

JULY - 2023

NUNTIA





L'OBSSERVATORE" STREET FESTIVAL

A year ago began a splendid adventure made of gestures, hugs, images and words: those of the last ones, the invisible ones who exist, but to whom no one gives a voice. On 29 June 2022, Pope Francis, during the Angelus, highlighted this moment by recounting that in St Peter's Square the poor were distributing the first issue of L'Osservatore di strada, the new monthly magazine of L'Osservatore Romano, which is "the newspaper in which the last become the protagonists; in which the poor and marginalised participate in the editorial staff by writing, by allowing themselves to be interviewed, by illustrating the pages of this monthly magazine which is offered free of charge"; he invited everyone to freely get a copy "because it is a beautiful work born from the grassroots, from the poor as a unique expression of the marginalised".



One year later and to celebrate, promote, but above all to bear witness to the work of L'Osservatore di Strada, which has concretely given voice to the voiceless, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Rome, the Congregation of the Mission of St. Vincent de Paul with L'Osservatore Romano, wanted to organise an event entirely dedicated to the poor, in which the poor became the protagonists of the evening and told their stories.

The event took place at Mediterranea - Rete, a space surrounded by greenery belonging to the General House of the Fathers of the Mission and managed by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Rome, and welcomed friends of the street and numerous guests who highlighted the value of forgotten humanity, brought to light also through the monthly magazine and the underlying human relationships, indispensable for every street observer at the service of others. The evening was enlivened by music, songs, food and words from dusk until late into the night.

It was a lively moment of emotions and fraternal sharing, which ended in the silence of the starry night with the Eucharistic adoration presided over by Father Tomaz in memory of the souls lost at the bottom of the sea and consumed in the tragedy of 14 June southwest of the Peloponnese peninsula, in international waters, 47 nautical miles from Pylos.





CELEBRATION OF 150 YEARS OF EVANGELISATION OF THE VINCENTIAN MISSIONARIES IN PUERTO RICO



"There is nothing I desire so much on earth as to go on mission to win souls for God" (St. Vincent de Paul).

On the 24th of June 2023, solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, "the greatest among those born of women", patron saint of San Juan de Puerto Rico, the Vincentian missionaries and the other branches of the Vincentian Family in Puerto Rico gathered at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in San Juan to celebrate with joy the arrival of the first Vincentian missionaries on the Island of Enchantment, which took place on the 24th of June 1873. It is already 150 years of presence and fidelity of the Vincentians to the work of evangelisation in Puerto Rico. It was a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving. It all began at 7:45 a.m., with the arrival of the first guests at the Sacred Heart College Hall in University Gardens. There was nothing in the hall that did not add a touch of beauty worthy of the event. The hall provided a conversation piece for the guests as it reflected the simplicity that characterises the Vincentian charism. The welcoming committee was already waiting for the guests, but the best surprise of the day: a delicious breakfast made with love. What better token of affection than a good breakfast made with love to start such a momentous day?

After breakfast and the usual fraternal greetings between Vincentians, the Mistress of Ceremony kindly invited the people to go to the parish church to continue the festivity with the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. An act of faith and prayer addressed to the Lord Jesus, truly present in the Sacrament of the altar because of the presence of the Vincentian charism on the Island of Enchantment. Sacrament of charity that has permeated all the daily life of the missionaries in Puerto Rico. The exposition has been a very beautiful and meaningful experience, which we have lived as a Vincentian Family. It has prepared our hearts to celebrate this day with dignity. It has also allowed us all to be in prolonged silence before the Lord present in his Sacrament. It has also been one of the most authentic experiences of our being Church and Vincentians.





After the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, we went back to the assembly hall to continue with the other activities. Once we arrived in the hall, the Mistress of Ceremony invited the Visitor of the Province of Puerto Rico, Fr. José Israel Santos Núñez, C.M., to address a few words of welcome to those present. Taking the floor, he expressed his immense joy at the presence of each of the guests. He also explained that, for us, the Vincentian Fathers, "this is not just any day, it is a day of joy and transcendence. Because on a day like today, 24 June 1873, that is, 150 years ago, the first Vincentian missionaries set foot on these blessed lands, bringing with them an unwavering commitment to serve God and his people. The immediate reason for their arrival was the spiritual care of the Daughters of Charity, who a decade earlier had already woven a mantle of love and service to the most needy in this fertile land". And from that historic moment to the present day, the Visitor continued, "the Vincentian Fathers have been faithful guardians of the faith on this Island. And they have contributed in many ways to the growth and development, especially spiritual, of the island. Their evangelising work has been a beacon of hope, illuminating the hearts of those who have sought spiritual comfort, guidance and divine love".

