

NUNNTIA

Newsletter

of the Congregation of the Mission

2021
MAY



Congregation of the Mission
Communication Office

WOMAN OF FAITH

From the beginning of the evangelization process, Latin America has been characterized by the presence of Mary. Almost all the significant churches in our countries are dedicated to Mary ... from Guadalupe in Mexico to Lujan in Argentina. I have always admired the great devotion of the people toward the Blessed Mother. During the years of my priesthood I have listened to thousands of people say that they were angry with God for one reason or another and yet I have never heard anyone say that they were angry with Mary.

What is so special about Mary that she generates so much love and devotion?

In light of these many questions, people respond and say that she is the mother of Jesus. Yet I ask myself, is that sufficient reason? Allow me to share with you my own response. Her maternity is not sufficient reason ... and when I say this, I am not denying her maternity. It appears to me that "being the mother of" is not sufficient reason because this was a gift that was bestowed upon her. Therefore, during my lifetime I have reflected on this question in a personal manner: what does Mary generate in me? What role does she play in my life? ... Spontaneously I respond and say: she is a woman of faith.

I cannot and do not want to view Mary as some kind of wonder woman. Rather I see Mary as this young woman with friends, family and personal plans who at some moment in her life experienced the reality that God had planned something different for her. That reality shattered her dreams and plans and only because of her trust in God was she able to say "yes".

I think of Mary as a young mother who understood that her pregnancy could

lead not only to family rejection or abandonment on the part of her fiancé but could also result in her own death. Despite all those fears and risks, she did not seek some easy way out of her situation. Rather she continued to move forward with her life, trusting that God was with her.

I think of Mary as a migrant who, as a result of political fear, had to abandon her country and loved ones and create a new life with her family and with God.

I think of Mary as a young mother who, day by day, had to learn how to be a mother. She experienced the same concerns and insecurities of all mothers as she fulfilled her obligation to nourish, to care for, to teach and to discipline this child who was her son and her God.

I think of Mary as this woman who, despite her own needs, was able to see the needs of other and intercede in such a manner than led to the first miracle. She did not believe in Jesus' power but she believed simply in her Son.

I think of Mary who was concerned about the future of her son, knowing that "rebelliousness" can lead to problems. Despite all of this, she continued to listen to the Lord and confronted her feelings with prayer and the Word.

I think of Mary as the mother who saw her son die and in that sorrowful image I can only imagine the pain that she must have experienced. How does one go forward with life in such a situation ... and once again the answer is: she believed.

As she became one with this fearful community and at times, a community without faith, it was she who remained firm in prayer because that first experience of the Spirit of God did not simply remain with her as some past

remembrance but rather that experience matured in the various moments of joy and sorrow. Thus, through her generosity she was able to pray for the Holy Spirit to return to her life, but to return not only to her heart but to the hearts of all people.

Mary is the WOMAN, she is the daughter, the adolescent, the mother, the wife, the fearful and joyful woman who did not understand, who prayed, who cried and laughed, who lived ... who did all of this like each one of us. Yet we love her and venerate her above all else because she is a powerful sign of FAITH ... and this believing women helps us and teaches us that there is a God who will not abandon us, a God who embraces us and loves us. Mary, through her life of faith, tells us that life with God, in all its different forms, is possible for us ... all we need to do is believe.

May the God of Mary bless us and help us to journey together through these times.

By: Fr. Hugo Marcelo Vera, CM



WALKING THE DISTANCE

with the Vincentian Missionaries of Oceania



Murphy's Law states, "if something can go wrong then it will go wrong." Here's a short list of what did go wrong with this vehicle project: staff changes at the VSO; lost documents sent by post mail; and the big one--the global Coronavirus pandemic. The last obstacle took nine months to overcome for the vehicle purchase to happen. When the VSO began this project, the parish in Nausori Fiji had a working vehicle. Fr. Greg Brett, C.M., Provincial Superior of Oceania, describes the struggle to maintain the 1998 Toyota minibus, "The old vehicle we have is breaking down a lot and the repairs are beyond what we can pay." As the project slowly advanced, the vehicle sputtered along and eventually completely broke down. The Vincentian missionaries then used public transport or walked to the various communities within the large parish territory. As of February 2021, the Vincentian missionaries have a new Toyota Hilux 4x4 to show for all the effort and perseverance.

