

NUNTIA



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CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION

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EDITORIAL

Clothing Oneself with Christ

Last month, we focused our attention on the foundation of Vincentian spirituality, the Trinitarian relationship. We continue our reflection on another element of what we have defined as the “great architectural structure” of Vincentian spirituality: the pillars (a vertical support structure).

In common thought, the figure of St. Vincent de Paul risks being diminished if solely linked to the service of the poor. In this regard, let us remember the words of H. Brémond, who said that St. Vincent’s mysticism is the very soul of his charitable action: “It was not love for mankind that led him to sainthood; rather, it was holiness that made him authentically and effectively charitable. It was not the poor who gave him to God, but God who gave him to the poor. Anyone who sees in him more of a philanthropist than a mystic, or who does not consider him primarily as a mystic, is imagining a St. Vincent de Paul who never existed.”

We must also consider the tendency, when speaking of St. Vincent, to immediately emphasise the imitation of Jesus as evangeliser of the poor, neglecting or overshadowing the identification with the event of His humanity; that is, the importance of clothing oneself with Christ, thus conforming to His humanity, which in the Incarnation took on our humanity to draw it into Trinitarian love.

«We must be filled and moved by the spirit of Jesus Christ. To understand this well, we must know that His spirit is spread among all Christians who live according to Christ. Their actions and works are permeated by the spirit of God, and it is through His spirit that the Company was brought into being, and you can see this clearly. And it is according to this spirit that it must act. In fact, it has always loved Christian principles and has desired to clothe itself with the spirit of the Gospel in order to live and work like Our Lord, so that His spirit may shine throughout the entire Company and in every missionary, in all its works in general and in each one in particular».

Being filled with the spirit of Jesus Christ means maintaining an intimate relationship with Jesus, which is achieved through prayer and transforming every concrete circumstance of life into an opportunity to unite with Him in following the Father’s will. Such adherence to God’s will is born from practical availability for prayer, attentiveness to the signs of the times, obedience to superiors, and obedience to brothers, thus surrendering one’s will according to the human experience of the Son of God.

Conformity to Christ, adherence to His will and His humanity become the dynamic principles of missionary action, understood as reliving the mission of evangelising and aiding the poor, prolonging or retranslating into today’s history the same missionary charity experience of Jesus with His disciples, who went from village to village, preaching the presence of the Kingdom of God and healing the sick.

The method for the mission is the emptying of oneself to allow oneself to be filled by God, so that He, through us and in us, can be present to humanity.

Here, then, are the pillars: holiness, identification with the humanity of Jesus, clothing oneself with Christ, uniting with Him in following the Father’s will, reliving the mission of evangelising and aiding the poor, and emptying oneself. Upon these pillars, the spiritual support structures, we place the arches: the five virtues.

Fr. Salvatore Fari, CM



Virtual tour of Châtillon

Dear confreres: the bus has arrived in Châtillon. This time we have travelled south of Paris, near Lyon. St. Vincent left the Gondi mansion because he understood that his project was not there. He had to leave secretly as he couldn't obtain permission from his lords. Vincent de Paul, a 36-year-old ecclesiastic, had to forge his own path. To follow that powerful voice of God, which was whispering another mission to him, still not entirely clear. He took over as parish priest of Châtillon on 1st August 1617. He is recorded as "priest and bachelor in theology, from the diocese of Dax". The parish church was called "Saint Andrew". When Mr. Vincent arrived, there were five assistant priests. A large number for a parish of 2000 people. Perhaps because none of them entirely convinced him, on 16th August he welcomed Louis Giraud as his coadjutor. He was a good and capable man, even a Doctor of Theology.

In this parish, he achieved several successes: strengthening the priestly life of his assistants, providing religious education to the people, ensuring dignified administration of the sacraments and, in general, fostering a good parish atmosphere. How much he achieved in just 6 months! To be fair, we must also say that most of the people in that parish were good. They had a deep-rooted faith, and St. Vincent learned many things from them.



It was here that the first Confraternity of Charity was founded (today known as the International Association of Charity - AIC). It was the first of his great foundations. It began in response to a grave need: the illness of the poor. The probable date of the Sunday sermon in which he urged the congregation to help a sick family in the nearby village of Maladières was 20th August 1617. He himself went in the afternoon to visit them, bringing them some provisions. A testament to the goodness of his parishioners and the effectiveness of his preaching is that many people mobilised to help this family. They brought so much food that it would have spoiled. As a result of this experience, and wishing to do good properly, on 23rd August he founded the Confraternity of Charity. Initially, it consisted of 12 women, both noble and bourgeois. Although he had already founded the Confraternity, he sought an "official" date to formally establish it. He chose 8th December to have Mary's protection. Now, summoned by the Gondi family, Vincent de Paul left the parish on 3rd December. Entering into Vincent's mindset, we know that it was really hard for him to leave this parish where he had been very happy in pastoral service.

There is no doubt that this place is indelible for us, as it was in this village that he more vividly discovered God's call to serve the poor. Therefore, visiting Châtillon involves analysing our methods of tackling poverty. To see how we accompany the poor, whether we visit them in their homes, whether we are capable of promoting social change. Mr. Vincent invites us to provide the world of the poor with social aid, sound catechesis accompanied by up-to-date theology, a liberating morality, and to live with them a liturgy that appreciates and values popular religion as evangelical preparation.

