

JANUARY 2020



NUNTIA

Newsletter of the Congregation of the Mission

THE MEETING OF THE LEADERS OF THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY

First of all, I would like to thank you for the confidence the executive committee has placed in me by asking me to carry out this re-reading task.

I also extend a thank you to my colleagues in Strasbourg who helped me take notes throughout the various interventions, group sessions and round table discussions.

What, through you in, did the Lord want to tell us throughout these days?

Before sharing with you my analysis of these days, I would like to speak with you about my joy at seeing the mobilization that this international meeting sparked ... an historic event as Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, our President, stated.

This first meeting, with more than half of the branches of Famvin, is a big step in the continuation of the structuring of our worldwide organization that was begun in 1995. We are 200 representatives who have shared together this experience in Rome. We all, religious or lay, on our return home, will have the opportunity to sow new seeds with regard to the manner in which we live our Vincentian charism.

I would like to reference a phrase that Pope Francis uttered during the audience

on Wednesday morning: "a believer, and even more a Christian, must have a heart open to solidarity." This is what we try to do when we claim the charism of Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac, and all the others ... The foundation of our charism is not in the defense of values but in the acceptance of being convinced and inspired and animated by the Gospel which reaches out to every person and all humanity. Our Vincentian commitment must speak to our contemporaries about God's concern for people who find themselves in the midst of poverty, disease, frailty...

Our commitment must demonstrate the dignity of these people. This dignity is not linked to individual performance but must take into account the history, relationships, family and social dimension of the individual person. I will continue this summary by addressing the different themes shared since our arrival here: bold prudence, solid collaboration, essential communication, a vocational policy and finally the future of the charism.

1. In his presentation, Father Maloney reminded us that the charism requires bold



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Communication Office

prudence and this prudence nourishes a deep love for the poor, an unshakable attachment to Jesus Christ, and an unconditional confidence in providence. "Dare to be revolutionary, do not prohibit anything as long as love and respect for the poor remain first ..."

I noted three points:

- is it a call from God? Can we read the signs of the times?

-does our action give rise to hope? Does it open paths of hope?

-what is the added value of what we do compared to what others do?

2. We then heard how our charism requires a solid collaboration, an inventive collaboration that opens to dreams, as our elders dared to dream! These dreams have a catalytic effect, they prevent the mission fire from going out.

But let's also remember these two points about collaboration:

-we have to make sure that there is no power struggle between the different actors,

-we must avoid isolation and therefore join forces while keeping our own identity.

3. With the work of the Vincentian Family Communication Commission, we heard about the priority of implementing a communication strategy, on the level of internal communication as well as external communication.

Like Vincent de Paul in his time, we are invited to multiply the opportunities to communicate and to live in our time, that is to say, by using new means of communication. We are invited to spread the joy of the Gospel using the new technology and new communication techniques. Social networks are a way to make the Vincentian Family and its action and to promote formation and reflection in connection with the social doctrine of the Church.

In presenting us with this great initiative that was the film festival, Father Joe reminded us that "Films can be parables for today."

About this communication, here are three points of for further reflection:

-are social networks used with respect and empathy?

-are the websites subject to regular updating... such updating is essential to foster communication

-Finally, social networks seem essential but are not an end in themselves ... human

interaction can never be replaced.

4. The charism requires an adapted vocational policy. We are called to invite, to welcome, to listen with always the same watchword: joy, being happy, loving our world. Invite by telling our personal story, our call. We have much to offer as individuals and as a family: we welcome with enthusiasm with enthusiasm and listen with open minds and loving hearts. This vocational policy is vital in the recruitment process for the different branches of the Vincentian family. I see three points of further reflection: - do not live in nostalgia for the past, -do not live in nostalgia for the past -be present in those places where young people are found today.

5. For the congregations, the charism requires a creative, thoughtful and dynamic transmission.

The purpose of this transmission is to maintain the vision of the charism, to allow members of the congregations to stay on mission until the end.

Points for further reflection

-Promote formation in Vincentian values

-Guarantee vitality and respect for values when the founding members are no longer present.

