“HUMAN ACTIONS BECOME ACTIONS OF GOD WHEN DONE IN HIM AND THROUGH HIM”
Greetings to all!
We have begun to live a wonderful experience in Rome, Italy, in the house “San Juan de Avila”, of the Spanish Episcopal Conference: the AG2022 of the Congregation of the Mission.
We started in the morning with breakfast. Everyone greeted each other with enthusiasm and joy for sharing this experience, until 9:00 a.m. when we changed our environment to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, presided by Father General Tomaz Mavric, in the chapel of the house. In his homily, he placed us in the hands of God’s wise providence, which is what has made everything in the company. We cannot better ensure our eternal happiness than by renouncing ourselves to follow Jesus Christ. Providence, the superior reminded us, leads to a mystical union that provokes an affective and effective response in the hearts of the people.
The celebration was accompanied by the Gen Verde choral group, which also performed some songs made for the congregation, emphasizing the care of the poor and the divine realities that surround us.
This was followed by the first session of the assembly. A roll call was taken of all the participants, 115 members, and a review was made of the activities that will be carried out every day. The secretary, Corpus Delgado, was also elected and the directory for the general assembly was approved.
In the afternoon, after lunch, the general presented those who could be moderators and who were voted on. Also the editorial and synthesis commission. Barta Szabolcs was elected vice-secretary.
Greetings to everyone and happy second day of this general assembly!

Yesterday evening we celebrated a time of silence … a time in which we paused in the soft tenderness of the Lord, allowing us to refresh our mind and heart in order to place ourselves at the service of a New Humankind. Such was the objective of this time which we initiated last night … a time in which prayer prevails, a time when God speaks to us.

Bishop Andrew Bellisario, a Vincentian missionary and the Archbishop of Anchorage-Juneau in Alaska, shared with us some reflections on the theme of this Assembly: revitalize our identity at the beginning of the fifth centenary of the Congregation of the Mission. In light of the biblical text, John 20:16 the Bishop spoke about the manner in which Jesus speaks to our heart. Therefore, we have no reason to give in to fear, rather we must revitalize ourselves. Saint Vincent is our Founder, and he is with us … are we able to understand that reality?

The following morning, Bishop Belisario gave a second conference entitled: the poor, the charism and the call … three realities that were placed before us for reflection. When speaking about the poor, the Bishop narrated his story and the discovery of Saint Joseph, a discovery that made him more sensitive and more aware of persons who felt helpless. When speaking about the charism, he pointed out that Jesus is able to fill us so that we are able to discover our vocation and clothe ourselves in the Vincentian virtues. Finally, when speaking about the call, he referred to his vocation to the episcopate, a present and rather different reality in which he is continually challenged to open himself to the life of the Church.

This day of prayer and meditation led to two other moments: [1] the celebration of the Eucharist … and in his homily the bishop shared his experience with fishermen and water. He referred to the gospel passage where Jesus is found on the Sea of Galilee and explains his relationship with his apostles who were expert fishermen. Jesus gave the disciples what they needed to believe in him, even in difficult times. The gift of the Spirit is the best gift and said gift can transform us and convert us into saved individuals. [2] On the other hand, the bishop reminded us about experiences of worship and reflection with Jesus … how can we deepen this relationship. Saint Paul desired the grace to be strong through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. What would be the fears that would prevent us from living with this same strength of the Holy Spirit?
Cordial greetings to everyone!
A new day has dawned as we continue to live the experience of our 2022 General Assembly. We began at 7:30 am with the celebration of the Eucharist in honor of Saint Peter and Paul. After the Eucharist, which was presided over by our English-speaking confreres, we returned to the dining room for breakfast.
After yesterday’s retreat, we returned to the meeting hall to begin our work. Mark Pranaitis, CM, Director of Vincentian International Mission Services (VIMS) gave us a brief explanation of his ministry.
Then, Bishop Andrew Bellisario presented us with a brief report (with images) about his Diocese and the reality of Alaska.

That was followed by the significant moment of the day, namely, Father Tomaž Mavrič presented us with the eight areas that serve as a foundation for the initial document.
[3] Confreres in difficult situations: we have attempted to resolve the majority of cases.
[7] Sense of belonging to the Congregation.

