

Association of the Miraculous Medal (AMM)



In the year 1830, in the chapel of a house of prayer, the Blessed Virgin Mary resumed her role as the *VISITATRIX* of humanity. She started this sometime ago when she went to a town in Judea to visit her cousin Elizabeth. She did so many times thereafter, especially after this date in 1830, throughout the 19th century to our time.

This time the chosen city was Paris, in the chapel of the Daughters of Charity on the Rue du Bac and the seer was a young woman named Catherine Labouré, who turned 24 on 2 May of that year 1830. The first apparition of the Blessed Virgin to Catherine was on the night of 18-19 July and the second, wherein the Blessed Virgin gave us the gift of the Miraculous Medal, was on 27 November of that same year.

Right after the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Catherine Labouré, the *Association of the Holy Medal of the Immaculate Conception* popularly known as the **Association of the Miraculous Medal** was born.

Membership

There are the millions of persons all over the world who wear the Miraculous Medal, conferred by a priest, who neither inscribed their names in any register, nor have specific statutes and yet they are united by prayer and recite the words which appear on the medal, "*Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*"

Within this immense, unorganized body, there exists another one with *an organic or social body*: one with a register of names, Statutes and an established organization with charitable ends and apostolates proper to the Association. It is the best level of membership, since it requires more zeal and better commitment.

This group functions as one and the same at the international, national, diocesan, regional and local levels.

Ecclesiastical Approval

The first three articles of the Brief, *Dilectus Filius*, of 8 July 1909, in which Pope Pius X approved — for the whole Church — the Association of the Miraculous Medal with a definitive and universal character state that:

1. The Association of the Holy Medal of the Immaculate Virgin stands as a *living and constant reminder* of the apparition of the Immaculate Virgin Mary in 1830, whose feast is celebrated annually on 27 November. In this apparition, the Virgin gave a model of the medal, which quickly spread throughout the world. It was called by the people “*miraculous*” because of the many remarkable favors which God daily performed through its instrumentality.
2. The Association has the purpose of giving tribute¹ to the Virgin Mary, conceived without original sin, the honor that is due her, and, at the same time, of procuring one’s *own sanctification* through the exercise of the *apostolate*. The Holy Medal, both by the symbolism it shows and the virtues it manifests, offers us a model and assistance for those purposes.
3. In each diocese the Diocesan Directors assigned by their respective ordinaries, govern the Association which is canonically erected, in conformity with the spirit, laws and customs proper to the Association, under the Authority of one Director General (the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of

¹ This Association has the purpose of recalling Mary conceived without sin; and also the sanctification of its members, integral formation in the Christian life, and the apostolate of charity especially to those most abandoned. Mary’s Holy Medal, both by the symbolism which it shows and by the power it enjoys, offers both a model and assistance for those purposes (Article 2 of the “New International Statutes,” approved by the Holy See on 19 February 1998).

Charity, primarily because the said medal was revealed by the Mother of God to a Daughter of Charity, the Venerable Servant of God, Sr. Catherine Labouré.)

Identity and Charism of AMM

It is an Association identified as Ecclesial, Marian and Vincentian.

The Home Visit: The most important means of sanctification and apostolate that the Association does is by means of an image of Our Lady or a rosary which is carried by a **“person-in-charge”** to families, the sick, institutions, etc. The needy persons and families have to engage our time, affection and imagination. It is **characteristic of our apostolate** as members of the **Vincentian Family**. This apostolate had shown its efficacy above all in the evangelization of the poor and is an impulse not only to prayer, but also to family unity. The **Visit of the Blessed Virgin** moves hearts to return the favor of paying her a visit in the house of her Son. It is a return to **“Jesus through Mary.”**

The **Association of the Miraculous Medal** has much to do in **family pastoral work**. The associates are ordinarily members of a family and, in the first place, it should be within their own families that the values of the domestic Church must flourish.

Then, through them, to the families that receive the **Visit of the Blessed Virgin** or who relate with the Association.

The new millennium has started with an urgent call to recreate the **missionary spirit** which motivated the first Christian communities. We know that the renovation of our society comes through the **renewal of the Christian Family**. The service of the Association of the Miraculous Medal to the families is the very field to cultivate because its families have to become the ferment for other families, for their vocation and mission in the world.

In her Visitation, Mary, bearer of the Savior, is the permanent reference for grasping the meaning of the **Home Visit of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal** and deepening the dispositions of those who live out this simple and warm practice among families. On numerous occasions **St. Vincent de Paul** proposed Mary's haste in the Visitation as the model for the service of the poor: ***Honor the visit of the Blessed Virgin when she visited her cousin promptly and joyfully.***

International Organization

Invited by Fr. Gregory Gay, C.M., Director General of the AMM and with the support of Fr. Manuel Ginete, C.M., Delegate of Fr. Gay to the Vincentian Family, and under the coordination of Fr. Benjamín Romo, C.M., AMM International Coordinator, the 2nd International Encounter was held on 24-28 October 2005 in Rome with the aim, *“to review the journey traveled from the First Meeting in 2001 in order to discover our mission in the Church and to continue advancing in our missionary commitment and service to the poor.”* Its theme was, *“Loved by the Father, Guided by Mary and Committed to the Mission of the Church.”*

Challenges

We have noted some challenges to which our Association is called to respond in the coming years:

- Continue to deepen awareness of the person of Mary as the first and most perfect disciple of Christ, the mother of the Church and model for evangelizing.
- Strengthen the commitment of the laity in the AMM, so that they assume their responsibility in animation, formation, governance and in the administration of the Association. Encourage them in their role through human, Christian, Marian and Vincentian formation.
- Further ensure the integration and participation of young people within the AMM by sharing the Marian message and the apostolate of service to the poor, especially through spiritual and apostolic life.
- Through twinning programs and exchange of experiences, promote a sense of solidarity and mutual understanding among different countries in which the AMM exists.
- Integrate the AMM into parishes, preferably in areas where the Vincentian Family is already present, and in this way promote continuity of the Vincentian charism.

The webpage of the AMM is continually updated: <http://www.amminter.org>

A monthly catechesis is published with the collaboration of the Vincentian Missionaries, Daughters of Charity and laypersons. These catecheses appear on the website as an information bulletin.

In January 2006, Fr. Gregory Gay, C.M., Director General of the Association, appointed Fr. Henry Grodecki, C.M.; Sr. Blanca Libia Tamayo, D.C.; Olimpia Freire de Almeida Ruano and Luis Alfonso

Rodríguez Norato as the new members of the International Council, as well as Martha Leticia Tapia Salinas as the Executive Secretary.

The 3rd AMM International Meeting will be held in 2009.

Presence in 55 Countries. AMM with Approved Statutes (*)

Europe:

Austria,* Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain,* Switzerland, Ukraine.

Asia:

India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam.

U.S.A.:

Perryville,* Philadelphia.*

Latin America:

Argentina, Bolivia, Chile,* Colombia,* Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic,* Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico,* Panama, Paraguay, Peru,* Puerto Rico,* El Salvador, Uruguay, Venezuela.*

Africa:

Angola, Benin, Cameroon,* Central African Republic, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria,* Republic of Congo,* Uganda.

Oceania:

Australia.

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