

Circular

Rome, 24 March 2005

25th Anniversary of the Martyrdom Bishop Oscar Romero
Bishop of San Salvador

To the members of the Congregation of the Mission

Dear Brothers,

May the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts now and forever!

This circular concerns some of the decisions of our *tempo forte* from 7-11 March.

1. We discussed the importance of doing an **analysis of the reality** at the beginning of each *tempo forte* session. We decided to designate 90 minutes to the presentation and discussion of a theme for reflection. In the months of June and December, we will study matters relative to the reality of the Congregation of the Mission. In October and March we will study matters related to the world reality. The theme at our next *tempo forte* in June will be the “reality of youth and initial formation in consecrated life.” All members of the Curia are invited to participate in the analysis of the reality.
2. We approved the **2004 Financial Report** which was presented by the Treasurer General, Elmer Bauer.
3. We studied a number of **diverse reports**:
 - from the Postulator General, Fr. Giuseppe Guerra
 - from the Director of the Vincentian Solidarity Office, Brother Peter Campbell, who was present here in Rome to make his report. He informed us that, between 1 January 2003 and March 2005, the Vincentian Solidarity Office has achieved approval and funding of ten complete projects and two partial projects, raising in this period of time over \$270,000.
 - from the webmaster, Fr. John Freund. Many of the results of this report can be witnessed in the innovations done on the Vincentian Family website, especially in English. The new access to the CM page of the site is **www.cmglobal.org**. Once again, I encourage all members of the Congregation to continue to use this means of communication for many reasons: deepening our own identity, aiding our own formation, helping us to draw closer to other branches of the Vincentian Family, enabling us to dialogue with each other

so that we might generate new and creative ideas in serving the poor.

- from the Executive Secretary of SIEV, Fr. Roberto Lovera, as well as correspondence from each of its present members, wherein they submitted names for possible future candidates for this Secretariat of the Congregation of the Mission.
4. Three other reports of offices of the Congregation of the Mission were also discussed and a process of evaluation begun with regard to them: the **CIF program**, the **Vincentian NGO** at the United Nations and the Office of the **Delegate for the Vincentian Family**. In the next *tempo forte* in June, a detailed evaluation of each will be carried out.
 5. We studied our **missions**
 - reviewing the list of volunteers for service either this year or in 2006
 - Fr. José Antonio Ubillús presented his work plan as Assistant for the Missions. His main goal is to animate, accompany and serve our confreres who are working in mission territories, whether they be missions *ad gentes* or international missions, etc.
 - We took particular care in discussing our international mission in El Alto, Bolivia, which has recently suffered the death of its superior, Fr. Franc Pavlič. We initiated the process of consulting the confreres of El Alto for the naming of a new superior and we are doing a search for possible candidates to continue the work that Franc had begun there.

These are among the major issues that were discussed and decided on in our most recent *tempo forte*.

I wish each member of the Congregation a very Happy Easter. May God fill you with much hope and joy in the Resurrection of his Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your brother in St. Vincent,

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.
Superior General