

# NUNNTIA

Newsletter  
of the Congregation of the Mission

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**Congregation of the Mission**  
Communication Office



## Priestly Ordination of Deacons Louis, CM and Ezequiel, CM



In September, the Vincen-tian Month, the Brazilian Province of the Congrega-tion of the Mission and the Church received two new priests.

The first, Deacon Louis Francescon, CM was ordained on September 4th through the consecratory prayers and the imposition of hands of the Bishop of the Diocese of Luz, José Aristeu Vieira. The ordination took place in the parish of Virgen del Carmen (Pains). The second, Deacon Ezequiel Oliveira was ordained the following Saturday, September 9th, through the laying on of hands of the Bishop of Oliveira, Miguel Ângelo Freitas Ribeiro in the church of Virgen de las Necesidades (Piracema).

Both ordinations were a time of much joy, fraternity, and faith. May these newly ordained priests, Father Louis, CM and Father Ezequiel, CM, members of the Congregation of the Mission, be strengthened by God as they engage in service and evangelization on behalf of those men and women who are poor.



## Do you know the Law of Moore?

Gordon Moore, the cofounder of Intel, formulated his law in 1965 and described the tendency of microchips to increase the number of their components. According to Moore the number of components in these chips doubled every year between 1959-1965. He also stated that in the next ten years annual doubling of components would remain the same. In a few words, this law is an attempt to predict technology tendencies and affirmed that the components of computer chips ought to double every two years. It seems that things change very quickly and, in fact, today in a single generation there are so many technological changes that things now appear to be "foreign" to the previous generation. It would be as if in a family, the parents had just learned to write and now their children were using tablets. Such a gap creates difficulties in relationships because even though the members of the family might be speaking the same language, their relationship with the world is completely different.

These technological advances have created the reality in which most of the global financial systems have focused on such pervasive innovations that we can now speak about a post-human philosophy. Facebook, which is a social network, is one of the most powerful companies in the world and is working on a kind of "metaverse" that is, a universe in which the real and the virtual are obsolete and, thanks to "invisible" technology (which has become ever more miniature) the human being will be able to live a new daily reality. Companies like Facebook (as well as Google and Amazon and others) are defined as true maga-nations, capable of influencing and guiding the behavior, decisions and actions of an ever-growing group of people.

The predictive ability of the algorithms that manage the social networks is increasingly more and more precise. This is due to the mass of data that they manage and that, in turn, create a general profile of humanity.

The question is: is it the algorithm that learns to predict or is it the human being who, by becoming dependent on the algorithm, begins to lose his/her freedom and becomes predictable.

But the real question is: who created the algorithm? What values guide this algorithm? The human person is not predictable, at least not until he/she has renounced his/her humanity and likeness to God. The human person, the new person escapes the algorithm ... but does not do so when capitalism directs their elections and their vocation.

It is no coincidence that the same company behind Instagram (which is still Facebook) is fully aware of the fact (thanks to the research of the Wall Street Journal) that the social network is very damaging to teenagers. The anxiety of having to build an (aesthetically) perfect life and the continuous and incessant comparison with the perfect lives (?) of others causes irreparable mental damage in young people. Their self-esteem decreases, eating problems develops and suicidal thoughts occur.

It is estimated that in the United States alone some 22 million adolescents access Instagram every day and many of them begin to forget who they are because they "have taken up residence" in this social network.

That is why it is essential to be present on the social network platforms. We must provide support and comfort to these young men and women. Above all, we have an opportunity to provide these individuals with real alternatives that will enable them to find a refuge.

We cannot avoid living in the midst of this digital environment. Indeed, if we were to withdraw from this digital world, it will be young people and future generations who will pay the price. The obligation of missionaries is to bring Christ the Savior to this new world in which there are people who are spiritually poor and hungry for love.

But that is not enough. If it is true that the algorithm learns from the contents of the users (and, therefore, it is all the more important to transmit a message of salvation), it is also true that we need to create an algorithm ethic that focuses on the human dimension rather than the profit dimension.