Fr. Israel's words were of thanks, recognition and admiration "for those brave missionaries who paved the way, like John the Baptist, facing challenges and difficulties with an unwavering faith". On behalf of the whole Province, he expressed his respect and affection "for those who have been part of this story of faith and of whom many now rest in the presence of the Lord." He encouraged those present that the witness of those missionaries "may inspire us today to go forward in our mission, with courage and determination, despite the obstacles we may encounter on our way." Rightly, he challenged us as Vincentians "to keep alive the flame lit by the Vincentian Fathers during these 150 years of blessing," allowing ourselves to be enlightened by their examples of generous dedication and self-sacrificing love. In concluding his words of welcome, Fr. Israel exhorted those present to make this day of celebration "a renewal of our faith and a confirmation of our commitment to serve our neighbour with unconditional love as did St. Vincent de Paul in the footsteps of Christ," Evangeliser of the poor.

After her speech, the Mistress of Ceremony invited the young people of the Holy Family Parish of Manatí to perform a dance in thanksgiving to God. Through the movement of their bodies, the young people expressed their praise to God for the presence of the Vincentian charism in Puerto Rico, just as it is said of the stars that with their movement they praise the Creator (Cfr. Baruch 3,34).

Once the cultural act was over, the Mistress of Ceremony called Fr. Tulio Cordero, our speaker for the day, to speak to us about "The arrival of the Vincentian Fathers in Puerto Rico". Fr. Tulio began his talk by quoting a conference that Vincent de Paul himself, on December 6, 1658, ailing and elderly, gave to his missionaries "On the purpose of the Congregation", to show that, from the beginning, "the desire to send missionaries to evangelise these lands was deeply anchored in the thoughts and heart of Vincent de Paul". In fact, our vocation "does not consist in going to a single parish or a single diocese, but to the whole world".

From the outset, Fr. Tulio explained very well that before arriving in Puerto Rico, the Vincentian Fathers "were already based in countries such as: United States (1817), Brazil (1820), Mexico (1844), Chile (1854), Peru (1858), Argentina (1859), Colombia and Ecuador (870), etc., and there already existed in Havana, Cuba (1863), a community, which was overseas territory belonging to the Pauline Fathers of Spain, which was then a single province." It is worth mentioning that in Puerto Rico there was only one diocese.

Pablo Benigno Carrión de Málaga (1857-1871), knowing the aims of the Congregation of the Mission, had asked the Visitor of the Province of Madrid for Pauline missionaries, a dream he could not see fulfilled, as he died two years before it became a reality. What were the early years of the Pauline Fathers in Puerto Rico like, and what were the circumstances that favoured their arrival in these lands? Father Tulio invited us to take into account two contexts in which this providential event took place: the ecclesial and the historical context.

At the ecclesial level

At the ecclesial level, he pointed out that the proclamation of Victor Emmanuel as King of Italy in 1861 had a considerable impact on Christianity. With his accession to the throne, "Pope Pius IX (1846-1878) lost a large part of the papal territories and although he remained the master of Rome, he was practically a prisoner in his own domain,



guarded by the troops of Napoleon III". Faced with such a situation, pushed by some bishops, "the pope publishes the encyclical 'Quanta cura', condemning rationalism, Gallicanism, socialism, liberalism, etc. Alongside this encyclical was added a catalogue (Syllabus) of 80 propositions condemning modern society". As expected, the pope's proposal was supported by many Christians and bishops, but others showed their discontent. It was in this context that Pope Pius IX convened the First Vatican Council (1869), with only the European bishops present (about 700) and which was only able to produce two documents: the Constitution Dei Filius, focused on the discussion of the relationship between reason and faith, and the Constitution Pastor Aeternus, which essentially contains the affirmation of the primacy and infallibility of the pope. However, the Council ended abruptly because of the war between France and Germany, leaving a deep void in Christendom. Even more difficult days were to befall the papacy. It was precisely at this time, Fr Tulio revealed, that "the phenomenon of secularisation was growing in the European world; governments were separating from the Church; and a notable anti-clericalism was growing in the governments, which would especially affect Spain, from where the Pauline missionaries would leave to evangelise these lands".

At the political level: what is happening in Spain, what is happening in Puerto Rico.

