

NUNNTIA

MARCH 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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INTERNATIONAL
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DE PAUL MYSORE -
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De Paul Degree College and De Paul International Residential School Mysore, India entered into a significant partnership with Niagara University, USA, and Canada, solidifying their commitment to academic collaboration and exchange. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed on February 19, 2024, at the De Paul Campus in Mysore, sets the stage for a myriad of opportunities for the students.

Under the MOU, both institutions will offer collaborative academic programs for undergraduate and graduate students. These initiatives include articulation agreements, exchange programs, study tours, internships, career development opportunities, student recruitment drives, research projects, conferences, and other avenues for intellectual growth.

The event was attended by Fr. James J Maher CM, the President of Niagara University, Fr. Anil Thomas Karakkavayalil CM, the Visitor of South Indian Province, Fr. Sunney Kurian C.M the Councilor in-charge of Education, Fr. Baiju Antony CM, the Principal of De Paul Degree College, Fr. Biju Scaria CM, the Principal of De Paul International Residential School, Fr. Santoy Kurian C.M, Superior of the De Paul Campus, Dr. Duleep C Deosthale, the Vice President of International Relations at Niagara University, Prof. Rangappa, the former Vice Chancellor, Mysore University, the confreres working in the campus, Sisters, teachers, students, parents and media persons.

Fr. Sebastian Vettickal C.M.
South Indian Province



INAUGURATION OF THE
'LUMIÈRE' WOMEN'S
HOME: A SPACE FOR
MARGINALISED WOMEN
AND VICTIMS OF ALL
KINDS OF VIOLENCE



El Hogar de Mujeres 'Lumière', destinado a mujeres solas y víctimas de todo tipo de violencia, es el edificio que ocupa la planta baja de la Locanda del Samaritano, en Via Santa Maddalena 17 de Catania.



Mario Sirica, director of the Locanda del Samaritano, 'in recent times, there has been an increase in requests for help from poor, vulnerable and marginalised women. Elisa, Laura, Paola, Zatarra, Samira are just some of the names of the women who have come to us. Their stories are different but they are all representations of the "web of suffering". Hence the idea of creating a welcoming space for longer and the beginning of the renovation that was carried out thanks to the architects Claudio Torrisi, Erica Drago and Erika Zappalà of the Modus Lab studio and the visual artist Davide Sorge'.

The works were financed by the Azimut Foundation (thanks to the support of Paola Riccioli, managing partner of the Azimut Ente Filantropico Foundation), which has already made possible the creation of the 'Pane Quotidiano' Solidarity Cafeteria in Via Sant'Agostino 5/7.

The Women's House 'Lumière' consists of 12 beds in three rooms, each with an en-suite bathroom. Three modern rooms, with attention to detail by the architects. Each room is connected by a corridor enriched with coloured tiles in shades of blue, a soft and restful hue, while the floors and walls are light-coloured to brighten up the atmosphere, which is also enriched by a modern lighting system.

"The name Lumière", explains Sister Rosanna Pitarresi, director of the Pius IX Institute - "House of Smiles", a community for minors - "is inspired by the experience of Saint Louise de Marillac, co-founder of the Vincentian Sisters. In a dark moment of her life, Louise asked the Lord for a time of light, she asked to be freed from anguish and doubt. That is why we want this space to be a place of light and rebirth for the women who will be welcomed.

Present at the inauguration on Friday 8 March, the day on which International Women's Rights Day is celebrated, in Via Santa Maddalena no. 17 (CT) were the Archbishop of Catania, Monsignor Luigi Renna, Her Excellency the Prefect of Catania, Carmela Librizzi, the Prefect of Catania, the Archbishop of Catania, the Prefect of Catania, Msgr, Carmela Librizzi, the Mayor Enrico Trantino, the Honourable Giuseppe Castiglione, the Councillor for Social Services of Catania Bruno Buccheri, Melania Miraglia President of the 8th Commission for Social Services and Equal Opportunities of the Municipality of Catania, Piermaria Capuana Vice-President of the 3rd Commission for Security and Legality of the Municipality of Catania, the Questore of Catania Giuseppe Bellassai, the Provincial Commander of the Carabinieri, Colonel Salvatore Altavilla, the Provincial Commander of the Guardia di Finanza, General Antonino Raimondo, the Parish Priest of the Cathedral Monsignor Barbaro Scionti, the Deputy Director of Caritas of Catania, Salvo Pappalardo and the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