Now, in the years 2022-2028, the Little Company….
[1] Identity

The collaboration and participation of the members of the Assembly was then sought.
After lunch and some rest, we once again took up our work. We gave priority to Fr. Vitali Nova, Visitor of the Province of Ukraine: he offered his gratitude to all those who, since the beginning of the war, offered support and assistance (950 tons of goods). Everyone is going to survive. Sincere thanks to everyone.
We then began to develop the theme of the Assembly.

It was proposed that we reflect on the identity of the Congregation of the Mission in two phases:
Phase 1: dialogue, discern and concretize the priorities that will lead to the revitalization of the whole Congregation.
Phase 2: agree upon concrete actions that will be carried out on a continental level to implement the priorities that are approved by the Assembly.

This session concluded with the participation of some members who expressed their feelings with what had been presented … a general lack of enthusiasm for the work that was being presented.
During these days of reflection, we will continue to work in order to gather more data about the Congregation of the Mission.
Greetings to all!

We began this wonderful day with the celebration of the Eucharist, in French, and praying for the Protomartyrs of the Roman Church.

After breakfast, we started with the projection of a short video about the Province of Poland. The challenges we have to face are the same. The population suffers from loneliness. There were scandals with pedophilia, vocation crisis, decrease of believers. The activities of the Polish province are carried out in the parishes. In the face of the pedophilia scandals, protection programs were carried out following the indications of the Holy See.

Then a video about SIEV, International Secretariat of Vincentian Studies. In this space, we first talk about its first 30 years, where meetings, congresses, Vincentian months, Vincentian Magazine,… In 2014, it had a profound revision. New ways of approaching the Vincentian charism for the new cultural context of our time. This is the program of university studies currently being carried out at the University of Deusto and offered by this team to the entire Vincentian Family.

Report of the General Treasurer Paul Parackal. He shares the names of those involved in the financial work of the Congregation: Tom Check, chief financial officer of the commission. Rafael Elorriaga, chief financial officer of Adamson University. Teresa George, daughter of charity and bursar of St. Louis, USA. García Matta, Jesús Gilberto, provincial treasurer of Peru. Roberto Calero, former provincial treasurer of Madrid. Mickhaylo Talapkanych, provincial treasurer of Ukraine. There are 3 funds from the General Curia: deposit fund, mission fund and general fund. Consumption, expenses and successes are expressed. At the end, the necessary consultations and questions are asked to clarify the realities proposed and the data offered.

Then, the Word is received by Father Corpus Delgado, secretary of this event, who gives some indications for the following days about the care of the air, beginning of sessions, end of those moments, refectory questions, etc.

In the afternoon, we have a talk given by Giuseppe Turati. He gives an overview of the Congregation of the Mission. He shows this religious family in the different continents of the world. Income, ages, deceased… everything shows us a changing reality.

We are also offered the changes in the international missions. The number of missions is 29. Number of confreres in the last 6 years: 11.9%, therefore, increased. The number of growth depends on Vietnam.

Distribution of ministries in the last 6 years: there has been a decrease in the number of parishes compared to the rest of the ministries. The number of confreres remains the same, but has increased in the popular missions.

Then we continue to make the calculations in the different continents, which show the peculiarities of each one of them.

Another fact is the increase in Asia and Africa.

New APP of the Congregation. The reading room and the library are created. Also some programs that collect those books and other items.
Today began with the knowledge that a new superior general would be elected. Those in their room recovering from COVID will likewise engage in this process. The celebration of the Eucharist was presided by our confreres from India. Then, after breakfast we gathered together in the Assembly Hall. First, prayer and some announcements before beginning the task at hand. Among the announcements, the departure time tomorrow for our tour of the city. We then began the process of electing a superior general. After the distribution of ballots and a brief pause, the delegates wrote the name of the individual they felt best suited for said position. The ballots were then collected, and one by one each vote was read. Since no one obtained the number of votes as indicated in the Directory, another ballot was taken. Ballots are distributed, names are written on the paper that has been distributed, ballots are collected and counted. Then Father Corpus Delgado announces that Fr. Tomaž Mavrič has been elected Superior General for a second term. We congratulate Fr. Tomaž who will serve as superior general for the next six years. Father Tomaž spoke and expressed his gratitude and his commitment to continue to serve the Congregation. The session ended and Father Corpus affirmed that the process had been carried out in a orderly and precise manner. This was followed by a lengthy applause, an expression of the joy of having fulfilled our responsibility. Today's work was concluded, and the morning session came to an end.