Yesterday, we asked ourselves what we are invited to do in the coming years. What dream do we have for the future of the charism?

All I am going to share with you are things that have been said here in this assembly.

During morning prayer, Sister Mary Stated: "What the charism will be tomorrow depends on us, on our commitment, on our discernment today."

The charism is constantly evolving and adapting itself. The only constant over the centuries is: "the charity of Christ urges us on". The charism is therefore alive!

In my opinion, four avenues emerge from the various exchanges, but we could probably find more.

-"From collaboration to communion"

Collaboration between branches, within and outside themselves, must increasingly evolve towards communion. We must create and build a network, a web in a

society in constant motion, in a society subject to globalization.

-We are all experts in our fields, we all have qualities.

We have in our hands threads of different colors, different textures, and different sizes. By uniting these threads, by weaving this canvas, we draw the Vincentian charism and we act as a family as requested by the president of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The right time to do this is now, today !

What we do, the manner in which we live today, builds and foreshadows the future. Maintaining the status quo cannot be an objective in itself.

- "Love is endlessly inventive"

To give substance to this exhortation, we must appeal to our imagination, to our creative faculties.

We have to move from the abstract to the concrete, from the imaginary to the real. Thus we will always have an open heart, attentive to the new forms of poverty.

It is always a matter of asking oneself the question about the responses to be given. This requires defining priorities with regard to our resources and our energies.

Responding to new forms of poverty also requires each of us to avoid entering into confrontation with one another, within the family or with other organizations. It is about knowing how to rejoice in the good that is done and in the kingdom of God that is advancing.

- "Dignity is not a concept and action is a struggle"

Learning and applying the process of systemic change seems essential for the future. Carrying out service projects with the poor and analyzing systems and policies will bode well for the future of our charism. This will involve solidarity with every person.

Another idea in this area could be the development of a formation plan for the whole Vincentian Family.

- "Living the charism fosters spiritual and human growth"

This is a path that is open to everyone who engages in the journey of following in the footsteps of Vincent de Paul and Louise

de Marillac.

Living the charism is not an end in itself nor is it a search for personal satisfaction. Rather it allows everyone to ask the right questions, to act with courage and to consider a future filled with hope.

CONCLUSION

To serve corporally and spiritually was the concern of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac and, in their wake, the concern of all Vincentians of all those men and women whom Sister Bernadette listed yesterday.

To serve corporally and spiritually with zeal, gentleness, simplicity, and humility.

I will end my remarks with what we heard on the first day of our meeting. The Vincentian Family of the 21st century will be and must be more collaborative. It will be rich in all its diversity. It will be deeply spiritual. It will help people find new hope that will allow them to start anew. The Vincentian Family will be committed to systemic change and will remain prophetic through its love of creation.

Thank you for your attention, I do not doubt that we will meet again very soon since there is so much to do and to do in a collaborative manner.

*Sr. Blandine Klein,
Sister of Charity of Strasbourg
Source: famvin.org*

SOMETHING IS GROWING... HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED IT?

On January 4, 2020, the Interprovincial Internal Seminary of CLAPVI-North, located in Guatemala City, celebrated the conclusion of this stage of formation which was begun in 2019. Eight young men, together with their Director, Father Emmet Nolan, CM, as well as Visitors, Formators and representatives of the Vincentian Family, celebrated the Eucharist in thanksgiving for all that had occurred during the past year. This year seemed to have been a good experience for these young men who, as outlined in the Ratio Formationis of the Congregation, grew in every dimension of their life.

