

NUNNTIA

MAY 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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"I have loved you with an everlasting love and drawn you with mercy"
Jer 31,3

The Province of Fortaleza of the Congregation of the Mission (Brazil), in the joys of the jubilee year in which we are preparing to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation, is pleased to incorporate one more member.

On May 1, 2024, liturgical memorial of St. Joseph the Worker, in the parish church of São Raimundo Nonato, in Belém-PA, Holy Mass was presided by Fr. Nélio Pita, CM (Assistant General). On that occasion, the seminarian Samuell Victor Soares Menezes, CM, took the Perpetual Holy Vows of Stability, Poverty, Obedience and Chastity in the Congregation of the Mission and was thus incorporated into the "little company" of St. Vincent de Paul.

In his homily, Fr. Nélio recalled that this full membership in the Congregation creates a permanent mutual relationship between the incorporated missionary and the community, and pointed out that the deepest meaning of the vows in the Congregation stems from their relationship with the mission, since they are ordained to evangelise the poor.

The celebration took place in an atmosphere of great joy in the presence of the provincial superior, several confreres, friends, Daughters of Charity, religious, Vincentian Family movement, benefactors and lay people who were able to participate in this unique and festive moment for the Province and the Congregation.







CHINESE PROVINCE
HOLDS ITS PROVINCIAL
ASSEMBLY



The Province of China held its Provincial Assembly from 6-9 May 2024 to deepen some crucial issues that may affect the future of the province. Fr. Ferdinand Labitag led the meeting of 18 confreres in giving the first reports on the state of the province for 2023. Providing the confreres with data, critical information and analysis on finances, vocation and personnel, ministries and administration, he prepared them for the discussion.

With the theme Revitalising the Identity of the Chinese Province of the Congregation of the Mission, topics were carefully selected and presented by different confreres on issues related to migration, reconfiguring parish ministry, establishing partners for the province, and developing the province's properties. The confreres were given time to express their views and ideas on each presentation, as a way of initiating conversation on topics that had never before been discussed at length in plenary. Hopefully these conversations will move forward and bear fruit in the near future.



COMMUNITY EXCURSION TO TAIWAN



Our recent excursion to Taiwan was an enlightening and spiritually enriching experience. Dandy Labitag, CM, Provincial Visitor of the Province of Taiwan, our trip provided us with a multitude of insightful lessons and memorable moments.



One of the most profound learnings from our journey was the importance of bonding with our confreres. In our busy lives as Vincentian priests, we often get caught up in our individual ministries and responsibilities. This excursion reminded us of the strength and support we draw from our brotherhood. These times of fellowship are not mere leisure activities; they are vital to nurture the spiritual and emotional well-being that sustains our ministry.

Rest also emerged as a crucial issue. In the hustle and bustle and demands of our pastoral duties, we sometimes forget that rest is not a luxury but a necessity. It rejuvenates our spirits and bodies, allowing us to return to our ministries with renewed vigour and clarity. This trip highlighted that taking time to rest and recharge our batteries is essential to our effectiveness as servants of the Lord.

In addition, learning about the different ministries of our confreres in Taiwan was inspiring. It broadened our perspective and opened our hearts to the diverse ways in which God's love and compassion are manifested across cultures. The richness of Taiwanese culture and the dedication of our confreres there taught us that evangelism is not a one-size-fits-all enterprise. It requires us to be adaptable, understanding and open-minded, always seeking to meet people where they are.





Our life as Vincentian missionaries is indeed holistic. We are called to integrate prayer, work, rest and recreation seamlessly into our lives. This balance is essential for us to be effective in our mission. By sowing positivity and embodying the values of our faith in all aspects of our lives, we become living testimonies of God's love, inviting others to join us on this rewarding journey.

To all young people discerning their path in life, we extend an invitation: consider a life of service and evangelism, especially to the marginalised. Our recent experience in Taiwan reaffirmed that this life, though challenging, is deeply rewarding. It offers a unique blend of spiritual growth, community bonding and cultural enrichment. Why not give it a try? Join us and become a beacon of hope and love in a world that needs you more than ever.

VSO
CAMEROON: IMPROVING
INCLUSIVE ACCESS TO
EDUCATION IN BORDER AREAS



Migrants from the Central African Republic flee political and sectarian violence in their country and arrive in eastern Cameroon. Many are Muslims from the Mbororo minority. The Vincentian Fathers here already take care of the education of the local indigenous community. The refugees from the R.A.C. have drastically increased the population. When the St. Vincent de Paul School in Belita, Cameroon, was opened, it had no buildings. Classes were held outdoors under the trees. Eventually they were able to build three classrooms. As the population in and around the village in eastern Cameroon has grown due to migration, these three classrooms have become very crowded. In 2023 the school, with the help of OSV, added two more classrooms. The school currently serves 177 children, and the number continues to grow. 25% of the pupils are migrants from the Central African Republic and attend the school free of charge. The school is attended by children of all religions. After the new classrooms were completed, a subsequent project added a toilet for student use, improving sanitation and safety. A borehole was built to supply water to the entire village throughout the year, especially in the dry season.



