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Newsletter of the Congregation of the Mission

OCTOBER 2019

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Congregation of the Mission
Communication Office

SYNOD OF BISHOPS FOR THE PAN-AMAZON REGION

A NEW LOOK AT THE AMAZON



The extraordinary Pan-Amazon Synod, convoked by Pope Francis and inspired by the encyclical, *Laudato Sí*, invites the whole Church to look anew at this part of the continent. The Amazon region encompasses not only Brazil, but also Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, Suriname and French Guiana.

Our first glance ought to be one of gratitude to God for the infinite friendliness that the Amazon offers us and offers our planet. Let us contemplate in ecstasy the beauty and the exuberance of nature: the diversity of people and culture; its great rivers and mineral resources; the wealth of its fauna and flora.

In this environment it is not difficult to find the divine presence revealed in each creature, in the trees and great rivers and even in the smallest animal.

Nevertheless, a closer look enables us to discover that in addition to this beauty, there is also a harsh reality. The Amazon has been brutally wounded and assaulted by the greed of agrobusiness and other financial projects directed toward the predatory exploitation of land, mineral resources, forests and rivers... thus impacting not only the native populations (indigenous, "quilombolas", and peasants) but also impacting the environment itself (global warming, poisoning of wa-

ter sources, the extinction of species and cultures). All of this has created a social and an environmental crisis.

This more profound look at the situation awakens in us mercy and compassion. In his homily at the opening Mass of the Synod, Pope Francis stated: So many of our brothers and sisters in Amazonia are bearing heavy crosses and awaiting the liberating consolation of the Gospel, the Church's caress of love.

The affirmation of that reality should move all Christians to adopt an attitude of ecological conversion that in turn leads them to conserve water and to care for the environment, to support indigenous causes, such as the demarcation and the protection of their lands.

In the encyclical, *Laudato Sí*, Pope Francis states that everything is interconnected and so if we destroy nature, we will all perish because we share a common home.

In this extraordinary Synod, the Church is called to listen to the cry of the poor and the land in the Amazon, as occurred in

Egypt, when the people of Israel suffered slavery and God said: I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers; so I know well what they are suffering (Exodus 3:7).

In addition to the social and environmental problems, there are also challenges with regard to the evangelizing activity of the Church in the Amazon. Pope Francis invites the Church to look for new ways in engage in that process.

The small number of priests in the region and even with the heroic efforts of the missionaries who are there ... we have a situation in which there is no celebration of the Eucharist in most communities. It is necessary to promote a vocational ministry that will awaken indigenous vocations. At the same time, the progress of neo-pentecostalism is observed ... a movement that is due to the lack of the Church's presence.



The process of pastoral conversion reflects the urgency to move from an approach of pastoral visit to one of pastoral presence. In this matter it has been proposed that new ministers be encouraged, including the ordination of mature married men who give witness to the faith and who follow Jesus Christ in their service of the Church. Furthermore, considering the effective participation of women in the process of evangelization in this region (coordinators of communities), such participation should be recognized with the establishment of specific ministries.

Finally, it should be stated that the purpose of the Synod is not to offer quick solutions to all the ecclesial and social-environmental challenges, rather the Synod is to discern what the Spirit is saying to the churches (Revelation 2:7).

“The Spirit who is the protagonist of the synodal process will know how to point out the best ways for the Church to be present in this region. Therefore, while

we await the post-synodal exhortation of Pope Francis, let us continue to act with faith and confidence, our feet planted firmly on the ground and our eyes fixed on the One who is the author and the consummation of our faith.”

Don Evaldo Carvalho dos Santos,
CM Vescovo della Diocesi di Viana - MA

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



THE CHILDREN OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL TO THE PEOPLE OF CHILE AND THEIR LEADERS

Congregation of the Mission
Province of Chile
Santiago, Chile (October 20, 2019)



The members of the Congregation of the Mission, sons of Saint Vincent de Paul, called to become involved in the process of evangelization and service on behalf of those persons who are poor and marginalized, cannot remain silent and passive in light of the violence that is occurring in our country, violence that is the result of many years of injustice and inequality.

We reject the violence unleashed in the midst of legitimate protests of discontent and demands for respect of the rights of people for greater justice and equality. Irrational violence, which destroys everything and endangers the integrity and the life of men and women, is clearly unacceptable. We also reject the simplistic answer that what is occurring is the work of criminals and extremists... thus ignoring the root causes of this social unrest.

