

# Nuntia

Newsletter of the Congregation of the Mission

MARCH 2019

## VINCENTIAN FAMILY STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA

To all the members of the Vincentian Family (VF) in the world, and especially to our brothers and sisters in Venezuela, we express our concern and our solidarity in the face of the dramatic situation Venezuelans are experiencing in their country.

We are aware of the painful situation of injustice and suffering of the Venezuelan people due to the lack of what is necessary for a dignified and productive life, and their defenselessness before the growing injustice. We pray that the Venezuelan people maintain hope in the search for a peaceful and transparent socio-political and economic change. We also pray that this will lead the country to regain its full democracy, to achieve the recovery of the Rule of Law, the reconstruction of the social fabric, free economic production, and a national reconciliation in this always peaceful nation.

In this time of conflict, we call for the protection of the individual and collective rights as upheld in the national constitution and that international protocols be respected. We are greatly moved by the unbearable reality of the poor: growing famine, the inability to access medicines, depressed wages due to the ever-rising inflation, generalized insecurity and violence, the lack of access to jobs and adequate housing, etc. Faced with this humanitarian crisis the Vincentian Family would like to make ourselves present not only through solidarity in prayer and spiritual accompaniment, but also with help that relieves some of the pain of the most abandoned.

As people of faith and brothers/sisters in our common charism, we want to walk closely with the Venezuelan people on this long and painful way of the cross towards the fullness of Life (John 10:10). We would like to help them feel close to the God of Life through our compassionate embrace, our tireless prayer, and an international Vincentian aid campaign in favor of the poorest in the country as well as through the programs our Vincentian Family has in Venezuela.

We acknowledge all the members of the Vincentian Family who have developed their life and mission in the country. We know that their reality has forced them to extreme creativity in the service of the charism. We want to humbly join the many networks of solidarity and compassion that are focused on the increasing pain of the Venezuelan people.

At this crucial moment in the history of this brother country, we invite all the members of the Vincentian Family to join us in this gesture of communion and solidarity, each from their own abilities and areas of expertise.

We also invite our VF networks to welcome, protect and support all the Venezuelans migrating around the world. Close to 5 million Venezuelans today are refugees experiencing very dramatic conditions in Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Brasil, and other countries especially in the Americas and Europe.

We join in the desire and appeal that Pope Francis has made for the transformation of the country to happen without bloodshed and that this rebirth will lead to the total reconciliation of the country and the remediation of the broken tissues of society, from the expansion of opportunities for integral human development and from the reactivation of the values of peace and justice.

We trust in the God of history. He is the God of salvation and the liberating Jesus who tells us: "Do not be afraid, I will be with you every day until the end of the world" (Mt 28, 20). May Mary of Coromoto, national patron, protect Venezuela always, as we express our deepest solidarity! St. Vincent de Paul, and all our Vincentian Saints and Blesseds, pray for us!

Some suggestions for action

- 1. Spread the word:** Share the statement in your social networks, print it and distribute it, etc ...
- 2. Pray for Venezuela:** in private and in community.
- 3. Contribute with a donation:** personal or community (from your group, branch, school, parish ...).

#### **Bank accounts to send the donations:**

##### **Account holder: CONGREGACIÓN DE LA MISIÓN – PADRES VICENTINOS**

Bank: BANCOLOMBIA

Branch no 219, Calle 26 #32-61, Bogotá (Colombia)

Account number: 219-000127-25

SWIFT: COLOCOBM

Account currency: Colombian pesos

Transaction type: OUR or SHA

##### **Account holder: HIJAS DE LA CARIDAD DE SAN VICENTE DE PAÚL**

Bank: BANCOLOMBIA

Branch no 219, Calle 26 #32-61, Bogotá (Colombia)

Account number: 219-000126-82

SWIFT: COLOCOBM

Account currency: pesos colombianos

Transaction type: OUR o SHA

All the monies received in these accounts, managed by the Vincentian Family of Colombia, will be sent to our sisters and brothers in Venezuela.

