

NUNNTIA

FEBRUARY 2024



CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION

General Curia

INTRO

Nuntia is the monthly magazine of the General Curia of the Congregation of the Mission.

It contains news concerning the Provinces, communities and confreres throughout the Congregation of the Mission, as well as the life of the Curia and its Offices.

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The Superior General was warmly welcomed by the parishioners of the parish of St. Vincent de Paul in Graz and we celebrated the Holy Eucharist with them. A blessed moment was to see the original altarpiece "Vincent de Paul with the poor at table". It is one of the most profound works of the artist Kurt Welther and can be found in our Chapel of Mercy in Graz. For us this painting is a reflection of our parish work for the most neglected in society. The coordinator of Vinziwerke (works for the poor), Amrita Böker, gave a good insight into the projects they carry out for people in need.



On 23 February, Superior General Tomaž Mavrič CM and Assistant General Nélio Pereira Pita CM visited the Provincial House of the Daughters of Charity in Graz. The joy of this short visit was very inspiring for all the sisters. Together with Sr. Katharina Laner FDC (visitor of the province of Graz - Central Europe) and Sr. Magdalena Pomwenger FDC they also visited the tomb of Sr. Leopoldine Brandis in the crypt of the church.

The last stop of the visit is our provincial CM in Vienna. in Vienna. Together with the provincial Eugen Schindler CM of the province of Austria-Germany they celebrated mass in our CM parish in Vienna. Tomaz encouraged the CM, the Daughters and the Laity working in the spirit of St. Vincent their continuous support and prayers and encouraged us to continue even more the good spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.

Robert Szeberényi



CIF ASIA 2024 OPENING DOORS TO THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY, INDIA



From 4-14 February 2024, the South Indian Province, under the leadership of the International Formation Centre (IFC), organised a short course on Vincentian way of life as an opportunity to take advantage of the IFC formation programmes for the branches of the Vincentian Family (FAMVIN) in India. There were delegates from the Society of Vincent de Paul (SSVP), Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN), Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary (SCJM), Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul (SCV), Vincentian Congregation (CV), Daughters of Charity (DC) and Congregation of the Mission (CM), totalling 65 registrations.



This sacred period is an invitation to immerse oneself in the purifying waters of the deep spirituality and original mission of the Congregation, illuminating the timeless message of St. Vincent. The 400th anniversary is a gateway to a dimension of reflection and spiritual renewal, exhorting each soul to incarnate with renewed fervour the values of service, charity and humility.

The Jubilee logo, reflecting the identity and mission of the Congregation, emerges as a sacred seal, evoking unity and tracing a path of meditation and action. It is a call to celebrate, to strengthen the spirit of community that finds inspiration in the example of St. Vincent de Paul, spreading his message of love and service through concrete, everyday gestures. The logo we have created is a powerful symbol that invites reflection, prayer and action, and represents better than anyone else our goal: to put on the spirit of Christ!

In addition, the 400th anniversary celebration emphasises the revitalisation of the three sacred dimensions of Vincentian spirituality:

The spirituality of service: This dimension invites us to follow in the footsteps of Christ by serving the poor with humility and dedication, recognising in them the very face of Christ.

The spirituality of communion: It encourages us to live a community life, woven with threads of love and mutual support, strengthening the bond between the members of the Congregation and with the universal Church.

The spirituality of the apostolate: motivates us to spread the message of the Gospel by word and deed, bringing the Good News to the poor and the marginalised of society.

At the heart of this anniversary resounds an invitation to rekindle the spirit, to rediscover the transforming power of charity, making the 400th anniversary not just a time of celebration, but the dawn of a new beginning, a journey of shared faith, hope and love.

As we approach this sacred moment, a new page opens not only in the book of our history, but also in the way we weave our community on the digital continent. Our Facebook presence, Jubileum400CM, becomes a virtual altar where we can share, connect and inspire. We invite every confrere and every Vincentian to follow this page, to weave together a network of experiences and reflections, actively participating in the initiatives proposed to radiate the light of Vincentian charity in the world.

The seminar, entitled "Vincentian Spirituality and Ethics", was indeed an incandescent event for the participants in their understanding of the Vincentian way of spirituality and the Vincentian worldview. Consequently, the deliberations were to explore the perfection of life and the mission entrusted by Providence. Logically, the sequence of the input sessions was, firstly, to examine the life of St. Vincent's conversion and, secondly, to examine the Vincentian way of life from the contemporary worldview.