The words of the Archbishop of Catania, Luigi Renna, were particularly heartfelt:

"The opening of casa Lumière," Archbishop Renna continued, "is a gift of Providence, and for this we must thank the Vincentian missionaries. I am pleased that the Lumière house is full of beauty and attention to detail, thanks to the architects. In many houses there is so much misery, and not only because of the lack of feelings, but also because of the places where there is no heating, there is mould, water comes in when it rains, and the saddest thing is that in these houses live children, who do not grow up in beauty. So thank you for this beautiful and charitable place. In this house someone will finally find the light and the strength to say NO to violence".

The inauguration was also attended by Vincentian volunteers from Messina and province, Avola, Syracuse, Catania and the confreres of Lamezia Terme with a representation of the parish.

The president of Banco Alimentare, Pietro Maugeri, volunteers from the Red Cross and other voluntary associations operating in the area.

We would like to thank: the Radice Pura Foundation for the plants offered to the Lumière house and the Pasubio bakery that made the Lumière cake for the inauguration.



RISING FROM THE ASHES: THIRTEEN 'MODEL' HOUSES TO REBUILD HOPE IN THE PHILIPPINES



After Typhoon Odette caused widespread destruction in the Philippines in December 2021, the Vincentian Foundation, in partnership with other Vincentian branches, embarked on a mission to bring hope and resilience to communities devastated by the disaster.

As soon as the extent of the damage became apparent, the Vincentian Family began to help by delivering essential supplies to meet the urgent needs of families affected by the disaster. Simultaneously, rapid disaster assessments were carried out to understand the long-term needs of the communities. Among the ruins, a pressing need emerged: the construction of typhoon-resistant housing.

The Vincentian Foundation and Vincent Helps submitted a project proposal to the Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA) to assist families with partially or totally damaged housing.

Thanks to the kindness of the Vincentian Family and the public, who responded generously to FHA's emergency appeal, the project progressed through important stages, each of which brought it closer to the goal of building disaster-resistant housing. At the end of August 2022, the completion of 100 home repair kits was celebrated, a testament to the heartfelt and impactful response to the disaster.





With meticulous planning and collaboration, the project took shape in five areas: Payatas, Quezon City; Irosina, Sorsogon; Monkayo and New Bataan in Davao de Oro; and Lawaan, Eastern Samar.

The pre-construction phase brought together communities, local government units and volunteer engineers. Coordination meetings and community consultations paved the way for a collective effort to build not just houses, but resilient communities.

The construction phase relied on the tireless efforts of the Vincentian Foundation and its partners. Each housing unit is a symbol of hope and resilience. Today, the completion of the 10 typhoon-resistant housing units is a testament to the collective efforts and determination. Families once exposed to danger now have a safe haven. The project also saw the emergence of new livelihood opportunities, such as in Payatas, Quezon City, with the construction of a mini grocery shop for a beneficiary family.

FHA and the Vincentian Family of the Philippines extend their deepest gratitude to all the supporters, donors, collaborators and staff involved in this transformative journey.

With three more housing units to be completed by the end of 2023, the story continues, driven by a continuing spirit of generosity and compassion. The thirteen houses in these areas will be used as "models" in the construction of the next houses that will benefit a total of 800 families. In this story of recovery, these typhoon-resistant housing units are a symbol of a better future for resilient communities in the Philippines.

Irosina, Sorsogon

FR. NELIO PEREIRA PITA VISITS SPAIN



Holy Wednesday was a day of meetings, with the official visit of Fr Nelio, Assistant General of the Congregation of the Mission.