## Novena In Honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal At the Shrine in Ourense, Spain



### MIRACULOUS MEDAL OURENSE, SPAIN.

This year, thousands of pilgrims, who visit the Shrine each year, were able to participate in the much-awaited Miraculous Medal Novena which was characterized by a certain return to normalcy.

From August 30 until September 8 (the feast of the birth of the Blessed Mother) thousands of pilgrims came and participated in these grace-filled days. During 2019-2020, the Shrine celebrated the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Congregation of the Mission to this Shrine and were entrusted by the bishop of the Diocese of Ourense with the mission of evangelizing the people of this area, and at the same time were asked to administer the Shrine.

Because of restrictions that resulted from the pandemic that all experienced, we were unable to conclude the anniversary with the planned celebrations. Thanks to God, this year our celebration was graced by the presence of our Superior General, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM and the Assistant General, Father Aarón Gutiérrez who were welcomed by the Visitor of the Province of Saint Vincent de Paul – Spain, Father José Manuel Villar, CM. Our guests were able to witness the ministry that the members of the Congregation of the Mission of the Province of Saint Vincent de Paul – Spain engage in here at the Shrine.

These were days of great joy and Father General had the opportunity to live these festive days of the Novena which culminated on the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Mother. On that day, the Secretary Archbishop of CIVCSVA, José Rodríguez Carvallo presided at the Eucharist at which Father Tomaž and Father Aarón Gutiérrez concelebrated.

This place of evangelization, which has been administered by the members of the Congregation of the Mission for one hundred-fifty years, has an impressive history. If you desire to deepen your knowledge about this place, we leave you with the following article, part of a book that will soon be published and that we are sure you will like.

I hope you will enjoy reading these pages that will provide you with more details about the history and the ministry that has been developed over the years at the Shrine.

PBy: Fr. Francisco Javier López Monrobé. CM Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal





7 September 2021

### Report on the VSO Forum on Vincentian Development 2021

The VSO delivered the Forum on Vincentian Development, May 25-July 2. The participants received ten-two hour and thirty minute sessions in English and over Zoom Teleconference. Initially, 63 participants were registered from four Visitors' Conferences, COVIAM, APVC, CEVIM, and CLAPVI. As the Forum began, the actual number of participants fell to 54 (see Table A: Registered Participants by Visitor's Conference). The goal of the training was to increase the number of confreres who have training as project managers for work in Vincentian development and to become better collaborators with the VSO. The majority of participants were confreres, many were new to project management. Several were lay collaborators, both men and women. The cost per participant was \$176 USD, including the stipend for the presenter and the use of AVISHA online platform.<sup>1</sup> Each participant was sponsored by a VSO grant.

The goal of the Forum was as follows: To introduce project-based fundraising for mission work with the VSO to design a project with a clear problem and solution; to develop a budget and funding plan; and to incorporate methods of management and evaluation, terminating in a report to the funding agencies and VSO.

#### Objectives:

- a. To introduce as many confreres as possible to training as project managers
- b. To reinforce learning and capacities in four principal areas of project-based fundraising: (1) project design; (2) implementation; (3) monitoring and evaluation; and (4) reporting.
- c. To engage participants in adult learning in live online sessions with a case-study assignment leading to the completion of a VSO Application and evaluation by a VSO mentor.

**Table A: Registered Participants by Visitor's Conference**

<b>REGISTRANTS BY CONFERENCE</b>	
APVC	22
COVIAM	25
CEVIM	6
CLAPVI*	1
<b>REGISTRANTS BY VOCATION</b>	
Confreres	49
Lay collaborators	5
Total	54

<sup>1</sup> The total cost of the Forum training for 54 participants was \$9500 USD.

