

# Nuntia

Newsletter of the Congregation of the Mission

SEPTEMBER 2019

## POPE FRANCIS VISITS AFRICA

Pope Francis' apostolic journey to Southeastern Africa has concluded. This Visit to Mozambique, Madagascar and Mauritius took place from September 4th to the 10th. And, as the theme for this trip, the Pope chose "Hope, peace and reconciliation".

Stopping first at Maputo in Mozambique, the Pope there remembered the victims of cyclones and focused on the issue of the environment. He then invited everyone, both those in authority as well as all others, to "the highest level of courage" in order to say "no to violence and yes to peace." The exhortation of Francis is that "peace once again becomes our norm and reconciliation become the best way to face challenges".

After the various appointments he visited the street children of Matteredo 25. This project of the Apostolic Nunciature has our own Vincentians working together on the front line along with 20 other Congregations.

The visit was private, but we know that the Pope donated a glazed plaster reproduction of the "Madonna delle Lacrime" (Our Lady of Tears), venerated in the Sicilian city of Syracuse since 1953, after the original bust was the protagonist of one of the most important and documented tears of history.

After Mozambique, the Holy Father visited Madagascar where he met our confrere Father Opeka in Akamaosa, the "city of friendship". Their mutual embrace was one of the occasion's most moving moments, an embrace that symbolizes the Congregation of the Mission and our Mother Church united in one single bond.

Here the Pope declared, "Your cries have turned into songs of hope for you and for all those who look at you," and together with Father Opeka reiterated that "poverty is not inevitable" and that the eight thousand children who welcomed the Pope was proof of this, both of their hope and the possibility of escaping from poverty, thanks to solidarity and cooperation.

From the auditorium to the city center, the Pope then moved to the granite quarry that provides work for those who want a life with more dignity.

Pope Francis met in prayer with the workers invoking the God of Justice to touch the hearts of employers and entrepreneurs not only for decent wages, but also to fight against the scourge of unemployment. The prayer ended by entrusting the workers to St. Joseph.

The Pope's apostolic visit here was certainly an important moment for our Vincentian charism: Christ's Vicar, present in our planet's poorest places where our missionaries commit themselves to the very end, this reminds us over and over of the purpose of our mission. This journey has inspired us to continue with faith, hope and missionary courage in the service of those who have become our teachers, and for whom we are responsible because of our vocation!

Girolamo Gramatico  
Office of Communication  
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Translation: P. Dan Paul Borlik, CM  
Western Province, USA

# SUPERIOR'S GENERAL VISIT TO THE PROVINCE OF RIO THE JANEIRO

On the morning, Sunday, September 15, Superior General met with the Daughters of Charity of the Province of Belo Horizonte, Brazil in their Provincial House. Sister Caetana Gomes, D.C., Visitatrix and other Sisters who were present welcomed Fr. Mavrič with joy. The meeting and dialog with the Superior General marked the morning. It was followed by the Eucharist, meal, and visit in the provincial museum. In the afternoon he met with formators and students. Fr. Mavrič had the opportunity to meet some other family members who were visiting Belo Horizonte.

On Monday morning, September 16, Superior General visited Parish Mission of the Merciful Father, which is in the Paul VI neighborhood on the outskirts of Belo Horizonte. Fr. Weliton Costa, CM, accompanied him to some parish communities and to the house of integration of the Comboni Sisters and the Daughters of Charity, who, in addition to other works, coordinate a project of recycling garbage, which made Fr. Mavrič very happy. Next, He went to the Internal Seminary, which is in the area, where he had lunch with the community.

In the afternoon he met with the confreres of the Province of Rio de Janeiro and Eucharist attended by nine branches of the Vincentian Family of the Belo Horizonte Region concluded the visit.

On September 19 and 20, Father Tomaz Mavrič, CM visited Rio de Janeiro. During this short stay he celebrated the Eucharist at the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal at Tijuca, met with representatives of some branches of the Vincentian Family and visited the College of St. Vincent de Paul. On Friday he went to see Christ the Redeemer, Corcovado – Rio de Janeiro, a monument designed by our confrere, Fr. Pedro Maria Bos. Later, in the afternoon, he left for Curitiba, where he will participate in the celebrations of the fifty years of the founding of the Province of Curitiba of the Congregation of the Mission.