After celebrating the Eucharist in our chaplaincy of the Provincial House of the Daughters of Charity, Fr. Nelio met with representatives of the pastoral council and groups of St. Gonzalo, and was presented with the pastoral life of the parish. He encouraged us to continue to be a lively and united parish, taking care of the welcome, the music in the celebrations and the evangelisation through the homily.

Then we visited our house in Bollullos, where some migrant families from Senegal are now living, hosted by the Vincentian Family Association.

In the afternoon we had a meeting of the Vincentian Family in our house with Fr. Nelio, where each branch was presented and we were invited to take care of family ties and fidelity to the charism that unites us.

The meeting ended with the concelebrated Eucharist prepared by the coordinator of the Vincentian Family and sung by the choir of the Miguel de Mañara House.





CELEBRATION OF THREE
DIAMOND JUBILARIANS AT
THE MISSION HOUSE IN
PANNINGEN
(NETHERLANDS)



March 19, 2024, the feast of St. Joseph, was one of the most memorable events in the Lazarist House of Panningen, Netherlands. Three confreres celebrated their 60th anniversary of the priesthood: Bishop Theo van Ruijven, Frans Bomers and Leo Mouës. They were ordained priests in 1964 along with eight classmates at the Lazarists' chapel in Panningen.



Missionary Bram Heijboer (classmate) came from Indonesia, to share in the jubilee celebration. Almost a hundred people—siblings, relatives, and friends joined in the celebration.

Theo van Ruijven grew up in Rijswijk in a family of 13 children. He wanted to become a priest and did his training with the Lazarists in Wernhoutsburg, Panningen and Eefde. After ordination, he was assigned to Ethiopia. There he learned the Amharic language; he worked in the Kaffa province. Theo became superior of Bonga and later of Addis Ababa and was twice appointed consultor of the province. He was appointed Apostolic Prefect of Jimma Bonga in 1998 and Apostolic Vicar of Nekemte in 2009. In January 2024, he returned to Panningen for good and went into retirement. With great gratitude, he celebrated his diamond priesthood together with his classmates.

Leo Mouës grew up in Panningen in a family of four children. Even as a teenager, he wanted to become a priest. He joined the Lazarist community, sincerely wanting to make a difference in the lives of people. After his ordination, he worked in Central America, teaching in Panama, El Salvador and Guatemala. He served in a parish of 16,000 people 2,500 feet up in the mountains. In 1976, he returned to the Netherlands and went to work in the parish of Eindhoven, where he also became superior of the house.

In 1988, he became the pastor of the hospital in Venlo and in 2000, of the nursing home in Meijel. Since 1986 he has held various positions in the Provincial Council. Today he is a council member and econome of the Mission House in Panningen.

Frans Bomers grew up in Groenlo in a family of 10 children. Together with his brother Henny Bomers, he did his formation with the Lazarists. Frans left for Formosa (Taiwan) in 1964.

Mission for him meant helping the poor and sick. Together with his brother Cor Willems he started a project for children with polio; in more than 20 years they were able to help almost 800 children, giving them a future. He also worked as a student chaplain in Taipei.

In 1980 he returned to the Netherlands and lovingly served several parishes, churches and nursing homes. Frans feels most at home in being close to people. For him, the Gospel of God is the greatest gift to the world.

During the Eucharistic celebration, the seven deceased classmates were also remembered in gratitude; Harrie Willemsen, Frits Peeters, Jan van Broekhoven, Bertus Post, Henny Bomers, Harrie Maessen and Linus Roelofs.



A HOLY WEEK IN ALBACETE
WITNESS, VOCATION AND COMMUNITY



At the end of the rainy Holy Week of this year 2024 we are grateful for the great opportunity we have been offered to live the experience in the Community that the Congregation of the Mission has in Albacete. We arrived on Holy Wednesday afternoon and left for our places of origin on Easter Monday morning. We can say that these days have been truly holy. This in the sense that in all the activities and in all the experience lived in this community we have discovered the example of holiness; understanding it as the profound living of the Gospel in the style of St. Vincent de Paul; that is to say, one is a saint because one lives as a Saint and one lives as a Saint because one lives for the Mission.