According to Fr. Tulio, 1868 was a key year. In Spain "the first attempt to overthrow the monarchy in the history of the country took place". The intransigent Queen Isabella II reigned at the time. Although there had been several previous attempts against the monarchy, the one that succeeded, according to Fr Tulio, "was the so-called Revolution of 1868, called the Revolución Septembrina or the Gloriosa, of the unified military factions". The queen went into exile and a king was installed on the throne who was in line with the democratic ideal of the revolutionaries: Amadeo I of Savoy (1871-1873). As a consequence of this republican period (1873-1874), "there was widespread social tension and a brutal rejection of the Church and its institutions. Prohibition of religious orders to own and acquire property, expropriation of Church property, elimination of the state endowment for seminaries, suppression of religious orders: this is where the Pauline Fathers came in". All this gave rise to "a generalised commotion and crisis in the Spanish Church". The Congregation of the Mission was dispersed: many missionaries had to take refuge in Paris, "and those recently ordained or about to be ordained would end up in Cuba and the Philippines". So the situation of the CM in Spain at this time was very difficult. It lost all its property. It was these circumstances, Fr Tulio underlined, "that favoured the sending of more missionaries to the Caribbean".

But to the question: What does all this have to do with the arrival of the Vincentian Fathers in Puerto Rico? Fr. Tulio answered: "from the group of missionaries who had to take refuge in Cuba would come the first priests who would come to found the mission of the Vincentian Fathers in Puerto Rico". But, added Fr Tulio, "the socio-political situation was not very friendly either in Cuba or in Puerto Rico, since in Cuba, precisely on 10 October 1868, the Cuban insurrection against Spanish rule took place, which provoked the Ten Years' War. And in Puerto Rico, on 23 September 1868, the failed insurrection known as the Grito de Lares took place, with names such as Ramón Emeterio Betances, Román Baldorioty de Castro, Ruiz Belvis and many more". Another very important fact to consider is that "the same year that the Vincentians arrived in Puerto Rico was also the time when "La Libreta" was suppressed (1849-1873) and slavery was abolished in Puerto Rico".

Indeed, the ecclesial and historical circumstances favoured the arrival of the Vincentian Fathers in Puerto Rico, but everything has to do with the invitation of the Capuchin bishop Fray Pablo Benigno Carrión de Málaga (1857-1871), in 1865, to the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul and their request for Vincentian missionaries for his diocese. However, Bishop Benigno Carrión never reached his destination; he died on the way. He was unable to see the arrival of the missionaries. It was the Visitor of Madrid who gave orders to Fr Viladas, Superior of La Merced in Havana, to send two missionaries to Puerto Rico. The first missionaries to arrive in Puerto Rico were Fathers Félix García and Cipriano Rojas. They settled in the small Hermitage of Santa Ana. Later, three more missionaries arrived: Daniel Mejía, Eduardo Atienza and Manuel Campos. According to Fr. Madrazo, "these five missionaries laid the foundations of what is today the Province of Puerto Rico".



From the time of their arrival, the Vincentian Fathers took charge of several important churches on the island. In 1887 they took charge of the San José Church and in 1891 of the San Ildefonso Diocesan Seminary. On the 11th of December of that year, four other priests arrived in San Juan from Madrid, sent by the Visitor Joaquín Maller: Luis Vega, Máximo Barquín, Benito Urien and Lucio Fraguas, with the coadjutor brothers Paulino Sánchez and Víctor Díaz. This is how this first community of the Vincentians on the island was organised: Félix García, Superior, Daniel Mejía, Assistant, Luis Vega, Prefect of Worship, Benito Urien, Librarian and the two coadjutor brothers, Paulino Sánchez and Víctor Díaz.

In his presentation, Fr. Tulio also spoke about the fidelity of the Vincentian Fathers being put to the test. On 4 August, after a brief war between Spain and the United States, which was resolved in favour of the latter, in these circumstances, the diocese of Puerto Rico becomes vacant, the diocesan seminary is dissolved and the seminarians are sent to American seminaries. There was much confusion and the religious orders began to leave the island, but the Vincentian Fathers did not abandon the island. On the contrary, Fr. Arnaiz, who replaced Fr. Maller as Visitor, decided, at the request of the bishop, to send three more missionaries to the community of San José: the priests Lorenzo Roura, Serafín Rodríguez and Francisco Vicario.

Father Tulio ended his dissertation by quoting the words with which Saint Vincent concluded that conference on 6 December 1658: "Let us be firm, my brothers, let us be firm, for the love of God; he will be faithful to his promise and will never abandon us, as long as we are submitted to him and not to us; if he increases our work, he will also increase our strength".

After thanking Fr. Tulio for his masterly conference, some lay people, knowledgeable and faithful collaborators of the Vincentian Fathers in Puerto Rico, gave testimonies of their work of evangelisation on the Island. At the end of the testimonies, the Provincial, Fr. José Israel, as a sign of gratitude to the missionaries who came to our lands, presented a plaque of recognition and thanks, received on behalf of all of them by Fr.

After the presentation ceremony, we went immediately to the parish church for the celebration of the Eucharist. Providence wanted our celebration to coincide with the Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. The figure of St. John the Baptist, Fr. Israel reminded us in his homily, "is precisely a constant reminder of the importance of preparing the way for the Lord". Certainly, behind these 150 years, "there is the generous dedication of hundreds of missionaries who gave everything for the Gospel; men who gave up their family; who left their country; who spent their lives to the point of death in these lands and gave everything in order to win souls for Christ.