The session on "Vincent's transformative journey" looked at the historical framework of St. Vincent's life to understand how events changed the 'self-centred Vincent' into the 'other-centred Vincent'. St. Vincent's life and his conversion were clear examples for those who journey to perfection in the Vincentian way of life. The process of St. Vincent's life was then joined with the Saint's recommendations on prayer and the input session was entitled "Prayer according to St. Vincent". Both topics were addressed by Fr. Shajan Pudussery CM. Mathew Kochuparambil CM in his "Historical framework of France and the rise of the Vincentian foundations", aroused the curiosity of the participants on how the story of St. Vincent gave rise to a new charism in the Church to respond to human situations. The explanations helped the participants to become aware of how charisms developed in response to concrete situations. Since the appearance of the foundations when Vincent and Louise de Marillac were still alive, there have been a number of faithful Catholics who have followed the way of life of these great saints for a radical way of proclaiming Christ. Fr Mathew VC illustrated how the charism revealed to St Vincent inspired many to develop other Congregations and communities in his "Relaunching Vincentian Ways". Explorations on the history of St. Vincent and the Charism given to him by God took an educational turn when Fr. Jaison Ambadan CM looked at spirituality in his talks on "Vincentian Spirituality from a Pedagogical Perspective".

The presentation of the basic and foundational virtues of the Congregation of the Mission, the Daughters of Charity and the Confraternity of Charity (AIC) was the focus of attention of the participants, as many were new to the Vincentian way of seeing and practicing these virtues. Sr. Sibina DC highlighted the understanding of the foundational virtue "Simplicity" as it was traditionally understood, with a psychological explanation as it should be understood and practiced in contemporary society. The presentation on the virtue of "Humility" by Sr. Jayamary DC, focused on researching examples of three Vincentian saints to illuminate how they lived this virtue. The virtue of "Meekness", practiced by the fiery temperament of Vincent, became the meek St. Vincent. Although the virtue of Humility is the mother of all virtues, it is the virtue of "Mortification" that in practice facilitates the practice of all the other virtues. Ullas Pulinthanath CM explored the ways of ethical practice of these two virtues. We Vincentians are seekers of perfection for ourselves as well as for others; Vincent often said, 'it is not enough that I love God, but it is necessary that I also help others to love our dear God'. The virtue of "Zeal for Souls", according to St. Vincent is the reason, the vocation, the identity and the goal of all our missionary activities. James Kunninpurayidom CM revealed how St. Vincent recognised zeal for souls as a "virtue". Indeed, these virtues are the professional ethic of Vincentians, which in turn would lead through the places of collaboration with other branches of the Vincentian Family in witness to Christ and service to God's people. In this sense, although St. Vincent did not put the virtue of "Prudence" as a foundational virtue of 'the Little Companies', he always mentioned it in his conferences, activities and talks as a necessary practical virtue both in our spiritual life and in our daily life. Francis Puthenthayil CM was guiding the branches of the Vincentian Family, regarding the practice of the virtue of 'Prudence' in missionary collaboration with one another in ministry, and sharing our spirit. Devotion to Mother Mary is at the heart of every Vincentian. St. Vincent had educated the Daughters of Charity, the Confraternities and the Missionaries to live their lives as a reflection of the three great mysteries of Our Blessed Mother. These mysteries are the Annunciation, the Visitation and the Immaculate Conception as the reason for our self-emptying, availability to the poor and the radiance of Christ's presence in us. Sr Mable DC and Sr Lucy DC gave a Vincentian tinge by inculcating the true "Vincentian perspective of Marian devotion". Spirituality and ethics are basically aimed at growing in holiness. To our advantage, in our FAMVIN we have saints who achieved holiness either as martyrs, social workers, founders, or silent practitioners of the charism as examples to follow. Grace Moolan DC, reflecting on the lives of some Vincentian saints and breaking down the simple methods they followed, in her, "Holiness in the Vincentian Charism", for the benefit of the FAMVIN India branches to reach perfection.