On Saturday, July 2, in the city of Rome, the General Assembly of the Congregation of the Mission elected, for a second term, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič CM as Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity.
Greetings to everyone!
We began this week with much hope and enthusiasm. We gathered in the chapel for personal prayer and for the celebration of the Eucharist. After breakfast, we gathered in the Assembly Hall to begin our work.
The first video presentation enabled us to enter into prayer at the beginning of this session. The second presentation informed the delegates about Ranquines, a mental health program that was initiated by members of the Congregation and is supported by the diocese of Salamanca.
The minutes of Friday and Saturday were then read and approved by the delegates.

Father Robert Gomez presented us with the project that the Province of France has undertaken with regard to the Motherhouse. He took us on a tour that began in 1776 and concluded with the twenty-first century. Little by little the Motherhouse has become the second home of the Congregation. It is only recently that we have become owners of this house (2006) which previously belonged to the State. Now that the Congregation is the owner, everything has changed. It is the house of the entire Congregation. The establishment of CIF provided an opportunity for many other confreres and lay persons to spend some time here and come to know this house.

In the autumn of 2019, the Province of France presented the Superior General with a project for the renewal of the Motherhouse. Because of COVID, the time to begin the renovation of the house was delayed. We are now in the midst of a privileged moment. The heart of the Little Company continues to beat in Paris (the relics of Saint Vincent and the China martyrs are venerated in the chapel). At the present time some fifty-four rooms have been renovated. The Province of France has understood that it cannot do this work alone but must rely on the financial resources of the entire worldwide Vincentian Family. In the past it was the Motherhouse that supported the provinces; now however, the Motherhouse need the help and the support of the provinces.

After the break, we continued to dialogue about the renovation project of the Motherhouse. This house is at the service of many and varied groups and institutions (diocesan clergy, religious, lay groups, various branches of the Vincentian Family, etc.) and at the same time welcomes, celebrates and provides lodging to countless individuals. There was time for questions to clarify the concerns of the members of the Assembly.

The afternoon session began at 3:30pm. Before beginning our work, a request was made for some volunteers to act as translators … those who usually provide this service were not present.

A video was shown about the ministry of the confreres in the Philippines. That was followed by another presentation by Father Agostino (International Office of the Vincentian Family) about the various branches of the Vincentian Family (5 minute presentation).

The Superior General made the following announcement: we have experienced a return of COVID-19 and there are new cases. In light of this unusual situation, we have the following proposal:

Continue the work of the General Assembly as planned, that is, until July 16 or the new proposal: conclude the Assembly on July 9th (thus, adapting the schedule to this new plan).

After discussing this matter, it was decided to continue as planned, that is, to continue the Assembly until July 16th. This will allow the Superior General to listen to the concerns of the confreres and the provinces in order to make decisions during the next six years. We must take advantage of the time that is provided to us now and take up those matters of greater urgency (put aside less important matters). Therefore, we will continue with the agenda and move forward without anticipating an early conclusion of the Assembly.

The day concluded with the delegates meeting in continental groups which were requested to submit: criterion, numbers, and names … a list was to be developed and submitted (by email) this afternoon. Continue to meet in groups until the work is concluded.
Good morning everyone!

We begin this new day to start our work in the General Assembly, as usual, with a short prayer.

Fr. Turati gives some announcements for the assembly:

Sunday, July 10. Trip to Assisi.
A flash drive with Gen Verde songs will be given to everyone.
This afternoon will be the election of nominees and they are looking at the electronic form for voting. It will be done with Google form. You need to have a cell phone, tablet or computer connected to the internet.
Then we watch a video about one of the offices:
VSO: Assisting Vincentian provinces with resources for the poor. It will be 20 years old in 2022. It provides a list of countries that have received this assistance. They distribute 1 million dollars a year. They have participated in 600,000 projects. They are looking for projects that can be included in sustainable development.

At the conclusion, the minutes of yesterday’s General Assembly are read for acceptance.
The next item of business is the election of the Vicar General. For this purpose, a ballot is given to each of the participants and a decision is made as to who will occupy this position. After a first tally of votes, the results did not reach what was needed.
The second ballot also fell short of the required number of votes, so a break was made for the third ballot, which also fell short of the required number of votes.
In the last ballot for this category, Fr. Gregorio Bañaga was elected to fulfill this service.
Fr. Javier Alvarez addresses a few words of thanks to the whole assembly and says that this service has made him more human and more understanding, that it is time to return "home".
We take a mid-morning break for lunch, a walk or a rest.
Back in the meeting room. This afternoon we begin the prayer by placing ourselves in Mary’s hands. Tomaz reminds us that on the 14th we will be with Pope Francis.
Fr. Hugo explains how to use the Google form to choose the options that correspond to each of the postulates. For those who are connected in the rooms, tell them that they can do it on the Zoom platform.
Francis PUTHENTHAYIL about the 20 postulates for the assembly. The first 4 postulates are left aside because they would imply the change of the constitutions.