Dozens of missionaries who have been simple instruments in the hands of God". His figure also reminds us: "humility, brothers, one of the five virtues which, according to St. Vincent, cannot be lacking in any missionary. This humility and recognition of our littleness are fundamental in our missionary work, because we are not the protagonists, but simply instruments in God's hands, called to follow his will and to be witnesses of his love. And humility consists precisely in that, in knowing that all good comes from God".

The Visitor concluded his homily, asking for the assistance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of the Virgin Mary so that, "on this Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist and on the celebration of our 150 years of evangelisation, may we allow ourselves to be inspired by the example of John, by his humility, his courage and his total surrender to the will of God. May his voice resound in our hearts, calling us to conversion and to a greater dedication to the service of our brothers and sisters".

After the Mass, we moved to the table. The guests on this day applied the advice of the Greek philosopher Epicurus "Enjoying intelligently the pleasures of the table".

The good is short-lived, but leaves a long memory. With this sentiment, we end our celebration of 150 years of the presence of the Vincentian Fathers in Puerto Rico. Thank you all for being part of the great Vincentian family.





CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION IN ICELAND



In March 2023, the Polish Province of the Congregation of the Mission began cooperation with the Diocese of Reykjavik, which covers the whole of Iceland. Our visitor, Fr. Paweł Holc, CM and the provincial econom, Fr. Krzysztof Wałaszek CM signed the contract in April this year. with the diocesan bishop David Tencer OFM Cap. Fr. Damian Wyżkiewicz CM and Fr. Krzysztof Śliwa CM were sent to work for 5 years. After 5 years the contract can be extended for another 5 years. Previously, a Dutch confrere, Fr. Hubertus Oremus CM, who died in 2012 and is buried in the cemetery at the cathedral in Reykjavik used to work in Iceland. Fr. Damian and Fr. Krzysztof were sent to the parish of St. Francis of Assisi in Stykkishólmur in the western part of the country. Fr. Damian was appointed parish priest and responsible for the organization of catechesis in Iceland, while Fr. Krzysztof became a vicar and chief prison chaplain in Iceland. Both are responsible for the formation of the clergy and popular missions.

The parish in Stykkishólmur has about 2,500 faithful of various nationalities, especially Icelanders, Poles, Portuguese and Filipinos. Stykkishólmur is a tourist town, therefore the church is open to all visitors. Priests celebrate Sunday Masses in Stykkishólmur and 4 towns: Grundarfjörður, Ólafsvík, Borgarnes and Akranes. The farthest town is 180 km away. The most important Marian sanctuary in Marúlind is located within the parish. Every year on July 12, a national pilgrimage takes place. Our parish is responsible for the organization. There is an oratory for children in the parish. The parish is served by 3 sisters from the Argentinian Congregation of Servants of the Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary of Matara. The weather in Stykkishólmur is temperate marine. In the summer there are polar days and it is bright all night. The temperature is about 15 degrees Celsius. The polar nights last in winter. The sun rises at 11:00 and sets at 14:00. The temperature drops to -5 degrees Celsius. It is windy all year round.







**A FLAME OF HOPE FOR
THE HOPELESS**



As you step inside Potter's House Services, Inc. in Baltimore, Maryland, a palpable current of positivity and energy fills the air. It's truly remarkable to think that this enthusiasm was envisioned by a Vincentian brother, despite his physical limitations, who ignited a flame of hope for the hopeless.

Potter's House is the fulfillment of this Vincentian brother's vision to relieve the anguish of broken souls grappling with addiction and yearning for a chance to recover. Br. William Stover, CM, and his dedicated team of "mentors" form the foundation of the support services for those suffering from alcoholism and drug abuse, who need recovery counseling and a place to stay while working on their healing process.

The idea of a recovery program began six years into Br. Stover's Vincentian ministry. He encountered countless lost souls, who combed the streets looking for their next fix. Day after day, he approached them, seeking their trust and offering help wherever possible. Sadly, the initial response was disheartening.

"I saw a need to deal with the growing number of addicts in the [Baltimore proper] community," explains Br. Stover. "Getting [addicts] to participate was no easy sell. They deny their addiction claiming they can stop whenever they want. Regrettably, that is never the case." However, he was tenacious and continually walked the streets hoping to garner their confidence.

His perseverance eventually paid off. All it took was one individual to come on board and soon enough, Potter's House was connecting with those the program sought to support.