The St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Nausori is in a town in Fiji, 19 kilometers from the capital of Suva and part of the Province of Oceania. The new vehicle is used by the two priests there to get to more remote areas within the parish for the celebration of weddings and funerals.

These are places with unimproved or no roads. And since public transportation doesn't run on Sundays in Fiji, parishioners who live a kilometer or two from the Church must walk to Mass. The priests pick up and drop off the elderly and mothers with small children. Because the old truck broke down before a new one could be purchased, both shepherd and flock had to walk. The missionaries, for example, had to walk to reach people for the Sacraments, pastoral care of the sick and meetings at four different churches and two different hospitals. On weekdays there is some public transportation available in some areas, however the cost adds financial burdens to the parish.

In February 2020, project funds were transferred to the account of the Province of Oceania and held in Australia where banks were opened. The Vincentian missionaries were eager to buy the vehicle. However, soon international borders closed and business in Fiji went on lockdown. With the new unexpected turn of events, the project manager Fr. Vincent Manehoua, C.M. was stuck in the Solomon Islands for months. The

Province of Oceania is a multi-country province, so banks were still needed to get the funds to a car dealership that was not always open during this time. The delays tested everyone's patience as the Vincentian missionaries had to scrap the old Toyota mini-bus.

Regardless the setback with transportation and delays, the Vincentian missionaries hoped for the best as banks and business began to reopen in the new year.

On January 22, 2021 and after several months of waiting, a new Toyota Hilux 4x4 double cab pickup truck was purchased. Fr. Brett observed, "I will always be grateful to ... the VSO team for supporting us in this project. WE certainly could not have done this on our own. Thank you, thank you and thank you." You can tell from the photos how happy they were to finally have it.

Patience paid off! God's providence prevailed over Murphy's Law.



100 YEARS

Inauguration of Centenary Celebration & Felicitation of Confreres Going to International Missions and Mission ad Gentes from the Southern Indian Province in 2021

Congregation of the Mission in India is celebrating the Centenary of the arrival of the first four Spanish Vincentians missionaries on Indian soil (10th January 1922-10th January 2022). At the request MSFS Fathers working in the then Visakh (Visakhapatnam) Diocese, Congregation for the Propagation of Faith erected "Cuttack Mission" comprising the Southern districts of the state of Orissa and requested the Vincentians to take it up. At the request of the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, in June 1921 the Provincial Superior of the Madrid Province very Rev. Fr. Atienza CM, and his council agreed to accept the new and challenging Indian Mission. Accordingly four Vincentian Priests of Madrid Province, namely, Fr. Jose Maria Fernandez CM, Fr. Ramon Ferrer, CM, Fr. Valerian Guemes, CM and Fr. Manuel Coello. CM, travelled to India and reached Berhampur (Orissa) on 10th January 1922 and assumed the charge of the mission after a period of cultural integration.

Fifty-five Spanish Vincentians missionaries ministered in the Cuttack Mission with great zeal and dedication. From 1960 onwards Indian Vincentian missionaries joined hand with the pioneering Spanish Vincentian missionaries. Initially Vincentians concentrated their evangelization work among 'Dalits' the economically and socially underprivileged groups of the society. Later, they expanded

their missionary activities among the tribal of Orissa often travelling on foot for miles to reach their habitation in the interior forests. The Vincentian Missionaries worked for the integral developments of these people through their education (establishing schools & providing hostel facilities) and social (social developmental projects and self-empowerment programs) ministries. The gradual and steady growth of Indian Vincentian Mission is the evident testimony of God's abundant blessings on Vincentian Mission and Missionary activities started by the Madrid Province. On 22nd April 2021, Southern Indian Province inaugurated the centenary celebration with a solemn Eucharistic celebration at the Priests' Home Mysore, presided over by Rt. Rev. Bp. William, Bishop of Mysore. Around thirty confreres concelebrated the solemn Eucharist, our seminarians and Daughters of Charity from Mysore participated in

the Eucharist. After the Eucharistic celebration a short cultural gathering was organised to mark 100 years of Vincentian legacy in India, to recommit ourselves to our mission and charism and to felicitate the confreres going to Mission ad Gentes and International Missions in the centenary year.

Therefore, this celebration is intended to foster three aspects Vincentian Presence in India, namely to appreciate the Vincentian legacy began by the confreres from the Madrid Province with a deep sense of gratitude, to inflame our hearts with a contagious passion for the mission and to inspire every Vincentian to embrace their Vincentian Missionary Vocation with a great sense of hope, especially their call to go on 'Mission ad Gentes'.