We will be reporting tomorrow. Thank you for staying tuned.

Greetings to all.
We begin the day in the Mery del Val hall, as usual, with a brief prayer to the Holy Spirit, so that He may guide us in our work and enlighten us.

We watch the video of the Famvim Homeless entitled “13 houses, 13 campaigns”.

We proceed to the reading of yesterday's minutes, and as usual, Father Corpus DELGADO invites everyone to accept them. All receive them with joy.

Some announcements before starting the topic:
– Yesterday Fr. Vincenzo Tirabovi passed away at the age of 102, 85 years of vocation. May the Lord make his glory shine upon him.
– Two earphones were found yesterday. You will find them on the table of the presidency.
– An observation. All received the list for the office of assistants. Dominic IYOLO. The last name was missing. The first assistant is elected. The papers are distributed to register the name. A second ballot was necessary. Corpus Delgado said no to the possibility of leaving. He appreciates the support and the votes, but he cannot do this work.

Rafael KOPYSTYNSKI was elected on the third ballot. Thank you for joyfully accepting this new mission.

After a short break, we went back to the hall to continue with the voting. We went on to elect another candidate for assistant.

After 3 rounds, the Asamblea elected Fr. Nelio Ferreira Pita. Nelio for being elected.

After lunch, we met again at 4 o'clock, following the rhythm of this morning, that is, to draw the names that were missing.

A new vote to determine that the name of the elected confrere was Fr. Aarón GUTIÉRREZ. The confreres congratulate Fr. Aarón for the election.

A 20 minute break before the last candidate is elected.

Last election. The 4th Assistant General. Again, sheets of paper are distributed and the names of those elected by the assembly are collected. Dominique IYOLO is elected and we celebrate the election.

Congratulations to all those elected.

We ended at 18:20 in the evening.
Good morning to all!
We began the session by viewing various images that led us into prayer. This was followed by a video about the ministry at the United Nations.
The minutes from yesterday's session was read and approved.
The delegates then met in continental groups in order to accomplish the work of the morning. The delegates then viewed a video about “systemic change” … a virtual retreat and a time for personal reflection. Father Giuseppe then requested the delegates to provide him with some information: [1] how many individuals will be present for dinner, July 9th? How many individuals will be present for lunch on Sunday, July 10th? How many individuals would like to visit the General Curia? How many individuals would like to visit Assist?
Please place your name on the sign-up sheets for the various activities.
English speaking group (#1): the members responded to the questions about the future of our Congregation … spoke about dreams and the young missionaries spoke about the manner in which they saw people living out their commitment in the Congregation: commitment to the poor, community life, service on behalf of the poor. There is a desire for the missionaries to live together as good friends. Our objective ought to be that of reaching out to the peripheries. It was also noted that the young missionaries are inspired by Saint Vincent.
English speaking group (#2): renew our identity and form the members so that they are able to fulfill their responsibilities. Attention should be given to human formation so that we can strengthen our community life and minister with joy. There is a need to be attentive to the needs of the poor, to be effective leaders, to maintain a balance between ministry, prayer and community. Promote the vocation of the missionary Brother.
English speaking group #3: a decalogue of priorities … it was clear that we ought to cultivate our Vincentian vocation.
English speaking group #4: the document that we studied emphasizes the need for a balance between service on behalf of the poor and community life. We ought to be known as missionaries who reach out and evangelize the poor. At the same time, we must be attentive to the need to work as members of team, to collaborate. Initial formation programs and on-going formation programs should be focused on the above referenced areas of our life together. Indeed, we are destined to be formators of men and women who will engage in the process of evangelization,
Spanish speaking group #1: The element that was highlight by the young missionaries was that of the poor … the poor are indeed our priority and it is good that those in the stage of initial formation are clear about this priority and also about the need to live together with others in community. There is a lack of a prophetic presence … our identity needs to be revitalized … a lack of focus on Jesus Christ and this needs to be highlighted.
Spanish speaking group #2: called to be creative … how to communicate our charism to the world so that it is loved. Our prophetic understanding involves recognizing the presence of Christ in the poor. We dream of a Congregation that is more empathetic, that is able to listen … we are concerned about mediocrity.
Spanish speaking group #3: the dreams that have been communicated to us are lacking in Vincentian identity. What are the suppositions? How do we recover our identity with thee poor … deepen our understanding of the missionary endeavor … there are personal problems with individuals … we need individuals who have greater competency in ministering on behalf of the poor, greater commitment in community living and we are concerned about the vocational question: identity, witness and vocation.
Spanish speaking group #4: The results draw our attention to the crisis of identity with regard to Christ who calls the poor … the poor, formation and community. We are aware of the fact that an integral formation is necessary as well as a formation that is shared and that leads to a commitment. With regard to community life there is a need to look at this from a new perspective … community for the mission. Three elements that can help us focus our identity: an incarnational spirituality, Vincentian witness and an appropriate lifestyle.
French speaking group #1: identify present day poverty … we have to distinguish between many different matters … lack of systemic change … we have to form priests but not in a diocesan manner because we are not diocesan priests … we need a formation that forms individuals and also need to revitalize our lifestyle … need to better our community life and our fraternity.
French speaking group #2: our attention was drawn to the dreams of the young missionaries … nearness to the poor … origin of one's vocation … focus on formation, charity, ongoing formation, formation of formators, formation for life. The third axis is to intensify charity in our community life … to be witness missionaries … we have to interpret this as a work of analysis.
Thanks to those who have shared.
On another day we celebrate the beautiful news of being together in this fraternal work. On this occasion, we began the day with the Eucharist, in which we celebrated together with the new General Council.

