

Rome, 15 December 2005

To the Visitors of Europe and their Provincial Councils

Dear Brothers,

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

During the *tempo forte* session of December, the General Council met with the Vice-Visitor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius and the Visitors of Slovakia, Slovenia and Poland.

We discussed an agreement of support between the General Council and the Vice-Province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

I am writing you at this time in order to ask you, in a fraternal spirit, to discuss with your Provincial Councils the possibilities that your provinces might have to help the Vice-Province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

There are many ways to collaborate and, among others, I suggest the following:

- Send volunteers from among your confreres to overcome the shortage of personnel.
- Give financial assistance to the vice-province which does not have sources of income.
- Establish twinning programs between your province or its houses and a particular house or specific apostolate of the vice-province.
- Make visits in order to learn about the world and the Church where the vice-province carries out its mission.
- Sponsor a confrere of the vice-province, offering the help necessary to carry out his pastoral work, formation or studies.
- Offer in your own provinces a place for the formation of the formators or the students of the vice-province.

At the next meeting of the Conference of Visitors of Europe (CEVIM), which will be held during Easter Week of 2006 in Istanbul, one of the topics on the agenda will be the situation of the Vice-Province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. I ask you, then, to come to this meeting with concrete proposals of help that your provinces could offer to our brothers in Eastern Europe. In Turkey, we will

come to an agreement on how to make real a project of inter-provincial collaboration, solidarity and fraternal affection.

I trust that you will celebrate a happy and holy Christmas in the Lord.

Your brother in St. Vincent,

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.

Superior General