Twenty-six years later, Br. Stover and his team have successfully created a safe, substance-free housing and peer-supported, holistic recovery facility focused on providing those struggling with substance abuse with a place they need to transition from chemical dependency to independent, healthy living.

“God transformed my destructive thought process and freed me to pursue His plans for my life [through Potter’s House],” one anonymous patient believes.

What Br. Stover created is unique for those who suffer from addiction or substance abuse.

“There are still no competitive programs in this area that provide the type of services and housing men receive through Potter’s House,” Br. Stover notes. “It is the capstone of men’s rehabilitation programs and has helped transform hundreds of lives.”

Through a holistic approach, men learn how to integrate back into society by instilling a new perspective on themselves, which has God at the heart of the message. This spirituality is unique to rehab programs and one that Br. Stover believes is the only true means to a full rehabilitation.

With its offices at St. Cecilia Parish in Baltimore, Potter’s House is a haven for men to receive support and counseling along with housing and amenities. Currently, there are two living facilities near the offices, where the program participants can stay for an indefinite period if they abide by the house rules.

“I focus on the Word of God. He along with our faith must be major parts of the men’s recovery,” claims Br. Stover, who also stresses that the men “must commit to God and practice their faith by going to Church. This is how they witness His glory.”





Success can be measured in many ways but for Br. Stover the best indicator is the return of recovering citizens, people who have successfully completed the program and re-integrated back into society.

Br. Stover boasts of his “alums” who have achieved and excelled post-program. As he points out, “They’ve dealt with the situation and in 99 percent of the cases, they’ve had a good outcome and now want to give back; I truly admire that.”

He shares stories of the program’s success like a proud parent: One alum is married, raising a family, and working as an electrician in the mayor’s office, while also teaching future electricians the trade. Several other program alums are employed at Potter’s House where they counsel patients, prepare meals, help with housekeeping, and perform other jobs as needed.

Br. Stover’s ministry aligns with St. Vincent de Paul’s commitment to working with the marginalized by walking in the footsteps of Christ. Previously reliant on federal funding, the program is now 100 percent supported by the Vincentians of the Eastern Province.

“There is no recovery without Jesus,” he asserts to those participating through the program. “Put your eyes on Jesus, and you will find a way.”

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN UKRAINE



*«Priests are no less important than angels, and if there were no priesthood, what would we do without the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist?»
(St. Vincent de Paul)*





Congregation of the Mission welcomes another Missionary to its ranks. On June 24, 2023 Petro Mazur CM was ordained to the rank of presbyter by the Bishop Leon Dubravsky OFM, Ordinary of the Kamianets-Podilskyi Diocese, and on June 25 his First Holy Mass was held. The ceremony took place in the town of Chernivtsi, Vinnytsia region, in the native parish of Father Petro, where Fr. Serhiy Yakubovskiy MIC is the Parish priest.

Although the war continues still and we all compete in the fight against evil, this did not prevent us from rejoicing at this wonderful event in the neo-presbyter's family and in the Vincentian family, in the Catholic Church. Visitor of the Vice-Province of SS. Cyril and Methodius Fr. Leonid Kuklyshyn CM, Director of the seminary Fr. Mykhaylo Talapkanych CM, Bishop Leon Dubravsky OFM, many priests and nuns from different parts of Ukraine, as well as relatives, friends and acquaintances of Father Petro came together to experience this celebration. Those who could not come to the ceremony in person could attend the event through the broadcast on the Credo website.





Father Petro is the seventh child in the family of Mykola and Maria. The two older sisters live a consecrated life in the Congregatio Jesu congregation, and the son's vocation was a great gift and joy for the parents. The study lasted 8 years: he graduated from the Higher Theological Seminary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in city of Vorzel, defended his master's thesis at the Catholic University named after John Paul II in Lublin, Poland.

During the ordination ceremony, the bishop said the words that emphasize and convey the meaning of the life of priest Petro, which he chose: "...Through Baptism you will join people to God's people, in the sacrament of Reconciliation, you will forgive sins in the name of Christ and the Church, you will strengthen the sick with holy oil. You will perform holy rites, in the hours of the day you will raise praise with thanksgiving and prayers not only for God's people, but also for the whole world, remembering that you were taken from among people and ordained for people in actions of God. Always fulfill the mission entrusted to you by Christ the Priest with joy and sincere love, not seeking your own benefit, but for Christ's sake.

And finally, the most beloved son, fulfilling your part of the service of Christ - the Head and the Shepherd, submitting to the bishop and being in unity with him, you should learn to unite the faithful into one family, so that you could lead them through Christ in the Holy Spirit to God the Father. May the example of the good Shepherd always shine before your eyes, he came to serve, but not to be served; he came to seek and save the lost ones..."

We will pray for the necessary graces for neo-presbyter Petro Mazur so that he was a good shepherd!



