



Motivation

In the year 2025 we shall celebrate 400 years of the founding of the Congregation of the Mission; and in 2026, the signing of the act of association of our first missionaries. These events have in themselves enough reasons and suggestions for prayer, reflection, discernment, choice, programming and the practice of the Spirit of Jesus Christ in the following years. Even so, it seems opportune to link it to the conclusions of the recently concluded 43rd General Assembly, whose motto was "Revitalize the Identity of the Congregation of the Mission".

In reality, these celebrations are another opportunity to open paths to revitalize our Vincentian identity in its missionary spirituality and in synodality, according to the proposal of Pope Francis. There is no doubt that both themes represent important challenges, above all, to adapt our charism to the times we are living in and to rekindle our hope. Our proposal to celebrate this great event with dignity is

" to take advantage of the years 2023, 2024 and 2025-2026"

as a time of preparation, study, reflection, learning, and consolidation of the 43rd GA.

May God show us the appropriate ways to evangelize the poor in this "new age" and grow, a little more, in our identification with the charism of Saint Vincent.

1.- Objectives

a.- General objective:

“To walk together in the animation, formation and consolidation of the Vincentian missionary spirituality in order to revitalize the identity of the Congregation of the Mission”.

b.- Specific objectives:

- 1. Give thanks to God for his support of the Congregation of the Mission in these 400 years of existence, ask forgiveness for our failures, and request his blessing to continue, with new ardor, the mission of God in Jesus Christ.*
- 2. Deepen and actualize the Spirit that led Saint Vincent de Paul to found the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Poor, so that "walking together" we seek and give adequate responses to the challenges of our time.*
- 3. Promote a Vincentian spirituality: "prophetic", "going forth as missionaries", and walking the "synodal path" to revitalize the pastoral life of the CM, in accordance with the Church and the reflections of the 43rd GA (2022).*

2.- Methodology:

Our desire in these three years is to live "a New Pentecost"... for which it is convenient to use the dynamics proposed from the Second Vatican Council and which continue to be valid to this day. We support the dynamism proposed for the "Synod on Synodality" : "Let us walk together as a Church with the Holy Spirit".

In SEE: Listen to the cries of the poor and allow ourselves to be challenged by their reality, looking at the reality of the People of God "with the eyes and heart of God".

In JUDGE: Make a deeper prophetic, missionary and synodal discernment, from "listening to the Word" , (the various ecclesial documents, and the lines of action of the last Assembly), to know "here and now" what God wants from us.

In the Act: project our "mission", "vision", values, lines of action, and commitments such as the path of "pastoral" "prophetic" conversion, in going forth in a "missionary and synodal" way , which trains us to "help others" to make the gospel effective.

3.- Who will carry out these activities?

Revitalizing the CM means assuming "the pastoral conversion" that Pope Francis asks of us. We are aware that this can only be achieved through the efforts of each missionary, each community, each province and the General Curia according to the path indicated by the Universal Church.

The General Curia encourages, instructs, leads, and accompanies the provinces in this process of leaving a "ministry of conservation" to "a decidedly prophetic, missionary and synodal ministry", to which God is calling us.

The provinces: They will strive to ensure that each missionary (Personal Dimension) and each community (Community Dimension) commit themselves to assuming and practicing, with creative fidelity, what God has given us to understand that we have to execute "here and now".

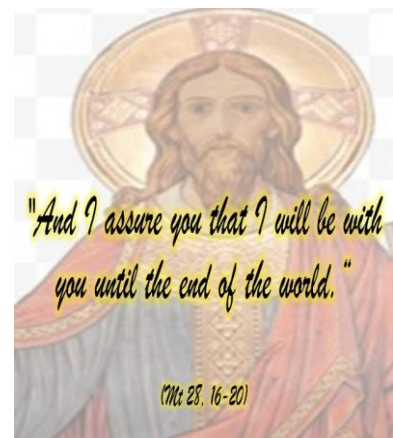
4.- Dynamics of the process

The pastoral conversion process chosen for the next 3 years tries to focus the attention of each missionary, and of each community, on asking "who are we?", instead of "what do we do?" Being is identity. And we are, above all, "missionary disciples" who strive to "put on the Spirit of Jesus Christ" to "evangelize the poor" "in today's world."