Violence is not only seen in the protests and the destruction that had occurred during these days. Violence is also everything that is suffered by those who are poor and includes those who would view themselves as middle-class members of society. Violence is present in the higher price of public transportation and the increased costs of fuel and electricity. Violence is present in the inequality of access to education, health and other essential goods. Violence is the concentration of wealth and privilege in the hands of few. Violence is the lack of security and protection against criminals in poor neighborhoods.

Violence is the repression of peaceful demonstrations and the undisciplined and disrespectful treatment of those who are poor and/or express a contrary opinion.

Violence is also those laws that maintain the situation of inequality and that demand workers to pay proportionately higher taxes than corporations and the wealthiest members of society.

Therefore, we enter into deeper solidarity with those who are tired of hearing nothing but bad news, with those who continue to receive poverty wages at the same time that the price of basic necessities increases and increases again and with those who feel abused and used. We enter into deeper solidarity with those who raise their voice and demand that their rights be respected. We enter into deeper solidarity and unite our voice to the cries of those who are poor and to the cries of those who become poorer with every passing day.

Together with those who have been excluded and abandoned, we cry out for an urgent, respectful and dignified response to those demands. Only dialogue, respectful listening, and the sincere search for solutions will enable us to overcome the problems that now confront us. The use of force and violence will exasperate matters and could lead to tragedy.

Vincent de Paul has taught us that charity does not only involve offering immediate assistance to those persons who are in need but also means that people are taught to sustain themselves and to become more and more aware of their dignity. Saint Vincent has also taught us that charity, at times, involves confronting established systems and advocating on behalf of the victims of unjust structures.

We call upon the Lord of history, the Liberator of the poor, the Prince of peace and the God of all justice, to calm the spirits and soften the hearts of those who have the power and the means to create situations of justice and equality. In that way, those who are poor and abandoned and marginalized may at last hear GOOD NEWS.



TRANSMITTING THE SHARED VINCENTIAN MISSION

*XII TRIENNIAL MEETING OF VOCATION MINISTRY
CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION-DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY
MADRID: OCTOBER 19-20, 2019*



Since 1986, the Interprovincial Vocational Team of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity has convoked a triennially meeting on the theme of vocation ministry.

This meeting took place at the Provincial House of the Daughters of Charity (Madrid-Saint Louise) on October 19-20, 2019 and the participants reflected on the theme: young men and women, faith, and discernment. There were about 130 participants, members of the Congregation of the Mission and Daughters of Charity, who shared their life, ministry and concerns with regard to vocational ministry. There were three experts in this field who

accompanied the participants: Rossano Sala (a Salesian), Luis Alberto Gonzalo (a Claretian), and our Superior General, Tomaž Mavrič, CM.

Sister Carmen Pérez, DC (Assistant General) and Sister Antonia González, DC (Visitor) welcomed the participants.

Then Rossano Sala, using the Lucan passage about the Disciples of Emmaus, guided us in a reflection on the most significant points in the Apostolic Exhortation, *Guadete et Exultate*. Luis Alberto then spoke about structural changes in our local communities in order to open new and attractive places where young people can find an atmosphere of dialogue



and trust ... he called this a process of emancipation.

All of this occurred on Saturday and it should be stated here that Rossano Sala accompanied us through videoconference because she had been invited to participate in the elaboration of the final document of the Pan-Amazon Synod.

Thanks to her, we received two wonderful greetings from the Eternal City, messages that brought joy to the participants. In the afternoon we were able to share and dialogue about the strengths and weaknesses that are found in making our houses a place to receive and welcome young people.



At the end of the afternoon there was a concert-prayer time that was led by Maite López who communicated, through her songs, a message about trust in an all-merciful God.

On Sunday we had the opportunity to listen to Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, who emphasized the importance of making vocational ministry a priority in our provinces. In that way young men and women will be able to discover that Jesus continues to call people to a missionary and charitable life in the Vincentian Family. Therefore, we are challenged to be people who call others, people who are enthusiastic about our vocation.

Finally, the participants expressed their pleasure with the content of the meeting and with the opportunity to be able to share with one another their experience of service and evangelization among the poor in Spain, Africa and Latin America. So we say goodbye until in three years (God willing and time permitting) we come together once again.