With deep sense of humility, acknowledging God's wonders in our midst, we raise our hearts in gratitude to Almighty God for the manifold blessings and God's graciousness in making the





Vincentians the channels of God's Good News and blessing to people of India. With great reverence and gratitude we remember fifty five Spanish Vincentian Missionaries, forty Indian Vincentians, many diocesan clergy, Daughters of Charities, consecrated persons from several communities, lay catechists and benefactors who collaborated with Vincentian Missions and have been called to their eternal reward. May the Lord reward them and we seek their prayers. The reassessing of Vincentian legacy and history can become truly meaningful, when it makes positive ripples in the hearts of Vincentian missionaries of today.

We believe, the centenary celebration will revitalize our passion in following Christ the evangelizer of the poor, after the example St. Vincent and deeply appreciate the universality of our missionary vocation as envisaged by St. Vincent: "How happy, oh! how happy is the state of a missionary whose missions and labours for Jesus Christ know no other bounds than the entire world in which men live. Why then should we restrict ourselves to one place and set limits, when God has given us such an expanse in which to exercise our zeal?". The pioneering Spanish Vincentian missionaries landed on Indian soil generously offering the 'Good News' and 'hope' to many people especially the poor. In November 1997, the

fascinating history of the undivided Indian Province of the Congregation of the Mission ended with the division of the Indian Province into Southern and Northern provinces. Southern Indian province always took care to keep alive its missionary vitality and spirit by expanding its mission and sending missionaries to different places. In 2002 it assumed the independent responsibility of Tanzania Mission and erected it as a region of the province in 2015. In 2020 three young confreres joined the Tanzanian mission, raising the number of Indian confreres working in Tanzania to nine. The Southern Indian Province continues to strengthen the Tanzanian mission with personal and resources. As we celebrate the centenary of the arrival Spanish Vincentian Missionaries to India and as we are at the threshold of silver jubilee year of Southern Indian Province, we raise our hearts in gratitude to God for the manifold blessings and God's graciousness in making the Vincentians the channels of God's blessing to many. The celebration of the landmark event of Vincentian history goes a long way to inflame the hearts of every Vincentians for Mission ad Gentes' through personal voluntaries and prayers to become dispenser of hope. Foreign Mission especially Mission ad Gentes was very close to the heart of St. Vincent de Paul. Resonating the heart beats of St.

Vincent and the pioneering Vincentians missionaries from Spain, seven of our confreres offered themselves for Mission ad Gentes and foreign mission in this centenary year. Fr. George Kannamkulam, Fr. Fredy Michaelpilla, Fr. Makesh Shaik and Fr. Sojan John to Malawi Mission and Fr. Thomas Enchakal (Ukraine), Fr. Suresh Praban (Angola) and Fr. Sujesh Das (Taiwan). Let their dedicated missionary endures may bring glory to God and to His name.

We hope that the one year of Centenary celebrations may enable us to "revitalise our Vincentian Missionary identity" and live it according to the mind of St. Vincent de Paul. At the beginning of the celebration, Fr. Joy Thuruthel introduced the triple theme of the celebration and welcomed everyone. Fr. Anil Thomas Karackavayalil, the visitor, delivered the message and felicitated the missionaries. Bishop K. A. William extended his blessings and presented the missionaries with the Mission Cross. Brothers from De Paul Seminary, Belwadi presented cultural programs. A short video depicting the Vincentian presence and mission was prepared for the occasion by Fr. Rajeev Peter and Fr. Shijoy Thykkalaparambil. Fr. Baiju Chittooparamban, the Assistant Visitor, proposed the vote of thanks to everyone, especially to the confreres and brothers who organised the celebrations in a meaningful manner following the Covid-19 protocol.

*Fr. Anil Thomas Karackavayalil CM
Visitor, Southern Indian Province*

Development and Conclusion of the Third Meeting of the **BERCEAU SCHOOL**

By: *Gustavo Bustos*

*Shine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
Buenos Aire, Argentina*

Yesterday, the Berceau School concluded its third session with the general theme: Actualization of the charism throughout the 400 years of its existence. The thirty-three participants, connected through Zoom from Friday, April 30 to continue their formation in the Vincentian charism and spirituality. The formators were Fr. Corpus Delgado, Sister Ángeles Infante, and Fr. Isaac Dements, who were accompanied by other presenters from the different Vincentian associations.