Communications Office - Province of Rio de Janeiro

## VISIT OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL TO THE SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF BRAZIL )

On September 27th, 2019, the solemnity of Saint Vincent de Paul, the members of the Southern Province of Brazil of the Congregation of the Mission (Curitiba) celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the Province. This was a very significant moment in our history, and we were blessed with the presence of Father General Tomaz Mavrič, CM.

The province was established on September 27th, 1969 by the former superior general, Father James Richardson, CM. The beginning can actually be traced back to 1903 when, in response to the request of the bishop of Curitiba, José de Camargo Barros, four missionaries from the Province of Poland arrived

in the diocese in order to provide for the spiritual/religious needs of the Polish immigrants.

On October 6, 1921, the superior general of the Congregation, Father François Verdier, in accord with the Visitor of Poland, Father Kasper Slominki, CM, created the Vice-Province of Poland in Brazil.

The creation of the province took another step forward in 1967 when Father Myszka, CM (Province of Poland) made a canonical visitation of the Vice-Province and maintained contact with each one of the confreres. During the Provincial Assembly of the Province of Poland the matter of the autonomy

of the Vice-Province was discussed ... the Vice-Province was represented by Father Lourenço Bier-naski, CM (today 60 years a priest). This matter was also discussed during the 1968 General As-sembly and during the second session of that as-sembly (1969) the Superior General established the Province. At that time the new province had 49 priests: 33 from Poland and 16 from Brazil; there were also 7 brothers, 8 major seminarians and 165 minor seminarians.

In order to commemorate those events a Jubilee Year was initiated in September 2018 and was concluded on September 27, 2019, with the pre-sence of the superior general, Father Tomaz Mavrič, CM.

Father Tomaz arrived in Curitiba on Friday, Sep-tember 20th and was welcomed at the Provin-cial House. On September 21, he participated in a meeting of the Vincentian Marian Youth ... a meeting that had been organized at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Seminary. More than 100 young men and women participated in this event and they were encouraged to live their youthful years from the perspective of the Vincentian cha-rism.

On September 22 there was a meeting of the Vin-centian Family in the Annunciation Parish. Repre-sentatives from 23 parishes administered by the confreres participated in this event. There were also members from each of the branches of the Family (the Congregation of the Mission, the Daughters of Charity, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the International Association of Charity, the Vincentian Marian Youth, the Miraculous Medal Association) ... more than 1,300 persons partici-pated in this meeting during which an agreement was signed that committed all the branches to work together on the 13 Houses Campaign.

On September 23, Father Tomaz participated in the National Assembly of the International Asso-ciation of Charity and on Tuesday, September 24 Father dialoged with the students and the profes-sors at the Facultad Vicentina. We also highlight here the meeting that took place on the 25th of September between the formators and all the young men in the different stages of formation ... at the present time there are 18 seminarists.

On September 26 all the confreres met with the Superior General. Father Tomaz encouraged us to give witness to the chrism that we have recei-ved from St. Vincent and to do that in our ministry and in our daily life. The Eucharist was celebrated by the Auxiliary Bishop of Curitiba, Francisco Co-tta. That evening, a meal was offered, and some 400 invited guests were present.

The solemnity of Saint Vincent de Paul was cele-brated on the 27th in the parish that bears the name of our patron saint. The Archbishop of Cu-ritiba, José Antonio Peruzzo, blessed the monu-ment in honor of St. Vincent and celebrated the Eucharist that was presided by the superior gene-ral. The Eucharist was followed by a luncheon for all the participants.

On the 28th Father Tomaz met with the Daughters of Charity and celebrated the Eucharist with them.

We thank God for the enthusiasm and the coura-ge of those first confreres who came from Poland and accepted the missionary challenge. We ask God for the strength to continue our mission and to accompany the people of God in this part of southern Brazil. Saint Vincent de Paul, pray for us!

By: Joelcio Saibot, CM  
Southern Province (Curitiba)

Translated by:  
Charles T. Plock, CM  
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## MEETING OF THE DELEGATES OF AFRICAN PROVINCES/VIN)JPIC

Between September 23rd and 26th, the provincial delegates (province, vice-province and region) of Africa and Madagascar met in the new Seminary of COVIAM in Enugu, Nigeria. Among the purpo-ses of this meeting were the official establishment

of the Network in Africa and Madagascar, the revision of the basic document, choosing the con-tinental coordinator, deciding on a common doc-trinal and operational framework and creating a space for formation with regard to the JPIC and

Political Advocacy as a ministry in the Church (especially in light of the pain and suffering of so many people at the present time in our history).