José Luis Cañavate Martínez, CM
Provincia de Saragozza (Spain)

MEDITERRANEA

*A PROJECT TO INCLUDE IMMIGRANTS
LOCATED AT THE GENERAL CURIA OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION*



In January 2018, inspired by the Vincentian Jubilee's theme, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" the "MEDITERRANEA" project was born. This project results from a fruitful collaboration among the various branches of the Vincentian Family located in the city of Rome, the Medihospes Social Cooperative Society (managing body of some SPRAR [System of Protection for Refugees and Asylum Seekers] centers within the territory of Rome and province) and of the non-profit association Linaria (which deals with social and architectural redevelopment of the urban public space). The Mediterranean project is actually located on the property of the General Curia of the Congregation of the Mission.

Mediterranean's objective is to re-qualify the professional skills of a group of asylum seekers and those who currently benefit from international and humanitarian pro-

tection, for the purpose of their insertion in the social and working fabric of our society. To this end, the General Curia of the Congregation of the Mission has made available two hectares of uncultivated parkland and a building on Via della Nocetta 191 in Rome, where the Linaria Association has concentrated all its skills and knowledge to bring about Mediterraneana.

Among the results of the work that took place during the first year, the non-profit Mediterraneana association was established in January 2019, thanks to the commitment of five of the twelve young political refugees trained in 2018 and the two project coordinators. This has made it possible to accept work orders, issue invoices, make temporary hires and, in the meantime, to educate and introduce other migrants to the world of social enterprise and the labor market.



At the moment, this project consists in enhancing the designated piece of property (or “park”) through a series of activities:

- An organic vegetable garden which sells some produce at zero km. From the outset, the garden has given particular attention to sustainability criteria, to the design of artefacts, to agronomic choices, to good recycling practices and to biodiversity.
- A garden of aromatic herbs and a vast citrus orchard with which salts and flavored sugars and organic jams for retail and online production are produced
- Producing artistic objects for gardens and urban terraces such as plant and wall supports, vertical gardens, garden tables and chairs, iron and wood tanks for plants of all types and genres through the use of poor materials, of scrap or leftovers from industrial production
- Designing and maintaining gardens, terraces and balconies by means of training and skill development, as well as training to decant, to develop irrigation systems, pruning, etc.

In the Mediterranea park, the team organizes different events in order to make the project known and create crowdfunding activities. Ethnic dinners and lunches provide opportunities to display the work of many people which sells some produce. At Mediterranea we also organize summer camps for children, short courses of painting and botanical graphics, of ikebana (the Japanese art of arranging flowers) with wild and cultivated flowers, of creating greeting cards with seeds ... all this with the aim of trying to spread a culture of hospitality.

All activities are organized and monitored by Michela Pasquali, a landscape architect and Father Giuseppe Carulli, our Vincenzian confrere.

We are convinced that this initiative has the potential to become a "pilot project" that can be replicated in other national urban settings and in many underutilized religious properties. Through such an experiment intended for a strong social, economic and environmental impact, our hope is to build an alternative model of welcome and integration for migrants and to promote multicultural dialogue by means of planned and ecological methods.

Above all, Mediterranea is meant to be a tool for social and work inclusion for immigrants who, very often, find it difficult to integrate into the Italian system of

socio-economics. Mediterranean offers a concrete opportunity for professional training and the acquisition of skills designed to create social enterprises, as well as to bring about the personal and economic autonomy of immigrants through training and guidance of those who have successfully gone through SPRAR centers. It is an admirable circle of social and professional inclusion that has asylum seekers as privileged protagonists, both as trainers and as those in training. Thus, this project that was born from a beautiful and fertile synergy among many people to benefit immigrants will continue to become a reality of coexistence and positive reception and, in the near future; it will be able to create real jobs by professionally training our young people as immigrant artisans and by developing the sales chain for our products. Truly, the "Mediterranean" has become a social cooperative where the protagonists are the migrants themselves!

Fr. Giuseppe Carulli, CM
General Curia



FATHER VINCENZO TIRABOVI TURNS ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD

CELEBRATION IN IDRA FOR THIS VINCENTIAN FROM PESARO



When, in the early 1900s, the plush carriages of the nobility of Lecce came to Idra to bring someone to Father Micalizzi, Father Vincenzo Tirabovi was not alive yet, because he was born in Pesaro in Abruzzo on 5 November 1919.