Those who concluded their time at the Internal Seminary are:

- Junior Omar Martínez, San Vicente de Paúl Province, Spain (Region of Honduras)
- Emanuel Alejandro Sampang, San Vicente de Paúl Province, Spain (Region of Honduras)
- Delisca Dumy, Province of Puerto Rico (Region of Haiti)
- Saint Pre Kervensley, Province of Puerto

Rico (Region of Haiti)

- Dainier Lazo Deis and Darel Fernández Reyes, Region of Cuba
- Carlos Arturo Méndez Gamas, Provincia of Ecuador
- Melvin Alonso Fallas Acuña, Vice-Vice Province of Costa Rica

During the same celebration, the following candidates were admitted into the Internal Seminary:

- José Pedro López, Province of Zaragoza in Honduras
- Yermi Yosafad Aquilar, Province of Mexico
- Sergio Moreno, Province of Mexico
- Guillermo Flores, Province of Mexico
- Juan Carlos Guerra and Rogelio Enrico Pineda, Province of USA Est (Region of Panama)

The time of formation in the Internal Seminary is one year.

*Fr. Roberto Adrian Fernández, CM
Province of Saint Vincent de Paul- Spain*

THE VOCATION MINISTRY IN CAMEROON

The Ministry of Vocations and of the Promotion of the Vincentian charism is an administrative organ of the Vice-Province of Cameroon for which the aim is to accompany Vincentian vocations and to spread the Vincentian charism. In a practice becoming almost traditional, this ministry organizes each year two vocational sessions which gather postulants of the vice-province for sessions of three days to give them formation and adequate orientations on the path of their vocational progress and discernment. In this order of things, the first session was held from the 27th until the 29th of December 2019 at the Saint Vincent de Paul Scolasticate under the general theme, My Vocation: An Answer to God's promises. The program unfolded in three conferences: the first was on the Itinerary of Saint Vincent de Paul, the second was entitled The Courage to risk for the promise of God (Mc 1, 16-20) and the third theme was entitled: Vocation of the Vincentian Brother.

A particular note was placed on the vocation of the Vincentian brother. The conference

on this third theme was given by Brother Martial TATCHIM FOTSO, cm, member of the International Commission of the promotion of the vocation of Brother of the congregation of the Mission created by Fr, Tomaž Mavrič, Superior General. Brother Martial proposed a reformulation of the theme as follows: The Vocation of the Brother in the Congregation of the Mission: Identity and Mission. This reformulation permitted the lecturer to insist on the fundamental aspects which define the nature and determine the Apostolate and the Ministry of the Vincentian Brother. In summary, Brother Martial emphasized that the mission of the brother corresponds to an ecclesiastical state of life which is subordinated to a triple direction, that is: the direction of the Christian vocation, of being missionary and of being Vincentian.

Beaugero SAPI TAFOFOU, cm,

Secretary of the Vocational services

Translated from French to English by:

Marcel Eugene NGALANI, 3rd year of philosophy, Vice-province of Cameroon.

RECENTLY APPOINTED VISITORS' MEETING

From 20th to 28th January 2020 in Rome in Casa Maria Immacolata the meeting of the recently appointed visitors of the Congregation took place. There were 11 Visitors from the provinces of Argentina, Brazil-Fortaleza, Peru, Cameroon, Spain St. Vincent, Ireland, Ukraine, Slovenia, Italy, North India and South India. For eight days there were challenging sessions, which dealt with all the issues that have to do with the Visitor's task. Practically the thematic index of *A Practical Guide for the Visitor* was followed, a very useful tool to orient the confrere who is called to this office. This guide was published for the first time in 1998, revised in 2004, and is currently being revised again. It will undergo a radical transformation, since it will be enriched with spiritual and theological reflections, addressing new problems that have arisen in the last fifteen years and are addressed in the various documents issued by the Holy See or the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

The daily sessions were based on the exposition of a theme and fraternal dialogue based on the experiences of each Visitor. The presence of the Assistants General who guided and animated the entire course gave the meeting the appearance of an open site with a serene and shared discussion. The exchange was very participatory and enriching, since the individual sessions were a laboratory of reflection and dialogue useful for assimilating a model of discernment to be practiced in the exercise of government.

The themes related to the role of the Visitor were examined not only from a juridical point of view, but also from a pedagogical-pastoral point of view. In this perspective it was insisted that the primary task of the Visitor is to be a "pivot of unity" for a province and therefore animator of the fraternity. Among all the themes, some were more provocative. We mention only two of them among many.