Anil Karackavayalil CM was careful to look back to Vincent's time to understand St. Vincent's vision of foreign missions, the Church's perspective of mission ad Gentes at that time, the relevance of Vincentian foreign missions and our mission in India in its present socio-political-religious scenario. There was also an occasion for an examination of conscience, if we want to call it that, when Fr. Francis CM and Br. Tomy SSVP endeavoured to shed some light on "Collaboration among the branches of the Vincentian Family in Empowering the Poor in India". We know that our times are clearly different from the situations of 16th century France. Our concept of the global village - a notion unknown to the politics of St. Vincent's time - impels us to see a global transformation. FAMVIN has long embraced "systemic change" as the idea for transforming the individual and society globally inspired by the activities of our Founders. Bro. J Pandian SSVP led the meeting to understand "The role of systemic change in social transformation" to empower the poor in India. In this aspect, we also looked at women empowerment. St. Paul says that "man" (in reference to Gen.1, 26 including both sexes) "...is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man" (1 Cor. 11,7b). Unfortunately, this glory of man has often been ignored in society. In the history of the Catholic Church, St. Vincent opened the eyes of the Church and society to the loss of the glory of women, the glory of man. By empowering women, ladies and poor village girls, St. Vincent strove to restore the "glory" of the human race. Sr. Nimmie Raj SCN enlightened the participants on how the task of women's empowerment was initiated by St. Vincent and continues to work today, in her "Contribution of the Vincentian Family in Empowering Women".

The Church of the 21st century walks with the Lord on the way, i.e. the Church likes to see that it is synodal - or that it walks with the Lord on the way (Mark 10:52). Joy Thuruthel CM in his "Vincentian Perspective on Synodality and Vincentian Self-awareness" led the participants to see synodality through a Vincentian prism.

Tomaz Mavric CM addressed the group virtually, interacted with the group on Vincentian spirituality and way of living. He said, 'we are founded on the Trinitarian understanding of God, from which everything evolves - our vocation, mission and life - as St. Vincent would explain to the Missionaries and Daughters. Salvation is brought to us by God becoming man and is not earned by our merits. Our daily celebration of the Eucharist continually reminds us of this fact. Moreover, we pledge our adherence to St. Vincent's way of life by our special devotion to the Mother of Jesus, who is our model and our support. These were some of the central points shared by the Superior General.

During the CIF Asia 2024, the delegates visited the works of SCV, SCN, DC and CM to interact with the beneficiaries and some historical and tourist places to relax. The CIF Asia left an indelible experience among the delegates, expressed the need to come together and learn about the rich heritage that St. Vincent and Louise de Marillac left for us in witnessing the Charity of Christ.

P. Sebastian Vettickal
Province of South India



TRAINING INDIGENOUS YOUTH AS ECOLOGICAL GUARDIANS IN HONDURAS





Climate change is constantly creating new challenges for farmers. Increasing forest fires and flash floods threaten to ruin crops. Vincentians in the Honduras Region, a place particularly vulnerable to these threats, are doing their part to help indigenous people adapt.

The Tasha Pranabira project, aimed at indigenous high school and university students, is designed to provide local youth with practical, classroom-based education in sustainable agriculture. The classroom education focuses on adapting to environmental changes and preparing young people for future leadership roles.

The programme ran from February to November. Ten local students were selected to participate. All but one completed the programme. In the classroom, students learned sustainable agriculture practices such as reforestation, irrigation, forest fire management, environmental protection and indigenous rights to peaceful protection of their lands. Outside the classroom, the students worked hard. They cultivated plots for small crops such as melons, radishes, cucumbers, maize and sweet potatoes. They also planted fruit trees such as coconut, rambutan and avocado trees. Pine trees were also planted to help restore erosion in the surrounding area. In addition, a greenhouse, a nursery and a well for irrigation were built. The students received a stipend for their participation and a certificate of completion of the programme.

Plans are underway to repeat the programme this year. These budding leaders are now ready to help their communities adapt and thrive despite their many challenges.



FINAL INCORPORATION NORTH INDIA

The Province of North India, along with the entire Congregation of the Mission, rejoiced in unison as three young men took their final step into a life of service and dedication. February 5, 2024, will forever remain a momentous occasion, etched in the annals of history when Brothers Sanii Sylvester, Abhinash Mandal and Sanjay Benia embraced their perpetual profession within the Congregation. Guided by the light of faith and the teachings of St. Vincent de Paul, their inclusion in the esteemed North Indian Province signifies not only a personal journey, but a deep commitment to the Vincentian mission of compassion and service.

Drawing inspiration from the Gospel of Matthew (25:40), we are reminded: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me". Through their perpetual profession, these young men exemplify the embodiment of this divine vocation, committing their lives to uplifting the marginalised and serving those in need with unwavering dedication.