Vincentian Family Office  
vfo@famvin.org

## FR. TOMAŽ MAVRIČ, CM VISITS DEPAUL FRANCE DAY CARE CENTER IN PARI

On Tuesday, March 26, 2019 Superior General visited l'Accueil Périchaux, a daytime care center in Paris managed by DePaul France as Daughters of Charity from Poznan-Chelmno Province in Poland report on their website.

Fr. Tomaž has met a group of visitors coming to the Center and volunteers. In his address, he talked about collaboration among various branches of the Vincentian Family. He mentioned that work in the Center may help them to discern their way of vocation and that fruits of such collaboration are enriching each other. The meeting was held in a joyful and family atmosphere. There was time for greetings, individual talks with volunteers and visitors, a common refreshment, group photos and a site seeing of the Center. In the end, Superior General blessed all the volunteers and those who come to visit the Center.

l'Accueil Périchaux was opened in October 2015. It was founded in collaboration by DePaul France, Daughters of Charity, Congregation of the Mission, Notre-Dame Foundation, Caritas France Foundation and Saint-Gobain Foundation. Some 25 to 40 homeless people from the streets of Paris are received in the Center every day. Members of various branches of the Vincentian Family, especially Daughters of Charity, Lazarists, and lay volunteers from SSVP are involved in this service.

The main goal of the Center is to help people experiencing the hardship of everyday life to keep up their human dignity. They can come to meet others in a safe, warm place, have breakfast, take shower and make laundry. Visitors can also get assistance in solving various administrative matters, applications of permission to legally stay in France, issuing personal documents, etc. Also, they can get help to have a doctor appointment or nurse consultation.

*Open this link to read the original story in Polish from the szarytki.chelmno.pl website:*  
<https://nuntia.eu/perichaux>

*translated and edited by: Tomasz Zielinski*

## VISIT OF FATHER JAVIER ÁLVAREZ, CM, VICAR GENERAL TO MEXICO

The Province of Mexico had the pleasure of welcoming the Vicar-General of the Congregation of the Mission, Father Javier Álvarez Manguía during the time of his visit (March 12-21, 2019).

This was a fraternal visit and an expected visit during which several meetings had been planned. The first of those meetings took place on March 14 at the National Basilica of Guadalupe. Prior to that gathering Father Javier visited the Vincentian Soup Kitchen located in the center of the city. This ministry is directed by Carlos Marcelino Cárdenas, CM and a group of volunteers who offer indigent individuals food and other services.

Father then traveled to Lagos de Moreno (Jalisco) where the following day he met with the members of the Commission on Initial Formation. At that meet Father was presented with the formation plan that has been developed and implemented (a competency-based model). Those present had the opportunity to speak about the value of the plan as well as to point out its limitations. At the same time the members were able to comment on the manner in which this the plan has been implemented at every stage of formation (from the stage of vocational promotion to on-going formation).

On March 16, Father Javier met with the members of the Provincial Council. The Visitor presented an overview of the Province and the members of council spoke about the various ministries and works of the Province. The challenges of the Province were highlighted, and this was done from the perspective of the various commissions in which the council members serve: formation, missions, missionary parishes, finances and Vincentian Family.

Father Javier spoke about some of the plans of the worldwide Congregation and the manner in which the Province could collaborate in those plans.

During his visit to the Basilica of San Juan de los Lagos and the Shrine of Saint Toribio Romo (the patron of migrants) Father Javier was able to experience the devotion and the piety of the people ... Father also visited the town of Tequila (Jalisco), the place of Saint Toribio's martyrdom.

Father then traveled to León, Guanajuato where the members of the community of María Reina awaited his arrival. There, Father Javier greeted and dialogued with the National President of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as well as the National President of the Vincentian Marian Youth. When returning to Mexico City we made a detour to the Cerro del Cubilete to view the image of Christ the King.

The following day, there was a dialogue with the confreres and the seminarists in the seminary of Tlalpan (Mexico City). At the conclusion of the dialogue there was a celebration of the Eucharist during which two of the seminarists received the ministry of lector. On March 19, the solemnity of Saint Joseph Father Javier visited the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity, celebrated the Eucharist there and shared a meal with the Sisters.