The first was reflection on initial and ongoing formation. Father Amedeo Cencini presented, through a long video, formation as a perpetual motion of conversion of spiritual sensitivity. He defined it as a process that allows one to convert the inner world of the person with his

ideas and emotions into an affective relationship with the event of Jesus Christ, in the light of St. Paul's exhortation to the Philippians: "Have in yourselves the same feelings as Christ, only when such contact becomes pervasive of one's own intelligence, will and affectivity - Father Cencini argued - does it generate the educational phenomenon that directs thoughts and actions in the logic of faith. And this not momentarily, but as a constant, spontaneous, gratuitous and liberating attitude that gives shape to the personality and even shapes the character. A similar positive orientation in Christ, it favors, as a consequence, taking one's distance from a vision of man closed in on what he likes, what suits him and what gives him power. The process of formation is therefore effective when the "spiritual feeling" within an affective relationship with Christ slowly changes, the effectiveness of which can be experienced in a relationship capable of esteem for others and serene in relation to the tasks of life.

Another important theme was the reflection of the Jesuit Father Stefano Bittasi executive secretary of the Center for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Persons of the Pontifical Gregorian University who explored the delicate balance between the needs of a person and the authority that is exercised over him/her and for him/her. Starting from Pope Francis' Letter to the People of God of August 2018, Father Bittasi showed that, in relations between priest and faithful, what must prevail is no longer the defense of the institution, but the protection of the weakest person. That is to say, one must start from discernment about the vulnerability of people in order to regulate one's own behavior: it is an attitude that is exactly the opposite of the ways of behavior established in the past in the Church. In the relationship of preacher/faithful or in that of accompanying spiritual exercises/participants or others one must be prudent: in these activities in fact one always exercises a power and the rule must be: "The more vulnerability increases the more responsibility in the exercise of one's authority increases". The state of human vulnerability and fragility from the Gospel point of view is the theological place chosen by Christ for the

conversion of existence. Power/domination is not the soul of Christological revelation, but service; and if it is service, then it means that the presbyter must start from lowering himself (or humility) to understand himself and the role of responsibility that he lives within the ecclesial body.

Within the course, all the Visitors had the opportunity to meet the Superior General and reflect with him on the province for which they are responsible. From the spiritual point of view, the half hour of silent meditation that was experienced together every morning was important. This moment set the tone for the whole day and the whole course.

THE BOOK OF THE SYMPOSIUM OF THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY

The Vincentian Family Symposium was a gathering that brought together thousands of people from all over the world, people inspired by the charism of St. Vincent de Paul. That event took place from October 11-15, 2017 and the celebrations and presentations were done in six languages: English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Polish.

Now, we have just published six volumes (with the same content but in six languages) and those books contain the presentations and homilies and talks that were given during the Symposium. It is an essential work for those who were present at the gathering as well as for those who were unable to participate in this event.

The writings contained in these books are the fruit of the reflection of many people, reflections on themes that were discussed and reflected upon during the Symposium. Included in this book are all

the presentations that were given during the Symposium as well as the homilies and the presentations during the audience with Pope Francis (St. Peter's Square, October 14, 2017).

In addition, there are 16 pages of color photographs of the various events.

This book is available in six languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian and Polish.

Thanks to the collaboration of the Vincentian Liturgical Center in Rome, this book can be ordered on this web page: <https://www.vincenziani.it/simposio>. The price is 20 euros per copy and that price includes mailing the book to any part of the world. You will receive your copy of the book approximately 30 days after placing the order.

CIF ACTIVITIES FOR 2020

The Fifth Formation Program for the Vincentian Family

Date: August 3-26, 2020

Participants: This program is geared toward members of the various branches of the Vincentian Family as well as members of Congregations and Associations that are inspired by our charism, such as diocesan priests who accompany the members of the various Associations. Also lay men and women who minister in the various works of the Vincentian Family are invited to participate.