REV. BISHOP VARGHESE THOTTAMKARA CMTAKES CHARGE AS THE NEW BISHOP OF BALASORE



29th June, 2023 is a red lettered day for the Diocese of Balasore as Rt .Rev. Bishop Varghese Thottamkara CM was installed as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Balasore. Rt .Rev. Bishop Varghese was welcomed on 28th of June in the Cathedral church where the large number of priests, religious and faithful welcomed him with much enthusiasm since the seat was vacant for the last four years. A prayer service was conducted in the cathedral church which was led by the Arch Bishop of Cuttak- Bhubaneswar Most Rev. Bishop John Barwa SVD.

The dawn of 29th June witnessed a large number of faithful gathering to welcome the new bishop. The rhythmic footsteps of typical indigenous dancers with the tunes of Bongo drums and Snare drums and floral showering were conspicuous to the eyes. The lofty designed open cab which carries the Apostolic Nuncio Most Rev. Leopoldo Girelli along with the new Bishop was a visual treat. The ceremonial welcome from the Balasore Social Service Society to the Cathedral witnesses thousands of people along with the Arch bishops, Bishops, priests, religious and faithful.





The installation ceremony was held at the Bp. Simon Memorial Auditorium where the Arch Bishop, Bishops and priests along with nearly 180 priests concelebrated who witnessed the reading of the Papal Bull both in English and Odia languages. Most Rev. Nuncio thanked the Balasore Diocese for organizing such an extravagant programme and wished Bishop Varghese all the success and prayer in the new endeavor.

A formal welcome was arranged immediately after the Holy Eucharist. The Local Administrations and various political and secular leaders were present in it. This large gathering was witnessed by the Bishops, priests, sisters, Provincial Superiors of various men and women religious congregations along with the faithful. Various colorful entertainment programmes were presented by the institutions of the Balasore Diocese.





50 YEARS OF CONSTANT
YES



Ordination anniversary celebration is a special time to give thanks to God for the gift of vocation that He has given to the community of God. However, it is doubly special celebrating a golden milestone – a blessing given only to some. Fr. Richard Preuss, CM is certainly a privileged confrere as he celebrated his 50 years on July 8, 2023 with confreres, parishioners and friends. He personally chose Kangshan Church in Kaohsiung City, Taiwan among other places for the celebration since he was assigned twice in that parish for a total of fifteen years.

With the attendance of almost all confreres, the Eucharistic celebration was attended by 270 local parishioners and foreign migrants from Vietnam and Philippines who showed their deep appreciation for his service. The presence of bishop of Kaohsiung Diocese, Msgr. Peter Liu and of three confreres from Vietnam added more meaning to the celebration.

Ordained on June 2, 1973 in Lemont, Illinois, U.S.A. with five others, Fr. Dick chose to go to Taiwan immediately after ordination to prepare himself for a life-long mission with the Chinese people. Proficient both in Mandarin and Taiwan languages, he served different parishes in Taiwan in his fifty years of service except when he went to Wuhan, China for three years as English teacher to local university students and when he was assigned for three years in the Philippines as formator for Chinese seminarians.

Fr. Dick with his outspoken and outgoing personality has many friends in Taiwan and calls the country his home. In recognition for his service to the society the Taiwan government granted him citizenship without giving up his American nationality - a privilege given to few. Still active and fit, he lives at St. Francis Home for Elderly to help in the pastoral needs of Catholics at a nearby church. Although he reached the golden milestone which every priest aspires, yet for him saying yes to a call to serve never stops. Indeed, *tu es sacerdos in aeternum*.



CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE FIRST EDITION OF THE MASTER'S DEGREE IN VINCENTIANISM



The closing celebration of the first edition of the Master's Degree in Vincentianism, which has been held from 2021 to 2023, thanks to the collaboration of the University of Deusto with the Congregation of the Mission, took place on 20 July 2023.

The Superior General, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, who presided over the celebration, recalled that the General Assembly, held in Chicago in 2016, promoted the launch of the Master's Degree in Vincentianism. "We were convinced that the Master's would provide members of the Congregation and others with a way to study Vincentian history and spirituality, giving them tools for better understanding and updating, and providing them with the means to become competent in pastoral animation, formation and accompaniment in the service of the poor".

The dean and professors of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Deusto, the members of SIEV, Fr. Nèlio Pita, Assistant General, and numerous guests, relatives and friends of the graduates took part in the celebration, celebrated online together with the 25 people (lay members of the Vincentian Family, Daughters of Charity and missionaries of the Congregation) who have obtained the title of Master in Vincentianism.