Our meeting followed the lines of action of the final document of the 2016 General Assembly, in which the Congregation of the Mission expressed its call to "Participate in commissions of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, in coordination with civil and ecclesial organizations and our representation at the United Nations, denouncing violations of the rights of people and communities"(AG16 Lines of Action and Commitments, 3rd part.). This commitment was assumed by the Superior General and his council when they created this network in 2017. It was also implicitly ratified at the last Visitors meeting in Manila 2019. We were very enlightened in our work by the previous meeting of the Network gathered in Bogota last June to establish VIN-JPIC in the Americas (CLAPVI and NVC).

During these days, the national president of the JPI (network of Nigerian consecrated life for Justice and Peace) and the person in charge of Caritas in the diocese of Enugu for the JPIC helped us in our reflection. From their insights we developed the most important aspects of the ministry of political advocacy to advance an agenda that is capable of "breaking the vicious circle of misery" and taking care of our common home. (Cf. VD 107) During the different days and intertwining the elements of spirituality, reflection and discernment, we were able to clearly approach the essential issues of the hermeneutics of our charism in this historical turn, to revive our commitment to the poor, in our common fight for the eradication of misery. The African reality was the background of all our reflection: the Neo-Colonialism or internal colonialism expressed in absolute power, the lack of democratic participation and the corruption of the political system with the familiar militarization of political action that affects the majority that is today oppressed, excluded and humiliated and forced to live in an unacceptable state of misery. Topics such as human mobility, the aging of the patriarchal leadership system, the exclusion of young people and women from socio-political systems, hunger, unemployment, rapid and massive urbanization, universal education, among others were part of our study and our discernment. The African

Union socio-political Agenda for the year 2063, its aspirations and its objectives also accompanied our deliberations of these days: Pan-Africanism, African Renaissance and the African voice / participation in a global world

During our dialogue, it was very clear that being a Vincentian today implies taking ownership of that which the Congregation of the Mission has done in recent decades to reinterpret our identity and mission. Thus, we reflected on themes such as collaboration and solidarity, the meaning of the Vincentian Family and Systemic Change, elements that are strengthened and complemented today by this Vincentian International Network for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (VIN-JPIC). The other element we need to add to this list is our common commitment to place ourselves beside those who are homeless. The presence of all COVIAN formators (17) and some of the provincials in our workshop gave a special flavor to our dialogues and our discernment. We know that the JPIC must be systematically introduced into our initial and ongoing formation plans if we really want it to be an element of integration of all the new elements of interpretation of our charism at the beginning of its 5th century: charity for the protection of life, systemic change and political advocacy so that this change we promote is sustainable and all this hand in hand and from the heart of the Vincentian Family.

Rereading our constitutions in these "exciting but complex times" and from the context of the crisis of community commitment and the weakening of the sense of human responsibility, we have to ask ourselves: what does God want from us and where does God want us to go? These elements help us to make our participation in the condition of the poor real and they also help us to incarnate ourselves into their reality and to listen to their cries and to give a new dynamism to our missionary passion (Cf. C. 12).

As a result of this reflection, the VIN-JPIC delegates of Africa and Madagascar sent a letter to the visitors and the confreres of the continent asking them to support this new initiative and that to join with us (according to their possibilities) in the future initiatives and discussions. We know that in responding to this call there is an opportunity for continuous re-

newal to respond more effectively to our charism and to commit ourselves more and better in the fight against the exclusion of the poor and to do this in partnership with the laity and in the existential environment of the Vincentian family.

On the last day of the meeting and in a family atmosphere, the delegates unanimously chose those who will coordinate this Network on the continent: Father Victor Nyoroh, CM of the pProvince of Nigeria who will be helped by Father Jean Pierre Bessala, CM from Cameroon. These two confreres will have the mission of encouraging delegates to fulfill the objectives of the Network, throughout Africa and Madagascar. This work is carried out in full communion with all other networks in the other Continental Visitors Conferences. We also hope to join the many social and Church networks, which carry out activities related to our objectives.