I BEGIN AGAIN WITH YOU
A CONCERT FOR LIFE AND
HOPE



To start again from God is to start walking anew, to become God's pilgrims again; to seek and find the truth of the meaning of life is the most hidden and invisible longing that God himself has hidden in a secret corner of every human heart, which impels one never to stand still from one's own point of view and gives the courage to set out on unexplored paths with the determination to reach a goal. Often it takes us a lifetime to seek happiness and so we delude ourselves with the illusion of holding on forever to what is instead limited in time.

In this earthly pilgrimage, God does not propose that we should be happy forever, but that we should receive a joy that no one can give and no one can take away. This joy is not to be found on today's market stall, it cannot be bartered, but is only a gift that can be received directly from Him. It is the gift of his resurrection: Jesus of Nazareth offers us today the possibility not to be happy forever in a pretended way, but to have a great joy of life that no external or internal situation can ever take away from us. It is the joy of the Holy Spirit that gives us eternal inner youth, that never tires us in the face of life's trials.

On 11 May 2024 a benefit concert in favour of the Vincentian Seminary of Chad and the Archbishop's Seminary of Palermo was held at the Teatro al Massimo in Palermo with the opera "Ricomincio da Te" written and conceived by Father Calogero Di Fiore C.M., parish priest of Palermo.





The event was attended by the entire parish community with its approximately 100 volunteers including choir, singers, musicians, technicians and security service. The concert was attended by the Archbishop of Palermo, Monsignor Corrado Lorefice, the Father General of the Congregation of the Mission, Father Tomaz Mavric, the Mayor of Palermo, Roberto Lagalla, and the Director of the Grimaldi Foundation, Luca Marciani, who brought together the entire Grimaldi family.

Ricomincio da Te is a work of evangelisation and vocational promotion that invites to the hope of a God who overcomes every death that crushes the man of today. This project represents the continuation of a journey that began about 10 years ago with the project 'In viaggio verso Te'. It is an attempt, through music and art, to involve a whole parish community in the evangelisation and promotion of the poor: the project aims to support the works of the parish, which has a home for poor cancer patients who come from all over Italy to be treated in specialised centres in Palermo.

Ricomincio da Te is a spiritual proposal to know how to stand up, take courage and embark on a path of hope that leads those who do so to return to Jesus of Nazareth, the only one who can answer the great questions of life today. It is the encounter with Jesus that can revitalise the lives of so many believers, of so many communities that seem to be dying out and whose heart seems to have become sterile.

Begin again with you is God's invitation to be a little more human in today's history inhabited by Him. It is to recognise that Jesus of Nazareth is present in everyday life: his gaze reaches us today, his words inhabit our present, his gestures are realised in our daily choices.

Today he cares for us and calls us to care for one another. He fixes us and calls each one of us by name, to become his disciples in our daily lives, in the place of our experiences, of our dramas. The musical language chosen tries to approach the current expressive style without falling into banality or stereotypes that often do not enhance the beauty of art.

Special thanks to Fabio Castorino, Valerio Massaro and Valentina Lombardo, to the pastor and conductor Cristiano Miraglia, to Ezio Mirrione, Giuditta Iesu, Cesare Biondolillo, to the Nuova Aurora choir, to all my collaborators and friends who work constantly behind the scenes, without whom this project would be impossible to realise. The Nuova Aurora project has the dream of making the joy of Christ burst forth in everyone's heart.

The proceeds from the sale of this work and from future concerts will go entirely to the charitable activities of the Congregation of the Mission.

We entrust this work of evangelisation to Mary so that the message of peace and hope may reach all the ends of the earth.

P. Calogero di Fiore CM







MISSION: A NEW
SPRING IS SLOWLY
FORMING

PANNINGEN

In 2023, a century had passed since some Lazarist fathers began their journey as missionaries from Panningen to Indonesia which country was called at that time : Dutch India. Rafael Isharianto, C.M., the Indonesia-born present superior of the Dutch Lazarists, found in this fact a reason to make an “Indonesia-year” to begin last year on 27 September, the feast-day of Saint Vincent de Paul, the founder of the Congregation of the Mission (C.M.), the official name of the Lazarist (or Vincentian) community. As part of it, there was on Ascension day, 9 May 2024, in the Saint Joseph mission house of that Congregation in Panningen, an open day with an exhibition of the local young men who went to Dutch India. Its title: was “On Mission for God and Homeland.” The exhibition presented us with pictures and stories of young men from Helden who at that period were sent there as young missionaries or as soldiers, respectively as chaplains or as members of the Police Actions.





Impressions

The open day showed not only a review of how mission was being understood in those old days. It also presented a view of the future of the Mission house, that is, which forms that mission might take nowadays. Besides the exhibition there was also a rummage sale and a book market. In the chapel traditional Indonesian dances were executed and Indonesian traditional clothing was shown.

Moreover all kinds of Indonesian snacks were offered to be enjoyed. All this had been organized with many volunteers and collaborators under the inspiring management of members of the initiating group Kepèl.