With the chaplains, the two boys, we went, on two occasions, to get to know the Mission that takes place in the Hospital. We were not really familiar with this apostolate, but getting to know it was not only exciting, it was a perfect example of what is required of those of us who confess to be Christians and missionaries: It is not a matter of giving "sermons". It is about looking, seeing and feeling, giving company and being a witness of life and dignity in the sick. This was demonstrated by the joy the sick felt when they saw us entering their rooms.

We also went to the Penitentiary Centre "La Torrecica". We were struck by this very Vincentian charism of radical respect for the dignity of every person, their right to dignity and confidence in reintegration. The prisoners taught us something important: that Christ the Lord makes himself present in such humble signs as the washing of feet or the Stations of the Cross. They reflected that Christ, the liberator and companion, who will soon put his hand on those who cry out to him.

In the activities of the parishes of St. Vincent de Paul and La Estrella-La Milagrosa, which were fully participated in, we felt that they succeeded in making the Risen One present, but a Risen One absolutely humanised, they were for us an injection of faith, a renewal of our baptism and a confirmation of our vocational journey. All this, from a plurality of cultures, of religious ideals, but, above all, from rowing towards the same shore which is Christ the Risen Lord.





The most important thing for us is to be able to affirm that, on returning to our daily life, we feel the "Vincentian Way" beating within us. From the emotion of experiencing how a simple and dedicated life at the service of the poor in the mission becomes true, without the need for words. This was palpable in the fraternal atmosphere of the community that welcomed us, which filled us with immense and profound joy.

For all this, thank you. Thanks to all those we met during these days: in the Hospital, in the Penitentiary Centre, in the parishes of La Estrella-La Milagrosa and St. Vincent de Paul, in the Daughters of Charity, in the Sisters of the Ave Maria and in the community of the Vincentians. Above all, thanks be given to God who wanted to teach us this Holy Week this missionary way of life.

In short, it has been an experience that confirms the vocational journey that we are making in the Congregation of the Mission.

Raúl and Miguel

PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH CENTENARY
OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE
CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION



Congregación de la Misión
de **San Vicente de Paúl**

Praise and honor to You, God of mercy,
who always accompany our steps
along the paths of history.

We thank you because you have chosen
Vincent de Paul and, for your Church,
you converted him into a prophet of charity and justice.

You called him to be an icon of Christ,
the Good Shepherd, who cares for the least
and the fragile, the lost and the excluded.

Your Spirit of truth and light,
inflamed his heart with a great love.
Through him you raised up
the Little Company, which, for four centuries,
tells of your solidarity with the poor of the Earth.

Make us today men of prayer,
capable of his regard for human miseries,
nourished by the Eucharist you place in our hands
and by the Gospel you entrust to our lips.

Let there burn in our hearts the fire
of tenderness and mission.
Make us never lose the memory
that everything is your gift.

Amen.

Movements

NOMINATIONES

SCALLON Paschal Malachy Kevin	13/03/2024	Visitor Ireland (Reconfirmed)
ZAPOTOCZNY Bogdan	13/03/2024	Director DC Krakow, Poland (Reconfirmed)

ORDINATIONES

HERNÁNDEZ HERNÁNDEZ Harold Alberto	Sac	PER	16/03/2024
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NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
DZIĘGAŁA Jerzy Stefan	Sac	08/03/2024	POL	77	59
DEVETAK Jurij	Sac	14/03/2024	SLN	82	64
LANDERAS MANZANEDO Víctor	Sac	14/03/2024	SVP	94	78
TOBAR GÓMEZ Victorino	Sac	14/03/2024	SVP	78	60
ARRIZURIETA SAGASTIBELZA Cándido	Sac	29/03/2024	CAE	95	77



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