

Rome, 6 October 2006

To the Visitors of the Congregation of the Mission

Dear Brothers,

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

On 24 January of this year, I wrote you a long letter in which I invited you to reflect on the actual situation of the absences and departures of confreres. The analysis of this reality led us to establish an International Commission that has worked on the preparation of a formation meeting, which will seek to train confreres of various provinces in the management of absence and departure cases.

Today I am writing to invite you to participate in this formation meeting that will be held in Rome from 10-16 January 2007 (arrival on the 9th, departure on the 17th). You, as Visitors, are most welcome, but our wish is that you select at least one confrere from your province to be present at the meeting in order that he might assist you in dealing with confreres in difficulty.

During this meeting, we will have some excellent talks, given from the point of view of psychology, spirituality and Canon Law, that will deepen our understanding of the reality of priests in difficulty. The participants will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge by means of workshops, which will follow in the Conferences. Our interest is that the confreres who participate might help the Visitors to assist, with greater attention, those who are absent, or those who need to regularize their situation in the Congregation.

I am attaching a letter from the Preparatory Commission with details for obtaining a visa, in case one is needed, and other aspects.

I trust that this initiative will benefit all the provinces of the Congregation and, in particular, the confreres in difficulty. I hope for the participation of a large group of confreres next year.

Your brother in Saint Vincent,

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.
Superior General