On March 20 (the birthday of Father Javier) the Director of the Daughters of Charity, the National Coordinator of the Vincentian Family, the Director of Popular Missions and his collaborator brought Father to the Center Juventud y Vida (Youth and Life) where people are engaged in a ministry with at-risk young men and women. After the visit, there was a dialogue with the Provincial to speak about some specific matters.

March 21, the first day of Spring and time for the departure of Father Álvarez. We thank God for the gift of this visit and for the manner in which Father expressed his concern for the Province. We pray that this visit will bear much fruit for the Congregation and for the poor men and women whom we serve.

By: Arturo E. Hernández Gutiérrez, CM

Translated:  
Charles T. Plock, CM  
Eastern Province, USA

## THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY IN NIGERIA

The annual meeting of the Vincentian Family in Nigeria was held at the Divine Love Retreat and Conference Centre (DRACC) Lugbe, Abuja - Nigeria, from the 21st to 24th March, 2019.

The Vincentian Family in Nigeria is composed of:

1. Ladies of Charity (AIC)
2. Congregation of the Mission (CM)
3. Daughters of Charity (DC)
4. Association of the Miraculous Medal (AMM)
5. Society of St. Vincent De Paul (SSVP) and
6. Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY)

The leadership of the various branches of the family were present and others were represented.

Also in attendance were Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Turati CM, (the Secretary General of the Congregation of the

Mission and Coordinator of International Commission for Promoting Systemic Change), Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Typamm, CM (Member of Systemic Change Commission).  
James Claffey (Executive Secretary of the Systemic Change Commission).

70 persons participated in all the events and they were joined by another 73 persons on the last day. The meeting had as its theme: "Systemic Change Approach toward Our Services on behalf of the Poor in Nigeria".

The meeting consisted of two sessions. The first session was the General Meeting of the Vincentian Family while the second session was the Systemic Change Workshop.

At the end of the workshop facilitated by Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Turati CM, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Typamm CM. James Claffey, the participants were made more aware of the effectiveness of a Systemic Change Approach when providing services to the Poor in Nigeria.

- The Family, in response to the continued precarious state of affairs in Nigeria caused by insecurity, economic down-turn and political in-balance, established the Vincentian Family Advocacy Committee to intervene in time of such situations.

- On the theme of the meeting "Systemic Change Approach towards Our Services on behalf of the Poor in Nigeria" the Family agreed that there is need to adopt new and better approaches when providing services to the poor (a new perspective: promote sustainable development of the poor).

- The Vincentian Family in Nigeria agreed that Vincentians should challenge the root causes of poverty by changing unjust systems through education, advocacy, skill acquisition/empowerment, partnership with government and by getting involved in governance.

- The Family also called on all levels of government to confront insecurity, youth unemployment, housing and other social injustices in our country. Vincentians were also encouraged to pray and take concrete steps in ensuring that the poor receive the desired attention.

- The Family elected new officers to take responsibility for the affairs of the Family during the next four years. The offices were that of the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

- Awards of honour were given to deserving Vincentians and non-Vincentians for their invaluable contribution to the promotion of the dignity of the poor.

The Vincentian Family in Nigeria is grateful to the Systemic Change Commission of the Vincentian Family team and pray for its continued success.

St. Vincent De Paul – Pray for us!

Very Rev. Fr. Cyril Mbata, CM  
President, VF NIGERIA

Barr. Sylvester Ojubiaja  
Secretary, VF NIGERIA

## REPORT ON THE MISSION IN TANZANIA

The members of the Congregation of the Mission arrived in Tanzania at the invitation of the Vincentian Sisters of Untermarchtel (Germany), who asked Father Robert Maloney, CM, then Superior General, for a missionary as Director of the Sisters of Mbinga (Tanzania).

