

NUNNTIA

APRIL 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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UPDATE ABOUT THE MAISON MÈRE RENOVATION

The renovation of our Maison Mère suddenly became more visible. But, before diving into that, let me catch you up on the less visible work, the renovation that has been going on inside the building.

During the last few months of 2023 and these first months of 2024, we have been working on the St. Marc and St. Joseph corridors (East rear wing which has the main dining room on the ground floor). When finished (by early June), each will have 18 fully renovated rooms with bathrooms (shower, sink, toilet). Two rooms on each floor are set up for people with limited mobility, those who use wheelchairs, etc.

Once these are complete, the workers will begin the renovation of St. Matthew and Sacre Coeur corridors which are on the front east wing, above the chapel. Of note, the two top-floor corridors and all their rooms (Sacre Coeur and St. Joseph) will be airconditioned. These rooms, directly under the roof, were miserably hot during the summer. They won't be any longer. Thanks be to God!

As exciting as it is to have about 60 fully renovated rooms available now for confreres and other pilgrims, and to know that more will become available soon, this progress is hidden. You must be inside the house, on an upper floor, to see what has been done.



In stark contrast, the front courtyard, visible from the street, is being renovated from roof to pavement. Yes, everything from roofing shingles to gutters and downspouts, to stonework and windows and doors to paving stones and the statue of St. Vincent that welcomes every resident and guest will be cleaned, repaired, replaced, or whatever is required for it to serve us well into the future and to look like new too.

From my room in the west rear wing where I am writing this, I can see workers in the rooms on the east wing replacing windows and painting walls. I also can hear the sounds of the work being done by workers on that scaffolding that wraps around the front courtyard. These are the sights and sounds of progress. And I am very grateful for them and for the donors who are helping to make this renovation happen.

There always is more to tell about this renovation project. But, this seems enough for today. If you want to read more, see more photos, please visit:

cmmaisonmere.org

How is fund raising going? Glad you asked! If you or someone you know would like to contribute to this massive project, visit the website and click “donate.” Questions? You can reach me (in any language) via WhatsApp: +1 312.2081595, text or email mp@vims1617.org.

Come and visit your Maison Mère!

Mark Pranaitis, C.M.





MONSIGNOR VIÇOSO'S DAY IN MARIANA - BRAZIL



The city of Mariana - MG hosted the Day of Monsignor Viçoso on 20 and 21 April 2024. This activity is part of the series of actions called by the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission in this time of jubilee experience (2023-2025), when the 400th anniversary of the Juridical Foundation of the Congregation of the Mission will be celebrated on 17 April 2025. On this occasion we reflect on what unites and gives meaning to the work of the Little Company: the call that God makes to each of its members to assume the Vincentian mission, Monsignor Viçoso being an excellent reference in this regard.

Academic and Cultural Part

The first part of the day began at 8 a.m. on the morning of the 20th, at the Dom Luciano Mendes Faculty, with a Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Monsignor Francisco Barroso and concelebrated by the confreres and clergy of Mariana present, celebrated in the internal chapel of the Faculty. At 9 o'clock, in the auditorium, the Word of Welcome was given by Monsignor Edmar Silva, bishop-elect for the auxiliary of the Archdiocese of Belo Horizonte and current Director General of the Faculty. Then, Father Cleber Teodósio, CM moderated the main conference: "The presence of the Lazarists in the Archdiocese of Mariana: echoes of a legacy", given by Father Dejair De Rossi, CM. After a short coffee break, the day continued with a panel moderated by Father Edvaldo Melo, where Father José Carlos spoke on "The Life of Monsignor Viçoso"; Prof. João Paulo, on "Mons. João Paulo, on "Monsignor Viçoso, humanist: his fight against slavery"; Father Sebastião Carvalho, CM, on "Caraça and the mission of Monsignor Viçoso today" and Prof. Maurílio Câmello, on "Monsignor Viçoso, virtues and reputation for holiness", the latter by videoconference. Soon a space for dialogue was opened for questions and answers on the contents presented, with emphasis on the collaboration with Merania Oliveira, who highlighted Monsignor Viçoso as a great advocate of female education, bringing the Daughters of Charity to Brazil. In the afternoon, the Vincentian students present visited museums and the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of the Assumption of Mariana.