Fr Tomaž Mavrič had words of gratitude for Fr Javier Álvarez and Fr Corpus Delgado, for the work carried out over several years to set up this programme. He especially thanked the members of SIEV and the university professors, as well as the Department of Online Formation, who have made possible the realisation of this initiative of the Congregation of the Mission.

Nèlio Pita, commenting on the Gospel of Luke 4, encouraged the participants to actualise today with words, attitudes and concrete commitments the Good News of the Gospel among the poorest.

Spontaneously, all those present expressed their thanksgiving to God and to all those who participated in the realisation of the programme.

Fr. Tomaž Mavrič concluded the celebration by addressing the twenty-five people who have completed this first edition of the Master in Vincentianism: "May the time and energy you have devoted to achieve this goal encourage you to share your experience with others, to be agents of Vincentian animation in your groups, associations and communities and to live the richness of our charism and spirituality to the full".

Ximena Alejandra	AHUMADA ESPINOZA	VMY, Chile, Vincentian Teaching Team
Irving Gabriel	AMARO RAMAYO	CM. Mexico, now in Dominican Republic
Romina Andrea	ARANCIBIA ACEVEDO	FV, Chile, Vincentian teaching team
José Ignacio	CAAMAÑO DOMÍNGUEZ	CM, Spain - SVP Province
Marie Nelly Yasmine	CAJUSTE	Vincentian Family, Haiti
Jose Hailton	COELHO	SSVP, Brazil
María Lourdes	DOMENECH DURA	FC, Spain, Eastern Province
Macorel	DORENARD	CM, Haiti
Isabel	ESCUDERO FERNÁNDEZ	FC, Spain, Province Centre
Mª Purificación	FERNÁNDEZ QUIJADA	FC, Spain, Province South
María Geralda	FERREIRA	SSVP, Brazil
Iván	JUARROS ARANGUREN	CM, Spain - Province Zaragoza in Honduras
María Reyes	LLAMES JIMÉNEZ	FC, Spain, Province Norte
Juana María	OLIVARES GARCÍA	Profesora FV, Spain, Almeria
María Amparo	ORTIZ DOMÍNGUEZ	FC, Spain, Province East
Juan Carlos	REAÑO PAISS	SSVP, Peru
José Manuel	RINCÓN SANCHO	MISEVI, Spain
Franselina	RODRIGUEZ RODRIGUEZ	FC, Spain, Provincie Nord
Emilia Natalia	ROMERO AYALA	FC, Nª Sª de la Misión Province, Paraguay
María Trinidad	SEGURA VARO	FC, Spain, South Province
Javier Antonio	SERRA CASANOVA	CM, Spain - Province SVP
Milagros	SERRANO	FC, Caribbean Province, Puerto Rico
Hugo Ricardo	SOSA	CM, Province of Argentina in Rome
Gladys Reina	VARGAS BLANCO	FC, Province of Nª Sª de la Misión, Bolivia
María Isabel	VERGARA ARNEDILLO	FC, Spain, Eastern Province



Diego MOLINA, Miguel VERA, Manuel REUS, Carmen BERNABE, Vicente VEDE, Jose Carlos COLPEAU DORRONSORO, Francisco RUIZ PEREZ, Tomaz MAVRIC, Corpus Juan DELGADO RUBIO, Vasilios TITLIRA, Isaac DEMETS REYES, Jakub KASPRZYK, Binoy PUTHUSSERY ARGHESE, Jose MWAMI



AHMADA ESPINOZA Ximena Alejandra, AMARO RAMAYO Erving Gabriel, ARANCIBIA ACEVEDO Romina Andrea, CAAMAÑO DOMÍNGUEZ José Ignacio, CAJASTE Marie Nelly Yasmine, COELHO Jose Hailton, DOMENECH DURÀ Maria Lourdes, DORENARD Mascarel, ESCUDERO FERNANDEZ Isabel, FERNANDEZ QUIJADA Mª Purificación



FERREIRA Mariá Geraldá, JUARROS ARANGUREN Iván, LLAMES JIMENEZ Mariá Reyes



OLIVARES GARCIA Jonna Maria, ORTIZ DOMINGUEZ Mariá Amparo, BEAÑO PAISÉS Jona Carlos



RINCON SANCHO Jose Manuel, RODRIGUEZ RODRIGUEZ Francisca, ROMERO AYALA Emilia Natalia



SEGURA VARO Mª Trinidad, SERRA CASANOVA Javier Antonio, SERRANO Mílagros



SOSA Hugo Ricardo, VARGAS BLANCO Gladys Reina, VERGARA ARNEDELLO Mariá Isabel

Primera Edición 2021-2023



**NEW VISITOR OF THE
PROVINCE OF CHILE**

In the context of a Eucharistic celebration, which took place in the Church of St. Vincent de Paul next to the Provincial House on Thursday, July 13, and which was attended by most of the members of the province, Daughters of Charity and members of the various branches of the Vincentian Family, Father Gastón Otárola Parada, recently appointed to this office by the Superior General, began his service as Visitor of the Province of Chile, after consultation with all the incorporated members of the province.