Father Leo Dobbelaar, CM, Visitor of Ethiopia visited Mbinga in 1990 and studied the situation of the Mission. The evaluation he sent to the Curia was very positive and he offered to carry out his ministry there, if it were proposed to him. In the meantime, however, he was appointed Apostolic Prefect in the new Prefecture established in Ethiopia. It was not until 22 September 1993, that two Vincentian confreres were sent to start the Mission: Father Richard Kehoe CM, from the Eastern Province of the United States, and Father Chacko Panathara, CM, from the South Indian Province. The two were welcomed warmly by Sister Marie Louise OSV, and by Sister Gabriele Winter who was the Superioress in Mbinga.

Father Kehoe was appointed Director of the Vincentian Sisters of Mbinga while Father Panathara was commissioned to serve in the mission of Mpepai. This decision was taken because there were two Communities of Vincentian Sisters: one in Mpepai and one in Lipilipi.

Unfortunately, Father Kehoe became ill and a year later decided to return to the United States.

In 1994, Father Myles Rearden (from Ireland) came to Mbinga and replaced Father Kehoe, as Director of the Sisters.

To consolidate the presence of the Congregation of the Mission in Tanzania, the Superior General, Robert Maloney, CM, asked for missionaries from India to assume responsibility for the mission. As a result, many other Indian missionaries came to Tanzania. In 2002, the entire Mission was entrusted to the Province of South India and the missionaries mainly focused on identifying local vocations for the Congregation of the Mission.

To date, the 25-year-old region of Tanzania has 16 confreres: 13 priests, one Brother, and two deacons. There are 26 men in formation: two in theology, 14 in philosophy, and ten at the beginning of their formation. Furthermore, five Indian confreres and a confrere from Kenya live with us. The confreres carry out various ministries:

- Parish Ministry (nine confreres)
- School and Hostel Administration (five confreres)
- Seminary Formation (two confreres)
- Chaplaincy to the Vincentian Sisters (two confreres)
- Social Work (one confrere)

Our canonical houses are in Mbinga, Songea, and Morogoro. We also have several centers:

- Mbinga: six centers (three parishes, two schools, one residence for the ministry to the Vincentian Sisters of Mbinga)
- Songea: four centers (one parish, one school, one hostel, and the residence of the Regional Superior)
- Morogoro: seven centers (four parishes, one Major Seminary Study House, one Initial Formation House, one residence for the Chaplaincy of the Vincentian Sisters of Singinda).

We ask you to pray for our Mission and to support us whenever possible!

Binoy Puthussery Varghese, CM  
Regional Superior of Tanzania

## 4TH MEETING OF THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY: CIF

**PROPOSAL:** the International Center of Formation (CIF) offers this time of formation in order to deepen our understanding and our living in accord with a Vincentian spirituality.

**OBJECTIVES:** to become more knowledgeable about the life and the thinking of St. Vincent de Paul as well as some of the more outstanding persons in the Vincentian Family; to foster growth in Christian Vincentian spirituality; to analyze strategies in order to find some resolution to the problem of poverty; to analyze strategies for the resolution of conflict in our various congregations, associations and/or institutions; mutual understanding of one another as members of the Vincentian Family; to visit some Vincentian “sacred” places in Paris and in other parts of France.

**PARTICIPANTS:** all the members of the Vincentian Family, that is, religious women of the various Congregations inspired by the charism of St. Vincent, priests and brothers of communities grounded in the spirituality and charism of St. Vincent, laymen and women who are members of the various associations that are branches of this worldwide Family or who collaborate in any of our many different institutions (schools, missions, parishes, shrines, etc.).

**PLACE AND TIME:** this gathering will take place in the Motherhouse of the Congregation of the Mission where one will find the remains of St. Vincent. This house is near the chapel where the Blessed Mother appeared to Saint Catherine Laboure. The Motherhouse is located at 95 rue de Sevres, Paris, France. The session will begin on Friday, August 2 and conclude on Monday, August 26, 2019.

**LANGUAGES:** the session will be given in the three languages: Spanish, French and English (there will be simultaneous translation).

**COST:** the total cost of this session is 1.900 euros (this includes lodging, food, didactic material, pilgrimages, hotels, entrance fees into museums).

