

Rome, March 31, 2002

*To the Visitatrixes of the Daughters of Charity
and the Visitors of the Congregation of the Mission*

My very dear Sisters and Brothers,

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

In recent years, with much joy, we have seen resurgence of the lay missionary vocation within the Vincentian Family. MISEVI has been receiving young people, accompanying them in their formation, and helping them find concrete ways of putting their missionary zeal into practice. It held its first International Assembly in Madrid at the beginning of the year 2001.

Among the challenges mentioned in the Final Document of the Assembly is the commitment “to be creative and propagate the spirit of MISEVI, to come up with the necessary responses so that, in International harmony, we will open doors to new realities and facilitate the incorporation of new members.”

In order to fulfill this commitment, today I want to announce a meeting — to be held in Mexico on July 30 – August 3, 2003 — in which, besides sharing experiences that are already taking place, we will concretize the ways in which MISEVI can be founded and spread in other countries.

We offer this meeting especially for members of the Congregation of the Mission, Daughters of Charity, and lay people in your provinces and countries who are thinking of founding MISEVI. Also invited are lay people who are already living out the Vincentian missionary vocation and desire to spread the Good News outside their own country.

I have asked MISEVI’s International President, Eva Villar, as well as Fr. Felipe Nieto, member of the International Coordinating Team, and Fr. Benjamín Romo, who is my delegate on an international level to many of the principal branches of the Vincentian Family, to organize the meeting. They will soon be in contact with you and will provide more details about the program and about how to sign up for it.

I encourage you to send a representative(s) to this meeting which, I trust, will be of great help to those provinces that want to found MISEVI in their country and thus promote the missionary vocation *ad gentes* that the Holy Spirit has inspired in the Church and in our Vincentian Family.

Your brother in St. Vincent,

Robert P. Maloney, C.M.

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Superior General