The next meeting of delegates will be held in Manila for the Asian and Oceanian provinces on March 2020 and then in Avila Spain for the European

Provinces this summer. After the coordinators of CE-VIM and APVC are named and with the international coordination of the network that is done from our office at the UN we hope that this VIN-JPIC process becomes a bridge of communion and an element of vocational re-enchantment at all levels.

We are certain that St. Vincent de Paul accompanies us on our journey and helps us to respond with creative fidelity to the cries that arise from some many areas in the world. Together we have committed ourselves to communicate this good news and to continue with the defense of justice, the global transformation, the commitment to the poor and the effective application of systemic change in everything we are and do. We hope that VIN-JPIC will become a central line of animation, prophecy, formation, collaboration and vocational animation in our daily life in the provinces everywhere.

Guillermo Campuzano, CM  
Coordinator of VIN-JPIC - CM UN office

## THE PAIN OF THE AMAZON

When a loved one is involved in an accident and that person is in critical condition, we become concerned about that person. We also gather together the other family members and we entrust that person into the hands of God and the saints. We do everything possible to save that individual.

Today, our common home, our planet, is at great risk. A risk that effects first of all the planetary biosphere, secondly, it effects the poor and thirdly, it effects each one of us.

The Amazon forest, located in the heart of Abya Yala (the southern part of the American continent), is burning. These fires are consuming the flora and the fauna ... many of which are found only in this region of the universe.

There are many causes behind these fires. Climate change has raised the temperatures throughout the world and prolonged the dry season. As a result, these fires cannot be controlled in a natural way, that is, controlled by rainfall which is proper to this area which possesses many unique climatic

characteristics that control many aspects of life in this part of the world. This also effects the people who live in the communities in this zone: simple people, poor people who speak in their own dialect (many of which of unknown to linguists and anthropologists). This area is composed of people from many different cultures and clans who are seeing their way of life threatened. Many of these people have had to flee this region and many others have died in these fires.

Climate change is not, however, the only cause of these fires. Blame must also be placed on the large mining companies that exploit the natural resources that are found in this region. Until recently these companies have been protected by agreements among various nations, especially Peru and Brazil (in which countries are located the great majority of these lands) ... Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname have also entered into similar agreements. We also mention here the large landowners (who want to appropriate much of the existing land in this region in order to increase their land for pasture) and the drug-traffickers (who

want to increase the production of the coca leaf and thereby achieve greater alkaloid production which will later become the coveted drug that is exported to the countries of Europe and the United States).

At the same time, however, each one of us also shares a responsibility in this matter. Day by day, our modern lifestyle (which is more modern than life giving) is destroying the planet: our unbridled consumerism, the need to possess the latest technological "gadgets", luxury automobiles, airplane travel in order to save time (which time we then have no idea how to spend), our need to have and to have and to have ... ("I want" and "I need" are very common everyday expressions). In our oceans we have created islands of garbage. We are involved in irrational exploitation of our natural resources and produce an incredible amount of food that the first world countries do not want.

What explanation will we give to our aboriginal brothers and sisters who are being deprived of their simple lifestyle? What explanation will we give to those men and women who hunt only to eat, who need the vegetation for their food, their clothing and their houses? We have not only deprived these men and women of their way of life, but we have also deprived them of their happiness.

How will we respond to our students when they see photographs of the fauna and the animals of the Amazon on their iPhones and laptop computers ... all of which are extinct because of human deprivation?

Laudao Sí has been written but I believe that many people have not read this document, and even fewer have preached about this document. Pope Francis has extended an invitation to everyone, a heart-rending plea to become ever more concerned about our planet. But we have either not heard that plea or we have not taken it seriously. We continue to destroy the Amazon region, the Mato Grosso Plateau in Brazil and the forests in the Congo. We continue to destroy the seas and their natural resources with the presence of our "factory ships". We continue to consume with the sole desire to own and to possess. We continue to destroy the land as we extract the natural resources from the earth and

direct the flow of water for that purpose (thus leaving thousands of small farmers and herders without the necessary means of subsistence for themselves and for the members of their community).