Rodis Christensen, outgoing Visitor, in which he thanked those present and the confreres for the collaboration received during his term of office and invited them to collaborate in the same way with the new Visitor - to whom he also wished success - the Holy Spirit was invoked and the missionaries made the epicyletic gesture or invocation of the Holy Spirit.

At the end of this act, the provincial secretary read out the patent issued by the Superior General in favour of Fr. Gastón Otárola. This gave way to the Profession of Faith of the new Visitor and the taking of his Oath of fidelity to the Church. Finally, the Act was read and signed, which was the testimony of this important event.

After the juridical act of taking possession, the Eucharist was celebrated. After the Eucharist there was an agape offered to those present, followed by a community lunch in which the missionaries and special guests participated.



37TH NATIONAL MEETING OF VINCENTIAN STUDENTS



37 ENEV, FORTALEZA - 2023

The Province of Fortaleza of the Congregation of the Mission hosted in its Provincial House, from 21 to 26 July 2023, the XXXVII National Meeting of Vincentian Students, whose theme: "Called by our Missionary Vocation to follow Christ, Evangeliser of the Poor" and motto: "Hearts on fire, feet on the way". (Lk 24, 32-33). Thirteen students from the philosophy and theology courses took part in the meeting: 04 from the Province of Curitiba and 03 from the Province of Rio de Janeiro, the others belonging to the host Province. The five Internal Seminarians shared some moments of the meeting, as they were in Fortaleza for a Missionary Day.

The programme included: reception celebration, missionary experience in the Quintino Cunha neighbourhood, visit to the first parish of the Congregation in the Province (Nossa Senhora dos Remédios) and social work of the Daughters of Charity (Recanto do Sagrado Coração de Jesus), cultural evening with exchange of memories and sharing of the reality of the provinces and typical food, leisure at the Majorlândia beach (Aracati - CE).



One of the strong points of the ENEVs is the formative axis, which this year was in charge of a Father of the Mission (Fr. Cleber Teodósio, CM) and two Daughters of Charity (Sr. Mariuza, FC and Sr. Patrícia, FC). Cleber, gave the theme in a light, dialogical and dynamic way, pointing out important aspects of the figure of the Vincentian Missionary according to São Vicente de Paulo, explaining curiosities about the 3rd Vocation Year in Brazil and sharing details about the programme for the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation of the Mission. The students Raimundo, Ibson and Gerson evaluated the formation positively, giving marks for the richness of content, creativity and sensitivity.

The Superior General, Fr. Tomaz Mavric, CM, sent a video greeting to the gathered students, in which he encouraged each of the participants to reflect on being and doing in the Little Company, as well as to turn daily to the Word of God, the Constitutions and the Common Rules, and to live with enthusiasm and joy the celebrations of the IV Centenary of the Congregation of the Mission.

During the meeting, the students were able to meet different priests from the Province of Fortaleza who passed through the Provincial House for their annual retreat, which was held in the metropolitan region; a fact that further enriched the meeting, making the ENEV experience great for all those who participated in it.

Gratitude to the organisers, advisors, hosts and participants. The next ENEV will take place in 2025 in the Curitiba Province of the Congregation of the Mission, until then the students, from their provinces, will meet as EREVs - Regional Encounters of Vincentian Students, following up the local agendas of growth in the Society. Onward, Missionaries!



NOMINATIONES

GROZIO Stephen M.	21/07/2023	Visitor - USA East
DUARTE ALONSO Pedro	21/07/2023	FC Director - Caribbean (Reconfirmed)

ORDINATIONES

MUÑOZ DE LA CRUZ Lizandro Javier	Sac	POR	22/07/2023
MUSA Ojotogba Paul	Sac	NIG	27/07/2023
ASINYANG Emmanuel Ignatius	Sac	NIG	28/07/2023
ENEKANMA Chinedu Mathew	Sac	NIG	28/07/2023
UZONWANNE Nnamdi Kizito	Sac	NIG	28/07/2023
BETANCOURT REINA Oscar Fabián	Sac	COL	29/07/2023
CASTILLO LERMA Andrés Felipe	Sac	COL	29/07/2023
DE SOUSA PASSOS Felipe	Sac	FOR	29/07/2023

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
ZYTKOWSKI Leocádio José	Sac	01/07/2023	CUR	55	31
CHIOMINTO Luigi	Sac	14/07/2023	ITA	95	76
PUCHER Wolfgang Karl	Sac	19/07/2023	AUG	84	64

MOVEMENTS

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