Themes: We will reflect upon such themes as: what is the Vincentian Family; how to work together and promote the dignity of those who are poor; the original inspiration of Saint Vincent; some significant men and women in the Vincentian Family; Vincentian spirituality; how to confront material and spiritual poverty; how to better the community spirit of our group/association. There will be pilgrimages to significant Vincentian places in Paris and in other cities throughout France. It is hoped that people will grow in their knowledge of the various groups that make

up the Vincentian Family. There will be time for prayer and meditation/reflection and also free time.

Not only members of the Congregation of the Mission should be invited to this session, but also members of the larger Vincentian Family should be invited. A special invitation should be extended to the laity who minister in the various works of the Family: schools, charitable centers, missions, archives...

Second Formation Program for Brothers

Date: October 2 – November 1, 2020

Participants: This program is geared toward the Brothers of the Congregation of the Mission (Brothers of every age and who engage in all the various ministries). This program is the fruit of the CIF vocational promotional program during which we spoke about the significant decline of vocations to the brotherhood in the Congregation. During the first two centuries of our history the Congregation was composed of 60% priests and 40% brothers. Today, the percentage of Brothers has declined to an historical low.

Themes: We will reflect upon such themes as: Vincent's concept of the Brother; outstanding Brothers during the lifetime of Vincent; changes since the time of Vincent; what happened to the Brothers after Vincent de Paul; teachings of the Superiors General with regard to the Brothers (up to the time of the Second Vatican Council); recent developments with regard to our understanding of the vocation of the Brother in the Church; what changes did the Second Vatican Council bring about in religious congregations; recent documents with regard to the Brother in the Congregation of the Mission; the Ratio Formationis and the vocation of the Brother; the vocation, identity and mission of the Brother in the Congregation of the Mission; what problems do the Brothers confront; how can those problems be resolved; the Brother and ministry on behalf of the poor.

Second Formation Program for Missionaries Ad Gentes

Date: November 9 -29, 2020

Participants: Priests and Brothers who are ministering in missions ad gentes, in poor areas of their provinces or who are preparing to leave for the missions.

Methodology: the formation will be developed in workshops.

Themes: reality of the mission countries; the mission and human promotion; the great religions; mission and culture; the mission in the Bible, theology and Vincentian spirituality; the missionary thinking of Pope Francis; mission and personal and community growth; the mission in Vincentian thinking and in the history of the Congregation of the Mission

Complementary information: the various formation programs are held at the Motherhouse of the Congregation of Mission, located at 95 rue de Séveres, Paris, France. These programs are conducted in English, Spanish and French. Contact the director of the program with regard to cost and further details.

One final detail: Because the Motherhouse receives many visitors it is important to confirm your participation as soon as possible.

*Fraternally in Saint Vincent,,
Fr. Andrés R. M. MOTTO, C.M.
Director of CIF*

NOMINATIONS

We announce the arrival of **Fr. Gerardo Vibar Gregorio, CM** from the Province of the Philippines. Father Gerardo was born on July 17, 1969 and entered the Congregation on May 15, 1991. He was ordained a priest on February 27, 1999. He was the Provincial Secretary, Professor of Church History, Provincial Councilor and National Spiritual Advisor of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. He will serve as Assistant Secretary General and Director of the magazine, *Vincentiana*.

We welcome as a member of the General Curia community **Fr. Emmanuel Typamm, CM**. Father Emmanuel was born on October 29, 1962 in Togo. He attended the internal seminary in Berceau, Saint Vincent de Paul - Dax, in 1991. He was ordained a priest on May 20, 1993 in Paris. He belongs to the Vice-Province of Cameroon and currently serves as Deputy Director of the CIF in Paris. He will be part of the team of the General Secretariat as a translator and proofreader.

The third appointment is that of **Father Bernard Massarini, CM**, as International Advisor to the International Association of Charities, AIC. Father Bernard belongs to the Province of France. He was born on August 18, 1961, entered the Congregation on September 2, 1986, and was ordained a priest on August 25, 1990. Pastorally, he has served as Diocesan Chaplain for youth groups, was part of the International Mission of the Bolivian Altiplano, worked as a parish priest in suburban parishes in Marseille and with the Muslim community, advisor to the SSVP and AIC, National Advisor to the Vincentian Family, Director of the Daughters of Charity; in the last four years he worked at the Berceau of Saint Vincent, accompanying the more than a thousand pilgrims received annually, and is currently residing in France at the house in Amiens, France.