Then, the Mother General of the Daughters of Charity, Françoise PETIT, greeted the entire Vincentian Assembly. She accompanied her message with simple and friendly words. After the pause of the Assembly, they worked on the postulates that they still have to finish: The one proposed by Rio de Janeiro: "We ask the Superior General and his Council to update the text of the instruction on the vows and the Vincentian virtues to respond to the new demands that the present time poses to us". The Assembly made the following points: - The vows have their origin in Christ. It is a matter of seeing how to live the vows taking into account the contexts. - This instruction was not born from a postulate elaborated in the Assembly. It was the ordinary administration that published the document. There is no need to make a postulate to revise this instruction. - This is a document that the provinces use, want and use for formation in the vows. Today seminarians have access to the internet, how to live the vows in these new times? - There were also others who agreed that the instruction on the vows could be updated. Today it would be interesting to broaden the current context for our life.

We continue with postulate number 10 proclaimed by Italy: "That the General Assembly become a forum that facilitates the exchange and comparison of the pastoral experiences of all the provinces of the Congregation of the Mission. That each province present to the Assembly its pastoral activities and experiences. After studying the contributions, the GA will issue a subsequent exhortation to the assembly based on them. In this way, the GA will promote and strengthen initiatives and encouragement."

Responses: - The General Assembly is the only space where the General can give us routes to actualize the charism. It should not be missing in this reality. It is a time for the analysis of our pastoral realities.

- It is unnecessary. What is intended in an Assembly is what it says. Therefore, do not multiply entities without necessity.

- One of the things that I have most appreciated is that we have talked about the provinces and their activities, it is worth asking ourselves what is our opinion about the work of the provinces. - We cannot compare a General Assembly with a synod of the Church. The assemblies have another key. This is the objective: to understand what is going to be proposed for the future, taking into account the signs of the times. They agree to work on postulate number 11: "That there be a renewed focus on attention to the spiritual dimension of the poor who are helped by us or by the groups of the Vincentian Family. The right focus we have on systemic change should not cause us to neglect the spiritual formation of the poor. This could be a new commitment for us to develop ways, itineraries, forms of catechesis and mission to include the poor in the ecclesial fabric of Christian communities, making them subjects of the Church and not just objects of special attention of ecclesial groups." - Beautiful text. Let it be included in the final declaration of the Assembly.

- Add the reason why the province of Italy has created this postulate. It is not a criticism of what has been done, but it is in conformity with what we are doing. It does not mean going back to old practices...in addition to attending to the material, we must attend to the spiritual. - The correct approach to systemic change is the integral attention to the poor in all their dimensions. - Attention to the poor must be integral. Respect the cultural and religious space.