The dialogue between Abraham and the rich man is being fulfilled: Father Abraham, have pity on us and send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them lest they too come to this place of torment ... Abraham responded: they have Moses and the prophets. If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead (Luke 16:27-31). We have the Scriptures, the teaching of the church, Laudato Sí ... and yet our ecological sin moves us forward toward the destruction of our land, the destruction of the only common home that we have.

By: Alexandro Fabres, CM  
Province of Chile

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

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF COVIAM

COVIAM has just celebrated the Silver Jubilee (25 years) since it was established. The formation session for formators and another session on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation were followed by the priestly ordination of twelve members of the Congregation of the Mission (eight from the Province of Nigeria and 4 from the Province of Congo) by Bishop Anthony Guido Filipazzi, Apostolic Nuncio to Nigeria in the presence of the Visitors, Superiors of the Provinces, Vice-Provinces, Regions and International Missions.

More good news to share on priestly ordination in Nigeria! Please join us in congratulating and praying

for the twelve young men who were ordained priests for the Provinces of Nigeria and Congo:

Martin Akpojevughe, C.M., Augustine Nwedo, C.M., Diendonnê, C.M., Clement Okarah, C.M., Fabian Ekwelem, C.M., Fabien Bokumu, C.M., Joachim Olando, C.M., Jude Odo, C.M., Justin Okpaloka, C.M., Mozeto Dieudonne, C.M., Achille Mwanza, C.M., Peter Imang, C.M., at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Maryland, Enugu, Nigeria.

## 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSIONARY REGION OF TANZANIA

On September 21, 2019, the Congregation of Mission the twenty-fifth year of its presence in Tanzania. The celebration was held in the Motherhouse of Vincentian Sisters of Mercy Mbinga. As a result of these Sisters' request for a Vincentian Priest to be their spiritual director, the Tanzanian Mission was begun in the year 1993. At that time, it became an International Mission under General Curia.

From Fr. Mathew Kallanmackal, CM and Fr. Paul Parackal, CM (from the General Curia in Rome) participated in the Jubilee celebration. Fr. Chacko Pannathara, CM, who was the first Indian Missionary to come to Tanzania, was also present for the jubilee celebration. Fr. Tomichan, CM, Visitor of the South Indian Province, and Fr. Prakash Tirki, CM, Visitor of the North Indian Province were also present.

The Jubilee celebration was begun with the celebration of the Eucharist which was presided by Bishop John

Ndimbo, the Ordinary of Mbinga Diocese, where the Vincentian Mission began. On behalf of the diocese of Mbinga, Bishop John expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to the Congregation of the Mission for the services it has rendered on behalf of the people of God. After the Eucharist all the guests shared the common meal and there was a joyful gathering in which the guests were entertained with various traditional songs and dances.

Fr, Binoy Puthussery Varghese, CM  
Province of South India

## NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

PLASCENCIA CASILLAS José de Jesús	13/09/2019	Visitor of Mexico (Reconfirmed)
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## ORDINATIONES

BARCELOS SILVA Hugo	Sac	FLU	13/07/2019
KATAMU MPUTU Félix	Sac	CNG	07/09/2019
MOLA IPOLI KABANGA Sylvain	Sac	CNG	07/09/2019
AKPOJEVUGHE Martin Obruche	Sac	NIG	27/09/2019
EDWARD Peter Dominic	Sac	NIG	27/09/2019
EKWELEM Fabian Chibuike	Sac	NIG	27/09/2019
NWEDO Augustine Chijioko	Sac	NIG	27/09/2019
ODO Jude Oluchukwu	Sac	NIG	27/09/2019
OKARAH Clement Oriloye	Sac	NIG	27/09/2019
OKPALOKA Justin Ifeanyi	Sac	NIG	27/09/2019
OLADOKE Joachim Oluwadamilare	Sac	NIG	27/09/2019

## NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
VILLANUEVA LÓPEZ QUINTANA Florentino	Sac	30/08/2019	SVP	88	69
MENARD J. Godden	Sac	04/09/2019	OCC	89	73
ARMANI Gherardo	Sac	08/09/2019	ITA	68	52
QUINTANO FRANCO Fernando	Sac	23/09/2019	SVP	83	67
ALET Jean Marie Léon	Sac	26/09/2019	FRA	97	78
WEBER George J.	Sac	27/09/2019	OCC	90	74
PÉCOUL Roland Pierre	Sac	28/09/2019	FRA	93	73



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