The second videoconference held on Saturday began with a presentation of the martyrs and persecution in Spain (1931-1939), by Sister Ángeles. She developed the concept of martyrdom and stressed the fact that despite the cruelty shown by persecutors, the martyrs accepted the divine will and viewed dying for Christ as a grace. Then, Fr. Isaac made a presentation on Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Sister Rosalie Rendú. He highlighted the full and complete life of Frederic and showed how the encounter with Rosalie opened the way for Frederic to clothe himself in Vincentian spirituality.

In the afternoon, the presentation focused on two concrete updates to the Vincentian charism. The first was about the Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY) by Lucía Rivero (Uruguay) who in a very systematic manner the history, spirituality, organization and identity of the group. The second presentation made by Elena Daza (Bolivia) highlighted the activities and the present situation of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) in the country.

Sunday morning, the last day of the formation session, began with an evaluation of the three sessions of the Berceau School. At that time the participants expressed their gratitude to the organizers: the Congregation of the Mission of the Argentine Province and the Daughters of Charity of the South American Province. They also spoke in a positive manner about the opportunity to share their experiences and expressed a desire to continue this journey together. The formation dimension of Sunday began with a presentation by Fr. Corpus, who spoke about the life of Saint Justin de Jacobis. He highlighted the saint's love for Christ as revealed in his love for the people of Ethiopia and his tireless work on behalf of the poor. Then Sister Claudia Artiga (Chile) spoke about the spirituality of the Daughters of Charity. She focused on the sisters witness to charity and their call to serve Jesus Christ in the poor. Also in the morning, Ericka Arelluna Fauré (Chile) spoke about Vincentian spirituality as lived by the members of the International Association of Charity (AIC). She briefly developed the three pillars of this group: (1) the founding spirit of Saint Vincent de Paul, (2) the key elements of their spirituality as revealed in the celebration of the Eucharist and their ministry on behalf of the poor and (3) the contributions of Frederic Ozanam with regard to the evolution of the spirituality of the association.

Then the afternoon followed the dynamics of the morning. Father Corpus presented the lives of outstanding members of the Vincentian Family: Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and Blessed Lindalva Justo de Oliveira. Saint Elizabeth Seton focused

on education and service on behalf of the poor in the United States. Blessed Lindalva visited the poor in their homes and provided a new dynamism to the service of charity in Salvador de Bahía, Brazil.

The session concluded with two further updates updates to the Vincentian charism: the Congregation of the Mission (by Fr. Sergio Plana) and Vincentian Lay Missionaries (MISEVI: by María José Rebottaro). The first presenter explained and showed the six movements that are needed to revitalize Vincentian spirituality. With regard to MISEVI, the history of FAMVIN's newest association, the presenter spoke about its charism, its apostolate, and its spirituality centered on Jesus and illuminated by Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman and further illuminated by the parable of the good Samaritan.

The mission now involves a continued explanation about the development of the Berceau School to the different communities and further internalizing everything "was seen and heard". The three sessions were enriching experiences that enabled the participants to encounter God through the Vincentian charism and spirituality. As a result the participants also commit themselves to continue to clothe themselves in the spirit of Jesus Christ, evangelizer of the poor.



HOMILY ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

There are a number of points we can take for reflection on Pentecost Sunday. I would like to limit my sharing on the following three points.

- Pentecost inaugurates the beginning of the missionary church
- Pentecost reminds us to preserve unity in diversity
- Pentecost reminds us that unity is not uniformity

Pentecost inaugurates the beginning of the missionary Church.

The apostles were entrusted with a mission by Christ. The mission entrusted to the apostles was preaching; proclaiming to all people what they have heard and

seen from Jesus. However the apostles remained hiding after the death of Jesus. They were filled with fear, they were afraid of revealing their identity, they were afraid of telling the people what they have heard and seen from Jesus. But on the day of Pentecost we see Peter coming out and preaching powerfully about Jesus to the three thousand gathered in Jerusalem. Thus on the day of Pentecost began the missionary church to which we all belong. Pentecost reminds all of us that Church is missionary and our prime mission is preaching the good news to all nations. The second point for our reflection is that Pentecost reminds us to preserve unity in diversity. The apostles were not a homogeneous group or a like-minded persons.