Christian evangelization is different from Muslim proselytism. We must not be afraid to proclaim the love of Christ. "With the soup, do not forget to tell them a word or two about the love of God", said the Daughters of Charity. 12 France: "May the Motherhouse acquire an international status". Responses: - So, the text, it is not the full text of France.

- In the past, it was considered inappropriate to leave the management of the house to the province of France. It belonged to the general curia. Although France has human and financial resources, it should not do it alone. It is the patrimony of the CM. - It is thought that it is useful to know the position of Father General and his Council. There are many things that are related to change. - Fr. Frederic says that he needs to raise it well, as the province did.

In the afternoon, we watched the video from Madagascar. We heard a message from Fr. Turati about the existence of the possibility of celebrating the Eucharist in 2 places when going to Assisi. A) Church of St. Francis B) Porziuncola. Welcome to those who have been well after the COVID. Rolando to show us the group work, which will be different from the last time. Instrument of work, No. 4. The work is simple. We will work with steps 4 and 5. We start with yesterday's work groups. The 10 groups will be assigned 1 of the 5 areas in which our identity has been determined.


Until before the break, which will be at 5:00, each of the groups will work on a priority. At 5:30 the groups will merge and will now share the priority they have worked on. They will deliver 2 priorities, creating a decalogue that they will work on tomorrow. They will do 2 things: First, see step 6. 3 criteria have been established to create a priority: That it be a single issue. That it be concrete in actions and not just an ideal. That it be synthetic. No more than 2 lines. Second, each of these 5 areas has a synthesis of the commitments they made. It does not mean that it is a selection.

We salute you... See you tomorrow!
Today's work began with a request from the Superior General to make real the proposal with regard to the Motherhouse in Paris. It has been proposed that the house belong to the Congregation and the Superior General appoint the superior of the house. Thus, the motherhouse would acquire an international status.

Father José María NIETO, Hector GÓMEZ and Evaristus IGWE and others addressed this issue. Aware of the reality that the motherhouse is community property, we must decide what to do with this. Should each province pay a certain quota or should it be left to France to decide what to do with the house. Another possibility is to create a commission that would study the technical and pastoral details and have this report submitted to the Superior General. It was decided that a commission study this situation. After the morning break, another Postulata was presented with regard to the provinces sending a percentage of money to support the Curia. The Statutes are clear with regard to the manner in which the quota should be determined. Javier ÁLVAREZ, Juan Carlos GATTI and others addressed this issue and the Postulata was accepted. Chile presented a Postulata requesting that all the saints, whether or not they belong to the Vincentian Family, be included in the Vincentian Liturgical Calendar. The delegates discussed this Postulata which was rejected. Mexico presented a Postulata with regard to the recognition of the permanent deaconate (in its celibate model) as a proper ministry in the Congregation. After some dialogue this Postulata was rejected.

Postulata: in light of the fact that the poor are our lords and masters, let us explore the possibility of their participation in the General Assembly so that their voice, their pains and joys might be heard. This Postulata was presented by an individual confrere. It is presented as a suggestion and the Postulata was rejected.

After lunch we were given the good news that no one is in quarantine with CIVID-19 … yes, we have overcome the problem. The delegates viewed a presentation about the ministry in Honduras, the pastoral ministry of the Province San Vicente de Paul in San Pedro Sula and La Medalla Milagrosa in Tegucigalpa. We also viewed another video about the future of the Congregation of the Mission “along the path of Saint Vincent de Paul” … a video developed by Guillermo CAMPUZANO … born and sustained by the Province of God we can ask the question: where is God leading us today? The Congregation and its charism have not come to an end and its creativity has not been exhausted. Our vocation leads us to develop a deeper relationship with the Lord … it is through Jesus that our God draws closer to us. Jesus calls us to himself and calls us to continue to build up the Kingdom of God (a mission that was entrusted to the Son and a mission that can only be fulfilled with the help of the Holy Spirit). Possibilities for our missionary discipleship: to follow Jesus is the purpose of the Congregation of the Mission. The humanization of the missionary occurs as a result of the decision to follow Jesus. The explicit proclamation of the gospel must take place today by means of the inculturation of the values of the Kingdom in every culture. The revitalization of the Congregation of the Mission is not an end, but a means and the future of the Congregation is given through its relation to history-charism. The horizon to the Vincentian charism points out the path toward the future of the Congregation: the kingdom of God and his justice. We are living in the midst of a crisis experienced by human civilization and Christian civilization and within it we have the catholic ecclesial model … three key elements: power, money, abuse. We are discovering and accepting the fact that the Congregation is an area of mission. The revitalization toward the future of the Congregation is not exempt from the uncertainties of history nor the ambiguities of its present situation, as well as its individual, collective and structural contradictions.

