

# Lay Vincentian Missionaries (MISEVI)



## Logo

The MISEVI logo is formed with the colors of the flags of all countries as a sign of our openness to this vocation where God leads us. It is formed as a cross which symbolizes our desire to follow Christ to the end and our belongingness to the Church.

## Motto

Although we do not have a concrete motto, we would like to share our prayer with the whole Vincentian Family.

### Missionary Prayer of MISEVI

*God, Father of goodness,  
You who call each one of us by name,  
help us to be faithful to the vocation received.  
We want to be salt and light of the world,  
always serving among the poor  
with an affective and effective love.*

*We need your Son Jesus Christ  
to preach your Word  
in the places we have been sent.  
We want to be witnesses of the Kingdom,  
living out the Beatitudes.*

*Send us the Holy Spirit  
so that, as Church,  
we will live in communion and unity with others.  
We, lay missionaries, want to welcome  
the gift of community and renew ourselves  
in the light of your Gospel.*

*May Mary, Queen of the Missions,  
accompany and watch over the continuity  
of our self-giving in the task entrusted  
by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

## Brief History

**Mi.Se.Vi. (Misioneros Seglares Vicencianos or Vincentian Lay Missionaries)** are lay Christians with the charism of St. Vincent de Paul who are called by God to go to the Missions *Ad Gentes*.

Our story began in the summer of 1984, the year when some young people from the VMY (Vincentian Marian Youth) were sent by Spain to Honduras. Some of these young people offered to give more time to the mission and, in 1987, the first VMY Permanent Community was established. In 1992, some of them, who were not that young anymore, thought of the missionary vocation as a lifetime option. Considering that the Association which sent these young people is youth oriented and that they had already discerned their vocation, they thought of creating another association within the Vincentian Family that may provide possible responses to the challenges which their vocation presents.

The Constituent Assembly of MISEVI Spain was held in January 2001 and at it the Coordinating Team with international and Spanish functions was established.

In October 2004 the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Assembly of MISEVI Spain was held. The Coordinating Team was then elected bearing functions that were solely for Spain.

In 2005 the following MISEVI National Statutes were approved: Mexico on 19 March, Colombia on 23 April and Italy on 27 May. In addition to those, soon there will be more countries which shall form part of the Association with full rights as they are already in the process of seeking approval of their Statutes: Indonesia, France, Ireland, Venezuela and the USA.

## Dreams, Spirit and Principal Objectives

Internationally, the **dreams** that MISEVI has are related to the creation of an Association in as many countries as possible. It would be wonderful if, in all those places where there is an established branch of the Vincentian Family, MISEVI should also be formed. It does not desire to become a large Association; rather it wishes to facilitate all Vincentian laypersons of the world, who have a missionary vocation, to respond to God's call to evangelize the poorest of the poor.

Our **spirit** is in keeping with St. Vincent's charism of working in the mission and finding the place which the Church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century must have for the laity, while working as a team together with the priests and sisters for the benefit of those favored by the Lord.

Our **principal objectives** are established in the Statutes:

In all the documents, presentations, comments and suggestions that have been made throughout its history, the best way to express the ends of MISEVI is by saying that it seeks to promote, facilitate, support and aid the coordination of the presence and the missionary work of Vincentian laypersons in the mission and their involvement in their place of origin after the mission. Following the activities specified in Section 2 of the Statutes, we propose these means to reach our end, the presence and work of the Vincentian laypersons in the missionary field.

**To promote:**

- a) The participation of MISEVI members in the missionary activities carried out by the different Vincentian and Ecclesial Associations in the place of origin of the MISEVI members who are sent as missionaries as well as in the venues of missionary service.
- b) The carrying out of activities which seek to awaken or support the missionary vocation of the layperson in the different Vincentian Associations.

**To facilitate the development of the missionary dimension:**

- a) By being a channel of encounter among the Vincentian laypersons with missionary vocation and the Missions *Ad Gentes* entrusted to or promoted by the Vincentian Family.
- b) By collaborating with the Vincentian Associations in the formation of Vincentian laypersons who are preparing to go to the Missions *Ad Gentes*.
- c) By making an effort to place persons or small groups, which are starting to develop their missionary life, in contact with the more experienced Vincentian Associations.
- d) By gathering all the programs and means of formation for dissemination to all the Associations of the Family and the countries preparing for reception, thus offering collaboration and mutual support at the concrete moment of planning this formation.

**To support:**

Our desire is to support each member who, from different options of life, forms part of the Association, the communities where he/she is involved, the Associations of origin which sends him/her and the other Vincentian

Associations. We always need to seek and introduce new forms of support yet at least we would like to offer:

- Human support
- Moral support
- Spiritual support
- Economic support

**To coordinate:**

- a) By being a channel of coordination for all the lay missionaries, looking for, inviting and welcoming those who would like to participate in the Association, as well as offering support to those who decide not to become a member yet form part of the Vincentian Family.
- b) By keeping the members of the different permanent missionary communities informed about the projects and activities of the other communities where the members of the Association collaborate.
- c) By supporting the active participation of its members in the coordinating structures of the Vincentian Family, which exist in the places of mission, or encouraging and promoting them where they do not yet exist.

### **Actual Apostolic Commitments**

The year 2005 is a year of birth for MISEVI in the different countries. We held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly in December, clearly the first in an international sense because the first one was also the National Assembly of Spain, and as such we hoped to involve as many countries as possible.

Once MISEVI is established, we shall work for the creation of a unified formation plan which may facilitate the sending on mission of the lay missionaries who feel God's call, from whatever country they may be.

At present only MISEVI members from Spain are involved in Missions *Ad Gentes*: three in Mozambique, four in Bolivia and three in Honduras.

MISEVI collaborates in the missionary formation of persons belonging to the different branches of the Vincentian Family, either as a possible missionary service or solely as an awareness campaign.

## **Number of Members and Countries where it is Doing its Work at Present**

MISEVI is established in Italy, Colombia, Mexico and Spain. It is extending its missionary service in Honduras, Bolivia and Mozambique. It shall also be constituted soon in other countries, such as Indonesia, France, Ireland, Venezuela and USA.

The process involved in establishing and consolidating MISEVI makes it possible for us to quantify the number of collaborating members and those in formation at any given time. Thus, the members with full rights are: one in Mexico, two in Italy and 14 in Spain.

## **Useful Data, E-mail Addresses and Contact Numbers**

### *The International Seat of MISEVI is at:*

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### *The e-mail addresses of the Coordinating Team, Advisors and web contact are:*

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