On Mission “for God and Homeland”

The exhibition in the Montgomery room about those who went to “India” unexpectedly drew many visitors, mostly present and former inhabitants of Helden. Many recognized in the pictures and the stories themselves family members or acquaintances who had gone to “India” as soldiers or as Lazarist missionaries. In this exhibition indeed, these young men acquired an identity through pictures, documents, fragments of views and of sounds, which had been organized by the broadcasting network P&M. The Helden customs and heritage study club was present, too. Their stall featured a special issue of their club magazine for sale, *De Moennik*, which was filled with stories by and about soldiers and Lazarist chaplains who had been sent to “India” for “God and Homeland.”

A new spring, a new time

As was said already: besides for the history, there was also attention paid to the future. A new initiative of the mission house, a very Vincentian one, is the soup kitchen where people can come for food or where they can volunteer with the cooking. Another initiative is a reading group in order to gain more in-depth knowledge about climate change, the greying of society, the problems about agriculture and energy united under the topic of “the art of changing direction.”

It was nice and encouraging to see that half of the local villages had come out for this open day.

Louis Sibbald

P. FARI CM WRITES TO THE
VISITORS AND
COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICERS OF CM



To the Visitors, Vice-Visitors and Regional Superiors To those in charge of Communications

Dear Confreres

I express my gratitude to the Superior General, Fr Tomaž, and his Council for having entrusted me with the direction of the Communications Office of the Congregation of the Mission in place of Fr Hugo M. Vera, whom I greet fraternally.

"Paul, after preaching in many places, arrived in Athens and went to the Areopagus, where he proclaimed the Gospel, using language suitable and understandable in that environment (Acts 17:22). The Areopagus then represented the centre of the culture of the enlightened Athenian people, and today it can be taken as a symbol of the new environments in which the Gospel is to be proclaimed. The first areopagus of modern times is the world of communications, which is unifying humanity, making it - as it is said - "a global village". (Redemptoris Missio, 37).

We too, members of the Congregation for the Mission, like all consecrated men and women, "are challenged in a new way by the need to bear witness to the Gospel through the means of social communication" (Vita Consecrata, 99).

We too want to inhabit the "digital streets" together, transforming "connections" into "relationships", "individual influencers" into "weavers of communion"; thus communication will no longer be a mere transmission of news, but a way of sharing stories and experiences of beauty or suffering, of prayer and the search for good, of initiatives in favour of the poor and the marginalised.

This is precisely the pastoral mission of the Communications Office: to form, to inform (ad intra and ad extra), to share, to proclaim the Word of God, to witness to our missionary commitment and the beauty of the Vincentian charism and spirituality through words and images contextualised with theological contents that support them.

From now on, I ask the Heads of Communication of the Provinces, Vice-Provinces and Regions for a fraternal, concrete and passionate collaboration, whose modalities and "strategies" we will share on a digital platform: 26 June 2024 h. 3.30 p.m. (Rome) for the Provinces of the West on June 27th 2024 h. 9.30 a.m. (Rome) for the Eastern Provinces.

Our meetings will be introduced by our Superior General, Fr Tomaž.

I entrust my service to your prayers.
I embrace you all.

Fr. Salvatore Farì CM

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

WILLIAMS Joseph	09/05/2024 (start 25/06/2024)	Visitor USA West
CARDONA SALAZAR Carlos Arley	20/05/2024 (start 16/06/2024)	Visitor Colombia
GERJOLI Stanko	15/05/2024	Director DC Slovenia

ORDINATIONES

GONG Joseph Li Zhao	Sac	SIN	25/04/2024
DJAMBU NYABOLEKA Michel	Sac	CNG	28/04/2024
MBOOBATA MBOKOLO Ronsard	Sac	CNG	28/04/2024
MBOYO YELA Daniel	Sac	CNG	28/04/2024
KAMUGISHA Allan	Sac	KEN	04/05/2024
MUTHOKA Anthony Kioko	Sac	KEN	04/05/2024
OTIENO Alex Odie	Sac	KEN	04/05/2024
ALMEIDA PIRES Adriano	Sac	FLU	11/05/2024
SUÁREZ CORDERO Luis Roberto	Sac	COS	11/05/2024
PALACIOS REYES José Alexander	Sac	ORL	18/05/2024
PIKOR Jakub Krzysztof	Sac	POL	18/05/2024
POKUSA Łukasz Marcin	Sac	POL	18/05/2024
SZCZYGIELSKI Kamil Mateusz	Sac	POL	18/05/2024
DA SILVA Fábio José	Sac	FLU	25/05/2024

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
RAZZU Giovanni Maria	Sac	06/05/2024	MAD	90	70
FRAILE SÁNCHEZ* Benito	Fra	07/05/2024	SVP	81	64
SALINERO MARTÍN Francisco	Sac	12/05/2024	SVP	89	71
BERRADE URRALBURRU Alfonso	Sac	19/05/2024	PER	84	66
ARBOLEDA VALENCIA Eduardo	Sac	25/05/2024	COL	95	78



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