## Evaluation of Forum

The VSO evaluated the Forum based on the Pre-Forum and Post-Forum surveys, and a Post-Forum focus group of four participants. The survey questions focused on increasing competency in 16 learning objectives for successful project management. The focus group complemented the survey by raising matters of organization, effectiveness of presenter, method of instruction, and value of case study assignment. The Pre-Forum survey revealed the following about the knowledge of the confreres: Basic 67.5%; Intermediate 25%; and Advanced 7.5%. For most participants, it was their first exposure to comprehensive training for project-based fundraising in all its components. The Post-Forum survey revealed that both beginners and intermediate participants gained knowledge from the Forum. For the purpose of clarity, the VSO makes a distinction between registrants (63) and actual participants (54) who attended one or more sessions. The evaluation focused primarily on survey data of participants, as well as the inputs from the VSO staff, presenter, and AVISHA Learning Platform.

### Successes:

- a. The participants felt their expectations were met (Completely 63%; and Somewhat 37%; and 0% Not at All).
- b. Concerning the stated 16 objectives of the training, participants reported high level of satisfaction (Definitely 70 %; and Somewhat 29%; and Not at all 0.5%).
- c. The Post-Forum focus group noted the following: (1) the participants praised the extensive preparation and organization of the sessions by the VSO; (2) they benefitted from the small group sessions; and (3) they reported high satisfaction with the presenter because of his knowledge of project-based fundraising, clarity of presentation (pace, pronunciation, examples given), and method of instruction.

### Challenges:

- a. Each session averaged 42 participants. The VSO reported that 35 participants attended at least 80% of the sessions. Initially the VSO had registered 63, but of that number, 54 attended one or more sessions. It was a challenge to maintain attendance by the 54 participants.
- b. Twelve participants attended three or four sessions (22%).
- c. The case study assignments were attempted by 29 of the 54 participants (53%); of the 29 who attempted the assignments only 9 completed all four of the assignments (16%); and 25 of 54 did not attempt any of the four assignments (46%).

### Recommendations for Future Forum

- a. Improve the small group sharing by providing a group leader and giving more time to the group.
- b. The cohort of participants needs to be smaller and better selected to engage the participants in adult learning.
- c. The mentors and mentee experience can be enhanced by virtual interaction during the Forum sessions.
- d. The training would best be given in one or two time-zones with accommodation for the local time and daily customs, such as, lunch and siesta.

### Conclusion:

The virtual training allowed for a cost-effective delivery of a successful training experience for many confreres and lay collaborators. The VSO had decided to train the maximum number of confreres, in an English language training, on project management. Among the large number of participants (54), there was included a sizeable number of those who were minimally engaged (12). The extension of the training to numerous confreres and lay collaborators diminished the benefits of adult learning. Yet, there was a highly motivated group of 34 participants.<sup>2</sup> Adult learning method of instruction served best those who completed the assignments, therefore those who learned by doing. Best practices for engaging in adult learning warrants a smaller cohort of twenty participants who have a project to work on. The VSO would do well to work with the visitors to recruit a smaller number of motivated participants who have a stake in the

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<sup>2</sup> The VSO defines highly motivated participant as follows: 42 participants attended 7 or more sessions. We used the factor of .08 to determine a cohort of highly motivated, which is 34.

outcomes. The smaller group would allow for better interactions among the participants in group discussions, and fewer numbers would provide for closer mentoring of case study assignments.

To close, the VSO has initiated a process to engage the visitors' conference of CLAPVI for the purpose of delivering a Spanish language virtual Forum on Vincentian Development next year 2022.

By Fr. Gregory J. Semeniuk, C.M.  
Executive Director VSO

## ORDINATIONES

COSTA FERREIRA Louis Francescon	Sac	FLU	04/09/2021
ALVES DE OLIVEIRA Ezequiel	Sac	FLU	11/09/2021
ASSAF Pascal	Sac	ORI	11/09/2021
BSAIBES Georges	Sac	ORI	11/09/2021

## NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
NAIGULEVU Samson Imanueli Tadu	Sac	22/09/2021	AUL	38	5
IBAÑEZ VILLALBA Lázaro	Sac	27/09/2021	CAE	85	67
TERMECZKY Jenő	Sac	28/09/2021	ITA	99	80
RODRÍGUEZ RODRÍGUEZ Juan Bautista	Sac	29/09/2021	SVP	88	70

[www.cmglobal.org](http://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](mailto:nuntia@cmglobal.org)