The house of Idra was still a country residence. This is evident from the "seals" of sacred ordinations kept even now in the archives of the diocesan Curia; together with those from the Order of Friars Minor who were fellow occupants in the same house at the time. In fact, in the aforementioned certificates we read, in Santa Maria dell'Idra "apud civitatem lycensem," which is to say, "near the city of Lecce." Today we would say, "outside the city," with respect to the 16th century walls, built in the Hamburg style.

Father Vincenzo Tirabovi arrived in Lecce only in 1931 and remained for just five years, as many as necessary to graduate from elementary school. Nevertheless, this only concerns his first stay there, the first of the three that occurred later. In fact, he returned for the second time with his Vincentian brothers, all forced to leave Naples during the last World War, due to the many Allied aerial bombings. Lecce, however, was a safe dwelling being without any interest for the war.

He remained there until 1951, coinciding with the arrival of the new bishop, Francesco Minerva, which occurred canonically at the gate of the current peripheral Vincentian parish.

However, 24 February 1945 was the most beautiful day of his life, that of priestly ordination, which kept him in Lecce until the beginning of the aforementioned pastoral year. Then, for some 43 years, religious obedience took him to seven small and large residences in the Neapolitan religious province: Naples, Salerno, Benevento, Catania; and then again Penne, Oria, and Nicastro.

Finally, for another happy coincidence, the coming of Pope John Paul II to Lecce on 17 September 1994, he returned for the last time to Salento, remaining there until today.

What about his teaching apostolate and his honor courses within the community? We find him with leadership functions in various houses of the Congregation, above all at the Provincial House dei Vergini in Naples. Then, responsible for the apostolic school and the theological novitiate. He was always active and fruitful in spiritual direction according to the spirit of the founder.

He was a learned confessor often requested in various towns and rural areas, but above all, in the communities of sisters. In addition to ministry in the houses of the Daughters of Charity (we would say, at home), he carried out his ministry in many other religious institutes in Lecce and in various places in the south.

Still today, it is customary to wish many, many years of life. This time, however, it is a happy goal.

Oronzo De Simone



MISSION APPEAL LETTER – 2019

***“NEW MISSIONARY SPRING IN THE CHURCH,
NEW MISSIONARY SPRING IN THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION”***

My dear confreres,

May the grace and peace of Jesus be always with us!

In the recent video message for this year’s extraordinary Mission Month of October, Pope Francis shares the following words with us and the whole Church:

“Today, a new impulse to the Church’s missionary activity is needed to face the challenge of proclaiming Jesus and his death and resurrection. Reaching the peripheries – the human, cultural, and religious settings still foreign to the Gospel: this is what we call the missio ad gentes. We must also remember that the soul of the Church’s mission is prayer. In this extraordinary missionary month, let us pray that the Holy Spirit may engender a new missionary spring for all those baptized and sent by Christ’s Church.”