**REGISTRATION AND/OR QUESTIONS:** write to Father Andrés Motto, Director of CIF at: andresmotto@gmail.com - cifparis@cmglobal.org

Translated:  
Charles T. Plock, CM  
Eastern Province, USA



## ERITREA TODAY: A VINCENTIAN'S IMPRESSIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

This was not my first time in Eritrea. In the past, for reasons related to my office as provincial treasurer, I had visited the land of Saint Justin de Jacobis. Now, however, ten years later, I had new motivations and raised expectations. Last year, on July 8, 2018, Ethiopia and Eritrea had signed a historic declaration of peace, after the war of independence that began in 1998 and had been suspended in 2000, but never finally completed. This signing led to the opening of the borders between the two nations, to free exchange of goods and of people. Although the declaration had promised a definitive delineation of borders (and much more) these had not yet come about. In short, everything seemed to have put an end to the climate of war and tight controls that I had always found in my previous travels. I strongly desired to be able to know the new face of this land that we Vincentians of southern Italy had so much loved. Saint Justin de Jacobis, father of faith in Abyssinia had been a Vincentian missionary of the former Neapolitan Province.

As soon as I arrived in Asmara, unfortunately, I could easily see that little (if anything) had changed in ten years. And the little that had changed was certainly not for the better. Going around towns and villages confirmed this perception all the more, until reaching its highest point at Massawa, a city with a strong tourist and seaside character, which today seems more a ghost town, marred by historic war wounds and deep signs of abandon at its beautiful monuments and palaces.

On the other hand, I was strongly edified by the great testimony of faith and joy that I encountered in the faces and hearts of confreres and sisters of the Eritrean Vincentian Family.

Wherever I went, whether to missions of the Daughters of Charity or the Vincentian Missionaries, I always saw joy-filled communities, confreres and sisters who had dedicated themselves totally to the service of the poor and to evangelization. In Eritrea today, there is no Vincentian house without direct contact with the poor. And the communities most recently founded are the ones most out in the margins, both in a geographical and spiritual sense, where the word poverty aptly describes life both for priests and sisters as well as for the people.

Certainly, the main strength of our Vincentian community is the spirit of prayer and fraternal communion lived out with enthusiasm and fervor by missionaries and sisters. And the strong presence of young people in vocational discernment in our houses confirms not only the charism but also that the witness of faith is alive and fascinating.

Of course, this nation's great economic, social and political difficulties do indeed affect the dreams and plans of young Eritreans (and not a little). Even among the priests and sisters.

The temptation to escape is strong – to leave this land that could offer so much more, but that today forces you to live through so many difficulties and be so dependent on international aid – this cannot be hidden. In Eritrea, to evangelize means, above all, to fight for human and social promotion. Here, more than elsewhere, the word faith rhymes with charity.

I conclude my writing with two symbolic images that I brought back with me.

The sanctuary of Hebo containing the relics of Saint Justin dominates the whole valley. To those who come here and for those who leave, that structure seems like the living, beating heart of the Catholic faith, radiating hope over all its territory and for those who live here.

The village of Maela, the last human settlement before arriving at the mountains and the desert. Its church, dedicated to St. George, immediately brings to mind the Gospel and Vincentian phrase, "go forth to all the world and proclaim the Good News to every creature" (Mk 16:15).

By: Giuseppe Carulli CM  
Curia General

Translation: Dan Paul Borlik, CM  
Western Province, USA



## NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

ANTONELLO Erminio	14/03/2019	Visitor of Italy
DA SILVA Antônio de Assis	20/03/2019	Visitor of Fortaleza

## ORDINATIONES

KHONGSAI John Thangkholal	Sac	INS	21/12/2018
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## NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
KOCH Bernhard	Sac	11/02/2019	COS	91	67
BALESTRERO Pietro	Sac	03/03/2019	ITA	97	82
SECCHI Tonino	Diac Perm	06/03/2019	ITA	61	41
AGNEW Francis H.	Sac	17/03/2019	OCC	85	67
BAZÁR Pavol	Sac	17/03/2019	SLK	88	42
MERIL Pierre	Sac	25/03/2019	FRA	79	56



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