Religious and Spiritual Part

The second part of the day began at 7:30 a.m. on the 21st, with a pilgrimage from the old Minor Seminary of Mariana to the Carthusian Monastery of Monsignor Viçoso in three acts. The meeting took place in the courtyard of the Capela da Boa Morte, where the first act took place, when the Lazarist Students presented Monsignor Viçoso as "The Missionary". At the next stop, in front of the Portico of the St. Joseph Major Seminary, the Internal Seminarians, in the second act, dramatised Monsignor Viçoso in the form of an interview, as "Formator of the Clergy". Finally, in front of the Charterhouse, Dona Efigênia, a resident of Mariana, in the third act, spoke about "Monsignor Viçoso, the Saint". The day concluded in the shade of the trees, next to the Charterhouse of Monsignor Viçoso, with the Eucharistic Celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday, liturgically animated by seminarians of the Congregation of the Mission, presided over by the Provincial Visitor, Father Vandeir Barbosa, CM, and concelebrated by the Vincentian priests: Allan Ferreira, Cleber Teodósio, Denilson Matias, Francisco Ermelindo and Gustavo Alvino and by Father Geraldo Buziani, parish priest of the Cathedral and local leader of the Charterhouse.



Attached part

We would also like to highlight moments that were not on the programme, but which enriched the day: a) the seminarian from Mariana, Andrey Soares, who presented part of his research on the Charterhouse, pointing out that three priests were ordained there, b) the speech of Fr. Francisco Ermelindo, CM on the simplicity of the Charterhouse, and c) and the poetry: "O Santo Particular" by Carlos Drumont de Andrade, recited by Professor Jailda Freitas:

"The family saint

Humble and strong, who can

In the mining sky

Aureus of the subtitles?

Isn't he canonised? Whatever.

And he has a saint at hand: our almost-neighbour of Mariana.

Santinhos", "bentinhos", red "bentinhos".

They don't reproduce your image.

Neither veronica nor leaflet day.

They announce this saint

But he's a saint, daddy knows, he says.

Monsignor Viçoso, in Alpestre

Carthusian monastery of Mariana

He stands between us and paradise.

Solve daddy's business".



Virtues of Monsignor Viçoso

There were many teachings that were impossible to summarise in these lines. Living the journey was the right decision to absorb closely the magnitude of the person of Monsignor Antônio Ferreira Viçoso who had a deep faith and a vigorous trust in Divine Providence; of a lively and dynamic hope that was expressed in his absolute fidelity to God; his was a charity that translated into an affectionate love for the Lord; his prudence was manifested in his ability to discern and weigh up situations, in his balanced stance and in his sensible decisions; his justice was reflected in his rectitude and transparency towards God and his brothers; his strength was manifested in his tenacity and perseverance in doing good, in perseverance, in the practice of virtues, without being overcome by the fears, dangers and misunderstandings that naturally came his way; his temperance was associated with his will to always keep reason and emotion in line; a shepherd with the smell of sheep, as Pope Francis would call him today; in short, a holy man of singular virtues who can and should be imitated by all those who want to follow Jesus Christ, evangeliser of the poor.

To find out more...

We recommend the 4th edition of the work: "Vida de Dom Antônio Ferreira Viçoso, Bispo de Mariana e Conde da Conceição, do Padre Silvério Gomes Pimenta" (Life of Father Silvério Gomes Pimenta).



THE PROVINCE OF
CONGO HAS WELCOMED
3 NEW PRIESTS



On this 5th Sunday of Easter, 28 April 2024, the CM Province of Congo welcomed 3 new priests: Fathers Ronsard MBOOBATA, Michel DJAMBU and Daniel MBOYO. They were ordained priests by the imposition of hands by His Excellency Mgr Ernest NGBOKO, CICM, Metropolitan Archbishop of Mbandaka-Bikoro, in the parish of St Vincent de Paul in Bikoro (125 km from the city of Mbandaka), a pastoral region served by the Lazarist confreres. On behalf of the archdiocese, this Eucharistic celebration also marked the diocesan pilgrimage on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Isidore Bakanja, a layman and martyr of the archdiocese, beatified by St. John Paul 2 on 24 April 1994 in Rome. In his homily, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Mbandaka-Bikoro reminded the newly ordained of the role and mission of the priest in the Roman Catholic Church. Speaking at the end of the mass, before a large crowd from the four corners of the archdiocese, a large number of Lazarist priests and nuns and diocesans, Father Visitor, on behalf of the Superior General, thanked the Archbishop and congratulated and encouraged the new priests to remain in Jesus, evangeliser of the poor, and to be signs and daughters of St. Vincent de Paul.