The ceremony, enriched by the presence of esteemed confreres from Vijoy Bhavan House, Berhampur and Gopalpur House, resonated with the spirit of unity and fraternity that defines our Vincentian family. Together, we participated in the Holy Eucharist, reflecting on the profound meaning of the journey undertaken by our confreres, and celebrated with joyful agape, echoing the sentiments expressed in Psalm 13:31, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together!"

Amidst the solemnity of the occasion, we are deeply grateful for the spiritual guidance bestowed upon Bros. Sanii Sylvester, Abhinash Mandal and Sanjay Benia by Fr. Purna Chandra Lima, a newly ordained priest of the North Indian Province. Through his dedicated retreat, he enlightened their path with the wisdom of Vincentian spirituality, nourishing their souls and preparing them for the sacred vows they now solemnly assume. As it is written in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."





Fr. Mathew Nayak, CM, Visitor of the North India Province, along with all the other confreres of the Province, welcome them into the fold of our beloved Little Company, echoing the sentiments expressed by St. Vincent de Paul himself: "You will find that Charity is a heavy burden to bear, heavier than the kettle of soup and the basket full. But you will keep your sweetness and your smile. It is not enough to give soup and bread. That can be done by the rich. You are the servant of the poor, always smiling and in good humour. They are your masters, a terribly sensitive and demanding master, you'll see". With open arms and boundless enthusiasm, we are ready to walk beside you on this noble journey of service and compassion.

BULLETIN OF THE
VINCENTIAN POPULAR
MISSIONS 2024 JANUARY
18TH, 2024

OPENING MASS IN THE
PARISH OF ST. JOSEPH THE
WORKER

SERRA DO RAMALHO-BA



The Vincentian Popular Missions 2024 begin today in Serra do Ramalho, Bahia. From 17 to 26 January, a group of local and foreign missionaries will travel the streets of Agrovila 9 for visits, meetings and training during the period of the missions.

It will gather around 50 missionaries, among them the Lazarist priests Allan Ferreira, Denilson Matias, CM, Hugo Barcellos, Ezequiel Alves, Agnaldo Aparecido, Evilasio Amaral, Túlio Medeiros, Raimundo João, Gustavo Alivino and Paulo José, as well as sisters, lay men and women from various branches of the Vincentian Family in Brazil. The SMPV will take place in the Parish of St. John the Worker, belonging to the Diocese of Bom Jesus da Lapa-BA.

"Raimundo João, CM, Fr. Gustavo, CM and Fr. Paulo José, CM. Besides the Alcantarine Franciscan Sisters, who also form the local missionary team", said Fr. Túlio Medeiros, CM.

The Mass of opening and sending of the missionaries took place on the 17th, at 19h30, in the Matriz São José Operário and was presided over by Father José Carlos Carvalho, diocesan administrator of the Diocese of Bom Jesus da Lapa, and concelebrated by the other priests present. We ask the prayers of all for the success of SMPV 2024. Saint Vincent de Paul, pray for us!



BRIEF HISTORY OF THE “BIBLE SABHA”

The ‘CATHOLIC BIBLE SABHA’ as it is known in the present time, was started in the year 1996 at Christ Nagar Parish, Allada, Odisha - State. In fact the proposal for it came first from the New Bajjal people (One of the Mission Centres of Christ Nagar Parish) in the year 1995. At that time the parish priest was Fr. Thomas Kottiry C.M and the Asst. priest was Fr. Jacob Panthaply CM.

The parish priest, Fr. Thomas Kottiry, later discussed this matter, with the people of Baijal (another mission centre of Christ Nagar Parish) and the same was discussed in the meeting of the parish council of Christ Nagar parish. It was then finally approved and decided to gather together all the Saura communities from different Parishes, viz. Christ Nagar, Mary Nagar, Bodopada, Gunupur, Vincent Nagar and Jaltar (all of them are Saura Adivasi community parishes).

The year 1995 was important for the C.M. members of the Indian province since that was the silver Jubilee year of the C.M Province in India. Accordingly Fr. T. Kottiry (Christ Nagar Parish priest) discussed this matter in the C.M. house members meeting, who were managing practically all the Saura Community (One of the Tribal communities) parishes and decided to be held by uniting all the said parishes. The date was more or less fixed for 7th of November 1995, for calling all the parish priests, some catechists and some village leaders from each parish, to gather at Allada for finalising the programmes in detail.