Prophecy (revitalization) of the Congregation deals with the manner in which it will position itself in the present. Maps of the route that will lead us in the direction of a desired future. Common purpose … movement toward life … movement toward essentialism (reconfiguration) … movement toward the possibility of being sign-parable-credible metaphor … movement toward the centrality of relationship from the perspective of equality (equal but distinct) .. movement toward the future of the charism which is a source and not simply a mirror. We must continue to give live to the charism among ourselves in order to maintain alive the reason for our existence.

Thank you for reading.
After celebrating the Eucharist in the chapel, the delegates gathered in Merry Del Val Assembly Hall at 9:30 hours. Moderator of the session: Father Patrick McDEVITT. The moderator welcomed Father Erminio ANTONELLO who joined the Assembly. He had been in quarantine in the Provincial House for several days because of symptoms compatible with COVID-19. The delegates greeted him with an applause; congratulated Father Richard Offong on the 16th anniversary of his ordination and also announced that Father Bartosz PIKUL was leaving the Assembly in order to be near his mother who is infirm and elderly. Lastly, the moderator communicated the gratitude expressed by Father Robert MALONEY to all of those individuals who collaborated in the publication and the distribution of his book: A Hidden Treasure: the Brothers in the Congregation of the Mission.

In the name of the Synthesis Commission, the secretaries of the Continental Groups have been requested to send their lines of action via email. The moderator invited the delegates to gather in Continental Groups in order to conclude the work that was begun yesterday afternoon. He reminded the delegates to return to the Hall at 15:30 hours.

The afternoon session began at 15:30 hours and Father Giuseppe Turati provided some details about tomorrow’s audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican.

A video was presented about the first missionaries in Vietnam, the various ministries of the confreres, the progressive development of vocations and the extension of its ministries.

The secretary of the Assembly represented the Minutes of July 12th which were approved unanimously. The secretaries of the various Continental Groups presented their conclusions to the delegates.

After the break, the moderator announced that the delegates would now conclude the work of discussing and voting on the Postulata and Decrees presented to the Assembly. The remainder of the afternoon was spent on this task.

The session came to an end with the liturgical celebration of evening prayer.
Greetings!
As we enter the final moments of our General Assembly, we began today by placing ourselves in God’s hands. This was a very special day: a private audience with Pope Francis. We left for the Vatican at 9:00 hours.
In the gathering Hall were members of three Religious Congregations whose members were gathered in a General Assembly (or General Chapter). The three groups were: Clerics of the Mother of God, Basilians of Saint Josaphat and the members of the Congregation of the Mission. As scheduled, at 11:00am the audience began as the Pope entered the room. Our Superior General, Father Tomaž Mavrič, addressed the Pope and thanked him for providing us with this opportunity to meet with him. During his introductory remarks Father Tomaž referred to Saint Vincent as the mystic of charity, one who built bridges between the mysteries of our faith and the world, especially the world of those men and women who are poor.
The Holy Father exhorted us to be Evangelizers, not proselytizers, because evangelizing is not proselytism … we are called to be true witness to the gospel. He went on to say that mystical notions without a solid social and missionary outreach are of no help to evangelization, nor are dissertations or social or pastoral practices which lack a spirituality which can change hearts. The Pope reminded us of the need to establish an intimate relationship with the God and to spend time in adoration. Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the word, of sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless; we lose energy as a result of weariness and difficulties, and our fervour dies out. And allow me to ask you a question: do you worship in prayer? Or have you forgotten what worship means? At the conclusion of his message, he exhorted those present to have zero tolerance with regard to sexual abuse in the Church.
At the conclusion of his discourse, each individual had the opportunity to greet the Pope and we concluded the audience with a group picture.
we returned to San Juan de Ávila, we had lunch and a time of rest until the afternoon session. As usual we gathered together at 15:30 hours to continue work on the Final Document. After several comments, it was decided to include the presentation of Father Guillermo Campuzano in the Final Documents as well as the various lines of action.

This work will be continued tomorrow morning.
This very meaningful day was concluded with Evening Prayer and the evening meal.

Until tomorrow!!!
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