The main challenge in this process is the internalization of the Vincentian missionary spirituality which, obviously, has its external and material consequences: moreover, ultimately, it leads us to grow wholistically in our identity, supported by the presence and action of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

For this, it is convenient to maintain an attitude of a disciple: disciplined life, at least in three spheres of each day:

- a.- **The person:** seek spaces in solitude and silence dedicated to being with God and only with Him.
- b.- **The community:** Spaces for prayer and reflection, evaluation, planning and practical execution of the goal we pursue...
- c.- **The ministry:** spaces for "being in the world" to "transform it from within" with the Gospel and walking together as the People of God.



Preliminary notes:

The texts of the examen, retreats and celebrations will be translated into three languages: English, French and Spanish.

They will be placed in a special section "4th Centenary of the Foundation of the CM" on the CMGLOBAL network for downloading by individuals and communities.

The provincials shall take care that the material reaches each confrere on time, especially those who do not have access to the Internet.

Community feedback: We think it would be good that the materials sent and personally reflected upon, be shared in the same community or with other communities of the province as a way to live synodality and enrich participation and communion.

5.- The 400-year celebration program...

Below is the proposal designed for the following triennium of celebrations:

YEAR 1: 2023		
To do	Who does it	When
<p>GENERAL EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE Objective: <i>Discover the "lights that make it easier for us to live the gospel; and the "shadows" that make it difficult for us to live the gospel. It can be done throughout these two months.</i></p> <p>OPENING CEREMONY:</p>	<p>Individual: <i>each missionary examines himself based on a guide for prayer and reflection.</i> Community: <i>choose a day when you can share your reflections and decide "what we can do to make the gospel effective, here and now? "</i> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>Opening Para-Liturgy In Rome <i>the SG will celebrate it at the Leonian College, and will be broadcast via the internet in French, English, Italian and Spanish.</i></p> <p>Each Province <i>organizes its opening ceremony or mass for the 400th year celebrations as best suits it.</i></p> </p>	<p>In the month of April</p> <p>Monday April 17, 2023 6:30 PM. Rome Time</p>
<p>THEMES FOR THIS YEAR'S RETREATS:</p>	<p><i>In preparation for the celebration of the 400 years, it is proposed that the Provinces have <u>a monthly retreat</u> with the following themes</i></p>	2023
<p>Theme 1: Prophetic, missionary and synodal dimensions of Vincentian Spirituality.</p>	<p>Author: P. Vinícius Augusto TEIXEIRA RIBEIRO</p>	May, June July & Aug.
<p>Theme 2: Prophetic, missionary and synodal dimensions of Vincentian mysticism.</p>	<p>Author: P. Carlos Albeiro VELÁSQUEZ BRAVO, CM</p>	Sept. Oct. Nov. & Dec.

YEAR 2: 2024		
To do...	Who does it	When...
Themes for this year's retreats:		
Topic 3: Prophetic, missionary and synodal dimensions of Vincentian Contemplation.	Author: P. Salvatore FARI, CM	Jan., Feb., March & April
Theme 4: Prophetic, missionary and synodal dimensions of the Vincentian Virtues.	Author: P. Justin EMENE NZENGI, CM	May, June, July & Aug.
Theme 5: Prophetic, missionary and synodal dimensions of the Vincentian Consecration:	Author...	Sept. Oct. Nov. & Dec.

YEAR 3: 2025 Special events		
Activity	Who does it?	When?
PILGRIMAGE TO A LOCAL SHRINE: Of Jesus Christ or Mary... <i>Previously prepared by means of a novena or a triduum...</i>	EACH PROVINCE... <i>Will choose the shrine (s) and do a pilgrimage all together... or by zones or by communities.</i>	January 25th
FINAL MASS AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL: A place/church significant for the Province.	EACH PROVINCE shall organize this mass. The proposed liturgy will be sent to you	It is not possible to celebrate the Mass on April 17, 2025 because it is Holy Thursday. We shall have the Final Mass on May 1.
PILGRIMAGE TO THE CHAPEL OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL... IN PARIS A triduum will be organized before the Final Mass.	Invitation to the entire Congregation <i>Each province will choose and finance two confreres who will represent them in Paris. They may come from April 27 to May 1 in order to participate in all activities.</i> <i>(The program will be sent ahead of time).</i>	Triduum: 28, 29, 30 of April 2025
FINAL MASS: <i>In the Chapel of St. Vincent Rue de Sevres... in Paris</i>	All... <i>Curia + representatives of each province... Those who do not go to Paris may do it in their own Province.</i>	May 1, 2025