In the said meeting, it was decided to have the said SABHA to be held in the month of February 1996 for 3 days, starting on 16th February Friday evening to 18th February Sunday noon, 1996, i.e. to start before the Lent begins as it was the Jubilee year SABHA. Since the same was decided in the Vincentian Province Jubilee year it was named as "Jubilee SABHA". Accordingly the 1st Jubilee Sabha was decided to be held at Baijal Village since the proposal came from them. Fr Joseph Moolan's (the patron of Saura Community) contribution cannot be ignored here. Accordingly the venue, date and days were finalised but the detailed programmes to be arranged, subsequently in the meetings of all the parish priests of the Saura community.

The Millennium Jubilee SABHA: was organized in the year 1997 at Lengthaguda village. As planned for 3 days in the first week of Lent starting with 14th Feb. Friday, 1997 afternoon and to conclude on the 16th Sunday 1997 afternoon. Bishop A. Innayya Bishop of Srikakulam diocese in Andhra Pradesh was invited for the concluding day Holy Mass. He was so much impressed by seeing the big crowd, the arrangements as well as the participation of the people, the community of Saura group. After the celebrations got over, he, in turn advised us to join Nallarayagada also, one of the parishes of Srikakulam diocese, belonging to the Saura Community. Thus for the first time, Catholics from another state namely Andhra Pradesh was included into this group. Later on, the same was organized in different mission centres of Christ Nagar parish. And in the year 1999 the JUBILEE SABHA was organised at Jorbedi village of Christ Nagar Parish. Thus the Jubilee SABHA programme got over, and subsequently it was shifted to other Saura community parishes, turn by turn, in the name of BIBLE SABHA (BIBLE CONVENTION). At Present we have the faithful coming from 15 parishes (7 from Andhra Pradesh State and 8 from Odisha State).

We celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the beginning of Catholic Bible Sobaha, this year with much vigour and enthusiasm. The planning and preparations for the same was done six months ago. Meetings of the Parish priests along with the Head Catechists were held in Chirstnagar Parish, the host parish, regularly. The Silver Jubilee celebration began with the hosting of the flag by the President of the Catholic Bible Sobha Committee, namely Fr. Jose Nazhianpara CM (who is also the Parish Priest of the host parish) on 8th Feb and concluded on 11th Feb with the solemn Holy Mass.

The presence of Rt. Rev. Sarat Chandra Nayak, the Bishop of Berhampur and His Excellency John Barwa, the archbishop of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar added more colour and spiritual atmosphere to the gathering. During these four days of convention, the people were staying in temporary small huts made by straw and wooden sticks. All the arrangements for the faithful were done by the host Parish, Christnagar. The programs included Morning Prayer, preaching by different priests and laity, Eucharistic adoration, Holy Eucharist, healing session, Stations of the Cross, praise and worship, prayer for the sick and so on. The finance for the four days of program was met from the collections made by Christnagar Parishners. This year there were about 25,000 people who came to attend the Bible Convention and renewed their lives. We thank God for the blessings that He showers on us. Praise the Lord!



Movements

NOMINATIONES

SCALLON Paschal Malachy Kevin	28/02/2024	Visitor Ireland (Reconfirmed)
SUPARMONO Paulus	28/02/2024	Director DC Indonesia

ORDINATIONES

CHAVARRÍA GUTIÉRREZ Orlando Ariel	Sac	ORL	27/01/2024
ASSÉ Janis	Sac	POR	03/02/2024

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
FERREIRA Adrián	Sac	15/06/2023	ARG	72	52
GOLDEN Paul L.	Sac	20/01/2024	OCC	85	67
ALONSO MATE Ignacio	Sac	02/02/2024	POR	90	72
DEKKERS Dré (A.P.M.)	Sac	08/02/2024	CGN (HOL)	84	64
JACQUEMIN Louis Vincent	Sac	15/02/2024	MAD	91	72
MŁYNEK Jerzy Waldemar	Sac	18/02/2024	POL	67	48
PIĄTEK Jacek Jan	Sac	21/02/2024	POL	58	38
HURTADO VARGAS Epigmenio	Sac	24/02/2024	COL	87	65
TORRENS ISERN Pedro	Sac	24/02/2024	SVP	89	73



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