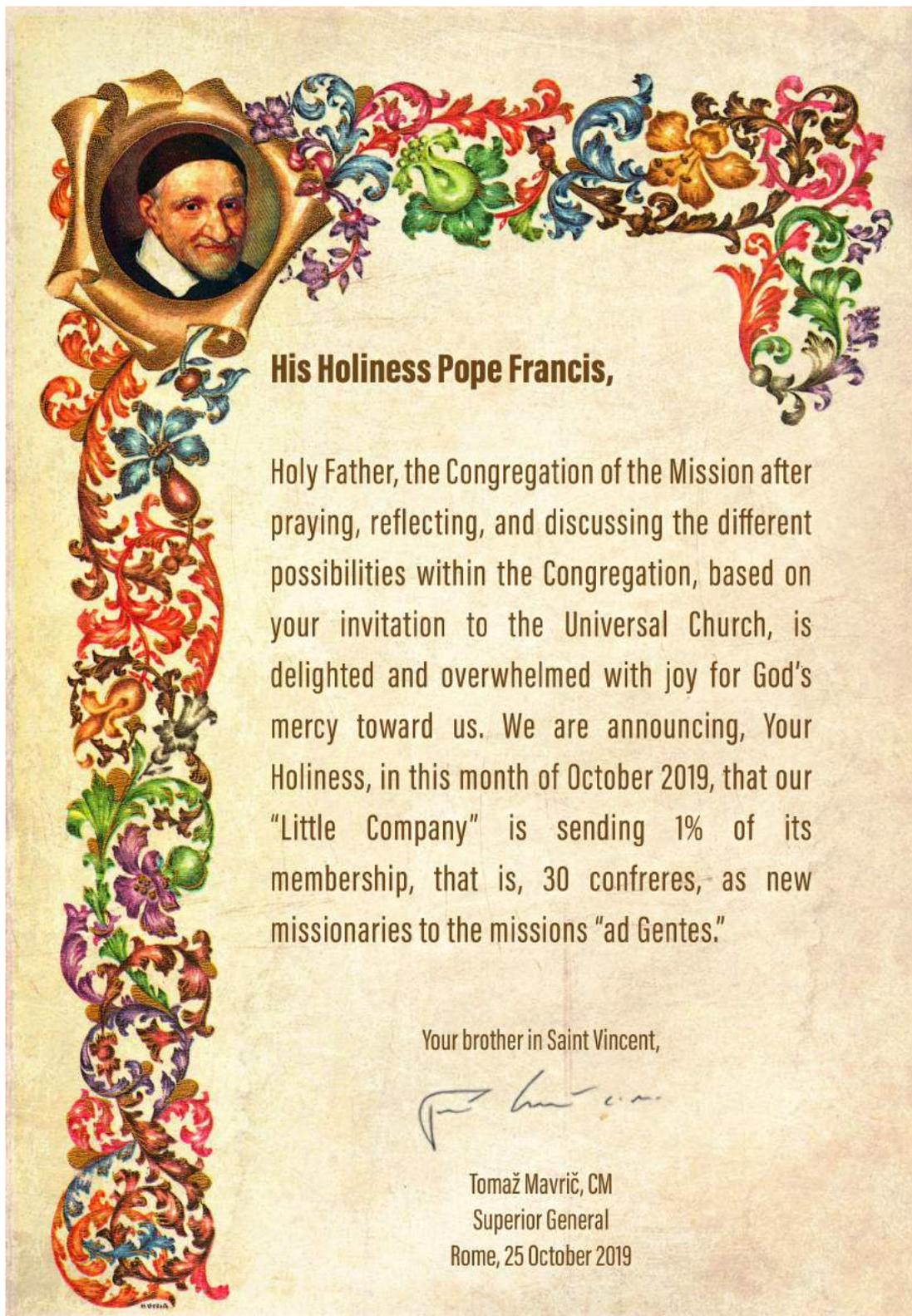


The theme for the extraordinary Mission Month of October 2019 is “Baptized and Sent: The Church of Christ on Mission in the World.”

In last year’s Mission Appeal Letter, I had invited all the confreres around the world to get involved in the initiative:

“To send 1% of the members of the Congregation of the Mission to the missions ad Gentes.” The 1% of our overall membership of around 3000 confreres comes to 30 confreres, who would go as new missionaries to the missions “ad Gentes.”

The concrete invitation and challenge for the worldwide Congregation was that in response to the invitation of Pope Francis for the extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019, our Little Company would be able to present Pope Francis, in writing, the following:



Dear confreres, with overwhelming joy, in humility, and being very aware of Jesus's vivid sign of mercy toward our Congregation, I announce that we reached the goal we had set for ourselves last year. Confreres will be sent to our different missions "ad Gentes," mostly in a very short period of time, some in one, two, or three years.

NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

GONÇALVES ALVES José Augusto	01/10/2019	Visitor of Portugal (Reconfirmed)
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ORDINATIONES

ROSALES MIRA Kenty Abimelec	Sac	SVP	26/10/2019
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NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
VAZ AZEVEDO António	Sac	01/07/2019	LUS	78	59
CUMMINS Joseph V.	Sac	05/10/2019	ORL	75	55
PRIOR Thomas William J.	Sac	17/10/2019	ORL	86	68
NELSON Thomas J.	Sac	05/10/2019	OCC	83	38
MUONEKE Ambrose Nkanyi	Sac	18/10/2019	NIG	80	42
DOMÍNGUEZ CHANTRERO Marino	Sac	19/10/2019	SVP	84	64



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