ORDINATIONES

UISSO Reginald	Sac	INM	27/06/2019
SIGOMA Respicius	Sac	INM	21/07/2019
IBRAHIM Emad	Sac	ORI	01/08/2019
MELKI MAKARIUS Habel	Sac	IDS	15/08/2019
ROBY ERLIANTO Paulus	Sac	IDS	15/08/2019
SANTO ANDREAS Flavianus	Sac	IDS	15/08/2019

## NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
GARCÍA PORRAS Eutiquio	Sac	03/08/2019	SVP	84	66
LAZZARINI Osvaldo	Sac	17/08/2019	ITA	97	81
SZCZEPANIK Stanislaw	Sac	17/08/2019	POR	63	37
GAITÁN CASTILLO Juan Francisco	Sac	18/08/2019	AMC	91	61
BORGES SILVA Fantico Nonato	Sac	23/08/2019	FOR	49	18
KEHOE Richard J.	Sac	24/08/2019	ORL	90	70
VILLANUEVA LÓPEZ QUINTANA Florentino	Sac	30/08/2019	SVP	88	69



[www.cmglobal.org](http://www.cmglobal.org)

**Congregation of the Mission - GENERAL CURIA**

Via dei Capasso, 30 - 00164 ROMA

Tel: +39 06 661 30 61 - Fax: +39 06 666 38 31

Email: [nuntia@cmglobal.org](mailto:nuntia@cmglobal.org)