BERCEAU SCHOOL - PROVINCE OF ARGENTINA



After a long journey, for some, the arrival is tiring. Others, on the other hand, arrive from shorter distances. The welcome from Sister Juana Araujo and Father Gustavo Gonzalez was warm and friendly, and in the face of the questions with which we all arrived, everyone's expectations prevailed.

In the evening we shared Mass and supper, a time when we began to get to know each other a little. After a long day we went to our rooms to rest and were motivated for the beginning of Monday.



Monday: "The Beginning

Little by little the groups are being put together, which are characterised by a combination of communities and nationalities. Different activities of formation, group dynamics, prayer and we begin to feel the distance from our nuclei, although the atmosphere among us becomes open and predisposed to the meeting, we end the day harvesting various teachings both formal and experiential.

Tuesday: "The organisation".

Our day was based on seeking to represent the organization as a characteristic of the Vincentian charism and in this search we discovered the diversity of personalities, approaches, ways of working, a situation in which we felt a challenge that with the passing of the hours we were able to resolve, validating the possibility of disagreement. However, in the Vincentian way, we also discovered that there is an organisation that sometimes we do not seek, but we achieve.

Wednesday: "Tenderness".

The activities carried out led us to visualise in different situations a presence, simple and delicate: the value of tenderness represented in a particular way in Saint Louise de Marillac. Through the training spaces and spontaneous encounters, we were able to feel how some bonds began to be strengthened and to achieve this, it was necessary to learn to contemplate the other person and to accept him/her.





Thursday: "The Encounter".

A different kind of day that invites us to meet the Daughters of Charity and a very special mission: the assistance to people with leprosy and mental health difficulties, the Leprocomio. Each of the participants will have experienced a particular emotion when encountering a situation of pain, a situation that allowed us to experience the encounter with the other and to be able to see the face of Jesus present in the most vulnerable and also in each one of us, harvesting the most refined perception of the connection with the other person.

The interpellation of St. Vincent's life and his context led us to make sense of everything we learnt during these days, we managed to understand the encounter that generates in him the shock of going through the same situation. And not to take an indifferent attitude towards the realities observed.

Friday: "Return".

What will it be like to meet our daily environment? Even though it will remain the same, we return with a transformed heart, and with the desire to meet again.

Verónica Zalazar - Nadia Franov





APVC ANNUAL MEETING 2024

The Province of South India played host to this year's meeting of the Asia-Pacific Visitors Conference (APVC), headed by its Visitor, Fr. Anil Thomas Karackavayalil, CM, who, at the time of the meeting, was the President of APVC. The event was participated in by the Visitors of the Chinese Province, North India, Indonesia, Oceania, the Philippines and Vietnam. The Superiors of the North East Region of India and the International Mission of Papua New Guinea and the APVC Executive Secretary were also present. The annual meeting was also graced by the presence of Fr. Gregorio Bañaga Jr., CM, the Vicar General. Only the Superior of the International Mission of Solomon Islands did not make it to the gathering. A presentation of his written update report made up for his absence. The meeting was held in the City of Mysore (Karnataka State, India) from April 8-13, 2024 and it began with Fr. Anil welcoming the participants and presenting the agenda and timetable of the meeting for the group's approval. Formally, he opened the session by sharing his thoughts on the theme: "APVC 2024 & the Relevance of the Vincentian Charism Today," as the Congregation of the Mission worldwide celebrates its 400th Canonical Foundation Anniversary in 2025. He highlighted St. Vincent's legacy of sending missionaries to the peripheries and breaking down barriers and customs that prevent us from serving the poor and preaching mercy & compassion to them. It was followed by the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting held in Fiji Islands last year. In general, the proceedings were divided into three parts: (a.) Sharing of information & updates from the Curia, the different Provinces and International Missions. Then, (b.) followed by the business part of the meeting where APVC concerns were discussed and deliberated upon, particularly topics like formation of formators, the next Asia-Pacific Regional Formators (APRF) meeting in Vietnam, the meeting on Popular Mission in Indonesia and the APVC Meeting with the General Curia in 2026 in Indonesia, among others.