They were a heterogeneous group. They were ideologically, socially, economically and educationally very different. There were married and unmarried people among the apostles. There were rich and the poor among the apostles. Some belonged to the fisher-folk and some did not. Some of the apostles were revolutionary nationalist opposing the Roman rule while others supported it. Simon the zealot was a nationalist who hated the Roman rule while Mathew supported it. So the apostles were not a homogeneous group. Perhaps one of the unwritten miracles Jesus performed during his public life was to make this heterogeneous group of apostles into a community. On the day of Pentecost Christ sends the Holy Spirit upon the



apostles and the Spirit remains in them as the principle of unity among the apostles. So the Holy Spirit present in the apostles is the principle of unity in diversity. Our congregation, provinces and our institutions are not very different. We are a heterogeneous group of confreres and the presence of the Holy Spirit in every one of us makes us all united. The third point for our reflection is that Pentecost reminds us that unity is not uniformity.

Jesus respected and preserved the plurality and differences among the apostles. Jesus never tried to create uniformity and standardization among the apostles. The differences and plurality among us become a source of conflict when we try to create uniformity and standardization. But if we let ourselves be guided by the Spirit, our differences and diversity never become a source of conflict. Thanks for listening.

Mathew Kallammakal, CM



GENERATE

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

This title summarizes the goal of the efforts of the Church to assure that all her members and her institutions promote a way of being and of doing things that protects youth and vulnerable adults from those who would abuse them. The goal has slowly dawned in the Church, notably strengthened by the Moto Proprium of Pope Francis Vos Estis Lux Mundi of May 7, 2019.

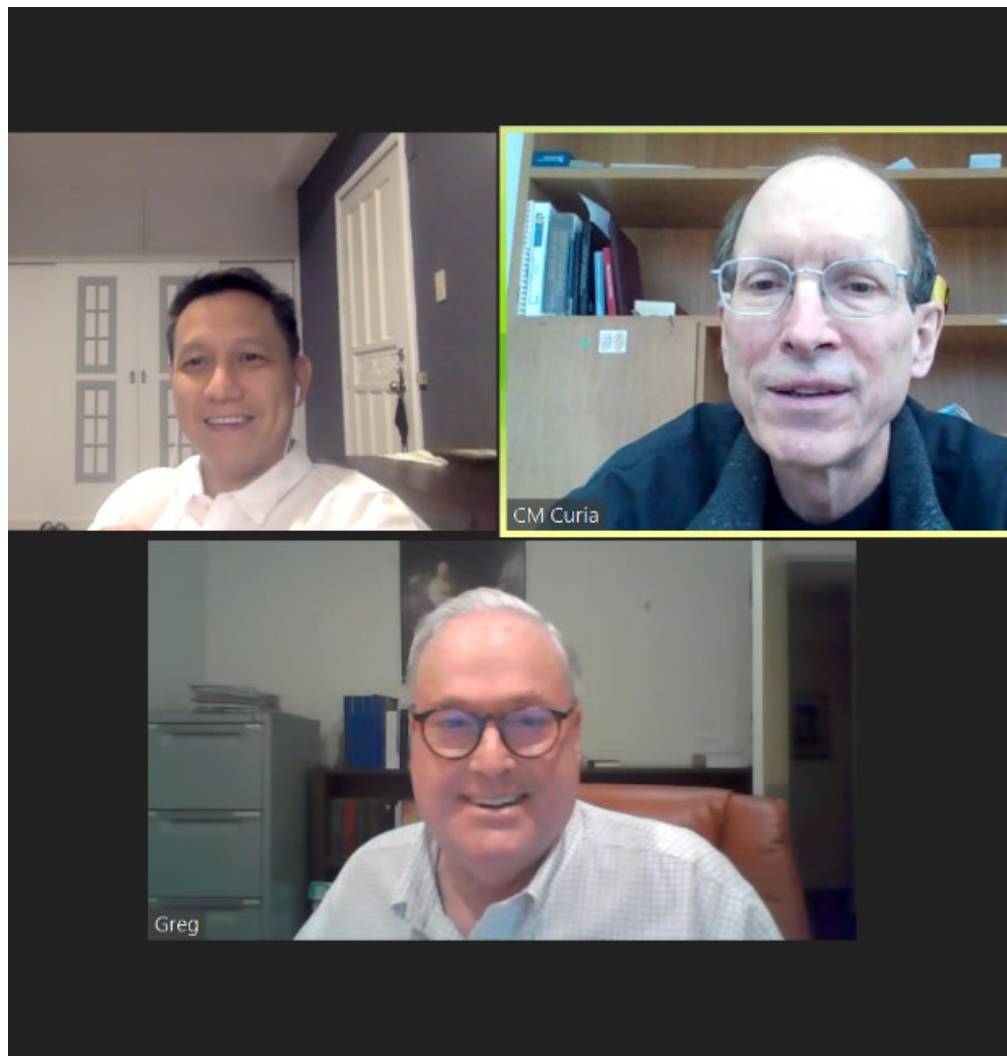
(http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/motu_proprio/documents/papa-francesco-motu-proprio-20190507_vos-estis-lux-mundi.html)

and the following Vademecum of Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of July 16, 2020 (https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20200716_vademecum-casi-abuso_en.html).