We thank these missionaries for their availability and welcome them to their new assignments.

NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

GONSALVES DOS SANTOS Odair Miguel	10/12/2019	Visitor Curitiba (Reconfirmed)
BENAVIDES ARAYA William	20/12/2019	Visitor Costa Rica (Reconfirmed)
KARACKAVAYALIL Anil Thomas	25/12/2019 (begins on 04/01/2020)	Visitor of South India
VILLAR SUÁREZ José Manuel	25/01/2020 (begins on 11/02/2020)	Visitor of St. Vincent de Paul - Spain

ORDINATIONES

SINGH Sachit	Sac	INS	03/01/2019
XAXA Bimal	Sac	INS	20/01/2019
LAKRA Sanjit	Sac	INS	23/01/2019
KULLU Prasant	Sac	INS	25/01/2019
MIHIRETEAB Kochito Adeko	Sac	AET	25/01/2019
EKKA David Peter	Sac	INS	03/02/2019
GROFF MIRANDA Christopher Alexander	Sac	CHI	30/03/2019
KODRA Ferdinand	Sac	ITA	29/06/2019
GARCÍA Allyson Giovanni	Sac	FLU	26/10/2019
NAVARRO MELÉNDEZ Franco Enrique	Sac	PER	23/11/2019
MEDHANIE Hailelassie Tesfagabir	Sac	SJJ	01/12/2019
PHOMNYU John Phom	Sac	INS	06/12/2019
KIKON Joshua Epibemo	Sac	INS	27/12/2019
BALIARSINGH Satyasubandas	Sac	INS	28/12/2019
NAYAK Binaya	Sac	INS	28/12/2019
THYMURIYIL Jins Joseph (Varghese)	Sac	INS	31/12/2019
MATHEW Brill	Sac	INM	02/01/2020
MUTHUSWAMY Shyjin	Sac	INM	07/01/2020
KARJEE Aliswar	Sac	INS	08/01/2020
KUMAR R. Pradeep	Sac	INM	11/01/2020
XAXA Rohit Ranjan	Sac	INS	12/01/2020
MAHESH Shaik	Sac	INM	16/01/2020
CARMONA LEMUS Ricardo	Sac	CGN	18/01/2020
JOHN Sojan	Sac	INM	19/01/2020
SORENG Sandeep	Sac	INS	23/01/2020
HICIANO JIMÉNEZ Antonio	Sac	POR	25/01/2020
RAYMUNDO GUILLÉN Willian	Sac	AMC	25/01/2020

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
MANNIX Anthony John	Sac	09/12/2019	AUL	84	67
PEREIRA COSTA Aluizio	Sac	09/12/2019	FOR	92	68
VENATTUCHERRY George	Sac	09/12/2019	INS	68	44
DE SOUSA OLIVEIRA António	Sac	14/12/2019	LUS	80	62
DULFO MALANA David	Sac	25/12/2019	PHI	72	51
RAMPINO Giuseppe	Sac	25/12/2019	ITA	91	73
NOVAK João	Sac	30/12/2019	CUR	84	62
HUGON Pierre René	Sac	02/01/2020	FRA	87	68
SANTOSO BUDOYO Petrus Martinus	Sac	02/01/2020	IDS	77	46
AIZPURU AZPILLAGA Ramón	Sac	07/01/2020	PHI	88	72
LERGA ARBIZU José Luis	Sac	11/01/2020	PER	83	67
PLANCQ Jean Emile	Sac	11/01/2020	FRA	97	80
SCOTT Gerald Francis	Sac	19/01/2020	AUL	88	71
HUGHES Patrick	Sac	24/01/2020	HIB	88	69
CORTÁZAR REVUELTA José Luis	Sac	25/01/2020	SVP	92	75

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