Another highlight of the meeting was the election of the new APVC President in the person of Fr. Peter Solis, CM of the Philippine Province. He will serve as President for a period of three years. And, finally, (c.) the group spent some time for an ongoing formation. For this, the Vicar General, Fr. Gregg, led the reflection and sharing on Vincentian Spirituality by giving a talk on “Mysticism of Charity.” Daily Eucharist, Morning & Evening prayers fueled our spirits all throughout the days of the meeting, while a smorgasbord of delicious Indian cuisine served at every meal at the venue nourished our bodies. The occasion also afforded the participants with an opportunity to get to know more about the host Province by meeting some confreres and visiting some of the different local houses and apostolates within the vicinity of Mysore. Towards the end of the week, a day was also spent for a day-tour of the city, which brought us to visit the famous Mysore Palace, St. Philomena Shrine, St. Joseph Cathedral, Vishwam museum & Bonsai garden, and the almost a century-old Brindavan gardens. APVC is grateful to Fr. Anil Thomas and the confreres of the South Indian Province for a fruitful and well-planned meeting and for letting us feel at home with their exceptionally warm Mysuru hospitality.

Fr. Dario D. Pacheco, CM
APVC Executive Secretary

ANNUAL MEETING OF VISITORS FROM EUROPE (CEVIM)



The meeting was attended by eleven Visitors plus the two regional superiors of Albania and Hungary, together with the two Assistants General: Father Rafal Kopystynski and Nelio Pita.

Father Leonid, Vice-Visitor of Ukraine, was absent. After dinner on Monday 8th, the visitor from Slovenia, Father Robert Petkovsek, gave us a warm welcome and described the activities of the house.

The day of 9 April was devoted to formation and reflection on the theme of the "evangelising mission of the Congregation".

Three speakers took part.

Archbishop Anton Stres, CM . Archbishop emeritus of Ljubljana, explored aspects such as secularisation, the impact of culture, the involvement of the whole Church, the evangelisation of the poor and resistance to the defeatist sentiment prevailing in Europe.

Father Branko Cestnik, a Claretian, urged to be rooted in Jesus Christ and to be bold in mission, aware that Christ, dead and risen, must be proclaimed and that two-thirds of humanity does not know him. He urged to show joy and hope in approaching people.

Fr. Erminio Antonello, CM reported on preaching "missionary style".

The day ended with work in language groups to take stock of the 2022 General Assembly commitments and the 2023 CEVIM commitments. A group of singers enlivened the evening.

Day 10 was a very intense day of exchanges and work. We focused especially on the common response to the letter which the Superior General addressed to the Visitors of Europe on 15 March 2024.

In particular, he asked some provinces to invite confreres already working in the dioceses to join the Vincentian communities of the same country. The Provinces concerned accepted the request of Fr. Tomaz Mavrič and considered it important to include confreres from other continents in the Vincentian pastoral work in Europe by drawing up written agreements with the Provinces of origin.



They all welcomed the Superior General's invitation to broaden the commitment to the pastoral care of the popular missions and itinerant preaching through the formation of missionary communities that respond to the needs of welcoming and caring for immigrants in large European cities.

The encouragement received from Father Mavrič on vocation animation met with broad approval.

Finally on the commitment to make St. Vincent and the Congregation of the Mission known in parishes throughout Europe with dedicated animation activities, it seemed a challenge that can be achieved through the media and new forms of communication.

The Superior General also called for a reduction in the number of parishes and our involvement in them, but a systematic review of ministries in the European provinces is already underway.

It was decided to continue with the commitments made in previous years: in particular, to update the data of each province on the Cevim website, to share the protocols on the abuse of minors, to inform the other European provinces of the spiritual exercises of the province and to promote the participation of a confrere and a lay person in the Vincentian Master.

It was decided that the date of the meeting of young men in formation and first years of priesthood will be 23-27 July 2025 in Paris. On 2/12 May 2025, also in Paris, a meeting of CM Visitors will take place three years after the General Assembly.

It was agreed that SIEV will organise an "on-line" formation meeting (with simultaneous translation) for CEVIM missionaries in this year 2024 and in preparation for the 400th anniversary of the foundation of our Congregation. In this regard, the Province of France has been entrusted with the organisation of the European Meeting of Young Vincentians in July 2025.

After three years of service, the Permanent Council was renewed as required by the Statutes. President: Fr. Pawel Holc (Poland). Vice-President: Fr. Fr Frédéric Pellefigue (France). Third member: Fr. Pedro Guimaraes (Portugal). Secretary: Fr. Adam Borowski (Poland).

Thursday 11 was devoted to culture and conviviality. A visit to the ruins of the Carthusian monastery of Zice, a testimony to the Christian roots of this part of Europe. Another visit to the city of Ptuj, at the confluence of ancient Illyria and Pannonia, with reminiscences of Roman times. After lunch, celebration of the Eucharist presided over by Cardinal Franc Rodé, CM at the sanctuary of Ptujaska Gora. In Zibika, in the midst of green forests, we enjoyed an excellent dinner accompanied by a nice quartet of young musicians.