The Congregation of the Mission is committed to generating a safe environment in everyplace that we are present. The current status of our provinces and vice-provinces is that 11 have no policies in place, 3 have confreres follow the policies in place where they work, 3 are thinking about a policy, 4 are drafting a policy, 14 have a policy in place and 7 have not answered the request for information.

In order to promote enthusiasm and sharing in this regard, Fr. Miles Heinen, Assistant General, has begun to gather experienced confreres in the English speaking world to help formulate a process of intensifying our engagement with this very important goal. The first meeting of Fr. Miles, Fr. Greg Brett and Fr. John Era took place on May 1. We were all of one mind on the necessity of taking initiative in this regard and of the need for mutual support since the issue itself is emotionally draining.

We focused ourselves around the concept of a "new normal" which has emerged and heard that we all have best practices to share. We also heard how important formation is around this issue, a formation not just of policy awareness, but of change of heart, beginning with leadership. We will be meeting once a month for now and are hopeful that perhaps three more will join the group in the near future.



PRIESTLY ORDINATION

in the Province of Peru



On Saturday, May 22nd, the eve of the Solemnity of Pentecost, Deacon Jorge Alan Bryan Gallardo Sánchez (Province of Peru) was ordained to the priesthood. The celebration took place in the parish of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (Miraflores) with the participation of some eighty persons. Bishop Ricardo Rodríguez (auxiliary bishop of Lima) highlighted the importance of the family in encouraging vocations and thanked the parents (Jorge and Carmen) of Father Jorge for having fulfilled their responsibility as the first formators of their son. The bishop also encouraged the newly ordained to value the gift that he has received and to live each day with joy, firmly rooted in Jesus Christ and totally commitment to people. At the conclusion, Father Jorge thanked all the people who had accompanied him throughout his vocational journey, and asked people to pray for him so that he might remain faithful.

After the ceremony, Father Jorge received the greetings of the older confreres in the infirmary as well as greetings from the Daughters of Charity, members of the Vincentian Family, family and friends. On Sunday, May 23rd, Father Jorge celebrated his first Mass at the parish center of St. John the Baptist in San Juan de Miraflores ... the community that saw him grow and the place where his missionary vocation was born.

We give thanks to God!!

GENERAL INFORMATION

NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

KUNNINPURAYIDAM James	05/05/2021	Director HC India Sur
QUINN Bernard	05/05/2021	Director HC Santa Elisabetta Anna Seton (U.S.A.) - (Reconfirmed)
VAN KNIPPENBERG Tjeu (M.P.J.)	05/05/2021	Vice-Director HC Colonia-Países Bajos -(Reconfirmed)

ORDINATIONES

ADAMCZYK Michał Piotr	Sac	POL	15/05/2021
JĘDRA Łukasz Marcin	Sac	POL	15/05/2021
KACZMAREK Wojciech	Sac	POL	15/05/2021
GALLARDO SÁNCHEZ Jorge Alan Bryan	Sac	PER	22/05/2021

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
MARRAS Angelo	Sac	02/05/2021	ITA	62	23
DEVINE Richard J.	Sac	04/05/2021	ORL	92	72
RETA ORZANCO Gregorio	Fra	04/05/2021	SVP	95	76
VERWOERD Gerard (G.A.)	Sac	04/05/2021	CGN (HOL)	81	61
TANDYASUKMANA Theodorus	Sac	06/05/2021	IDS	88	63
TIRKEY Prakash	Sac	07/05/2021	INS	56	36
VILA VILA Pío	Sac	23/05/2021	SVP	91	70
ESCALONA ZABALETA José Leonardo	Sac	25/05/2021	COL	43	17
SALVADÓ PARCERISA Eduardo	Sac	27/05/2021	SVP	95	79
REYES FORERO Gonzalo	Sac	28/05/2021	COL	98	77

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