Our sincere thanks to Fr. Robert, Visitor of Slovenia, for the good organisation of everything.



XIX CIF ON THE
VINCENTIAN CHARISM AND
SPIRITUALITY



Dear confreres:

The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with us!

I inform you that the II CIF Meeting for Lifelong Formation in Asia has already been held. Specifically, it was held in Mysore, India in February 2024. Now, we are a few days away from starting the VII CIF For the Vincentian Family. Which will begin on Sunday, May 5. At this moment I want to ask you to send confreres for the third CIF of this year. Which is it?

XIX CIF ON THE CHARISM AND VINCENTINE SPIRITUALITY.

They arrive on Sunday, November 3 and depart on Sunday, November 24, 2024. It will take place in our Lazarist Mother House in Paris, France. This CIF is exclusive for members of the Congregation of the Mission. It is proposed to all confreres who want to delve deeper into our rich spiritual heritage. If anyone wants to do it a second or third time, they will always be welcome since it is very formative to “go back to the sources.”

This Meeting works on various thematic areas. From aspects of greater innovation in the service of the poor and in the persuasive communication of the evangelizing message to the knowledge of our congregational heritage. This also means increasing Vincentian walks in Paris as well as pilgrimages to Vincentian sites in France. Likewise, we remind you that the official languages are: Spanish, English and French.

Key date: Registration closes on Friday, October 4. To register, I ask you to write to me at andresmotto@gmail.com. The cost of the course is 1800 euros. We are always grateful to those who send the money to the CIF a few days before the Meeting.

From now on, specific training to go to mission places ad gentes will be given in various specialized centers on this topic.

I share with joy that the number of participants in the CIF is increasing. This commits us to continue improving the management of the CIF. We are convinced that if we provide a quality Meeting, the Vincentians will want to do the CIF, they will want to do it again, they will invite others, since they are going to spread it. Know that we are committed to achieving a simple, flexible and fraternal CIF.

I don't want to tire you out, but I am sharing some useful practical information with you. 1. The price of the Meeting includes all expenses. 2. The Paris Motherhouse noticeably increased the number of people staying here. So, I ask participants to arrive on the same day or the day before, not before. The same for departure, since the rooms are already reserved for other people.

3. The best thing is for the interested confrere to write to me directly by email and I will send him the registration. It is the shortest path. 4. Remember that many countries need a visa to enter France. This process should be started early. For these confreres, along with all the registration data they must add

A) Photocopy of the Passport. B) Date of entry and exit from France, C) Very important, add the Photocopy of the Travel Medical Insurance for the days you are in France (without this information the French government does not allow you to start the Attestation). Another piece of information is that confreres must always send photocopies, not photos taken from their cell phones. The photo is fast but sometimes the data is not so legible and more than once they reject the processing. Once our Attestation reaches them, the confrere must request an appointment at the French Consulate in their country, so that this Attestation becomes a Visa.

I ask you to collaborate with us in announcing the CIF. Our International Vincentian Formation Center began in 1994 but there are still many people in the Congregation and the Vincentian Family who do not know of our existence. Please use your personal or community social networks to spread the word. The more visibility we give to the CIF, the more we will be strengthening our ongoing training of excellence.

If you have any questions, let me know. As always united in prayer and action.

Your very humble and obedient servant,

Pbre ThD. Andrés MOTTO, CM CIF Director

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



Congregation of the Mission
of **Saint Vincent de Paul**

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

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|--|
| DI TRAPANI Valerio | 18/04/2024 | Visitor Missionari Vincenziani Italia |
| VAN KNIPPENBERG Tjeu (M.P.J.) | 17/05/2024 | Vice-Visitor DC Cologne - Netherlands - (Reconfirmed) |

ORDINATIONES

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| JUNIOR DA CUNHA Ramon Aurélio | Sac | FLU | 06/04/2024 |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|------------|

NECROLOGIUM

| Nomen | Cond. | Dies ob. | Prov. | Aet. | Voc. |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| EGÜÉS BERRIO Jesús María | Sac | 02/04/2024 | CAE | 78 | 61 |
| ZEDDE Italo | Sac | 04/04/2024 | ITA | 83 | 65 |
| ARROYO CAÑADA* Esteban | Fra | 21/04/2024 | SVP | 88 | 70 |
| McGEOUGH Martin F. | Sac | 24/04/2024 | ORL | 76 | 56 |



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