WHAT TO SEE IN CHÂTILLON?

Several things, I will only mention a few:

1. The Church of Saint Andrew. The exterior is striking. With its brick façade and its large tower, with its clock and rose window. The interior is flamboyant Gothic. On the sides of the nave, 14 chapels open with beautiful and catechetical meanings. The stained glass windows of the presbytery commemorate the establishment of the first Confraternity of Charity. Meanwhile, the side windows depict St. Vincent helping the poor.
2. St. Vincent de Paul's Square. Small, in front of the hospital. There is a serene statue of the saint. It dates back to 1855. It bears several inscriptions, let's read them: "Good people of Châtillon: wherever I go, you will always be with me before God". "St. Vincent de Paul, parish priest of Châtillon in 1617".
3. Old hospital and Pharmacy. Today, it is a cultural centre. What is important is that this was the place where the first Confraternity of Charity was founded. Where exactly? It was instituted in the hospital chapel. There is a painting from 1732 of the "Blessed" Vincent de Paul. More than once, Vincent de Paul would have brought the viaticum to one of the sick.
4. The residence of St. Vincent. There are two houses. The house on the right was where the parish priest and the associated clergy lived. In the one on the left lived Jean Beynier, Vincent's host. These houses were bought by the Daughters of Charity in 1878. From Vincent's time, the staircase and some doors remain.

Well, may this virtual visit to this place prepare our hearts to renew the 400 years since the foundation of the Congregation of the Mission. Let's get back on the bus, we have finished our tour, we have succeeded. Where will we arrive in October?

Fr. Andrés Motto, CM



The value of the visit of Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, C.M. to the Province of Puerto Rico

Father Tomaž Mavrič, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, known for his inspiring leadership, simplicity, closeness, and innovative approach, decided to visit our Province, composed of three countries: Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti, from 2 to 14 August 2024. His visit took place in a very particular context, as the Congregation of the Mission is preparing to celebrate its 400th anniversary alongside the Holy Year proclaimed by Pope Francis. These two events represent an opportunity for Vincentian missionaries to rekindle hope, clothe themselves in the spirit of Christ, and rediscover the contemplative dimension of our Vincentian Spirituality.

During his stay, Fr. Tomaž took the opportunity to become acquainted with the missionaries, the works, and the various branches of the Vincentian Family. Indeed, we cannot deny that the presence of Fr. Tomaž evoked a mixture of excitement, hope, and nervousness among the various members of the Vincentian Family. However, his visit, which we present below, was marked by numerous meetings, activities, and celebrations.

Throughout his visit, Fr. Tomaž visited the majority of our Vincentian works, which not only testify to St. Vincent de Paul's commitment to charity and social justice but also continue to inspire and guide many people in their service to humanity. He also interacted with all the missionaries of the Province. His primary objective was to understand the challenges we face and to offer his support and guidance. In this regard, he invited the missionaries to return to the roots to revitalise our charism, namely "to renew and adapt the principles and values of St. Vincent de Paul to today's challenges and needs." Furthermore, Fr. Tomaž emphasised the importance of preserving the essence of the Vincentian charism, which focuses on charity and mission, and encouraged the boldness and creativity needed to respond to the signs of the times.

He also highlighted the importance of Vincentian formation in the life of the missionaries. He further reminded them of the books that should accompany a missionary's life, namely: the Bible, the Breviary, the Common Rules, and the Constitutions. He urged the missionaries to pay particular attention to the culture of vocation, the promotion of vocations, the vocation of brothers, the formation of formators, the ad-gentes missions, clergy formation, popular missions, the formation of the laity, the review of works by prioritising our charism, and the development of a communication office.

Moreover, he shared his vision for the future of the Congregation with the Daughters of Charity and other branches of the Vincentian Family, motivating all with his enthusiasm and commitment. He placed great emphasis on the spiritual preparation and the activities to be undertaken in anticipation of the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian charism in 2025. As a great connoisseur of the various branches of the Vincentian Family, Fr. Tomaž expressed his joy at the work being done in the Province of Puerto Rico. However, he also expressed his concern for the Marian Youth and MISEVI. As a recommendation, he emphasised the need to revive the Vincentian Marian Youth and MISEVI. The Vincentian charism is at the service of the whole person. For this reason, he encouraged all branches of the Vincentian Family to continue giving life to the Vincentian charism.



Taking advantage of the spirit of fraternity among the branches of the Vincentian Family, Fr. Tomaž informed them of other movements within the Vincentian Family that are emerging. These movements are not yet approved but live according to the Vincentian charism. For this reason, Fr. Tomaž asked the other branches of the Vincentian Family to welcome them by offering them Vincentian formation centres. He also spoke about the “13 Houses Project”, an initiative inspired by St. Vincent de Paul and supported by Pope Francis. This project aims to provide safe housing and support to homeless people worldwide. Being a Vincentian project, Fr. Tomaž fervently urged all branches of the Vincentian Family to embrace it. It is a project that gives us the opportunity to work together as a family. In fact, having a common project can further strengthen our collaboration.

Fr. Tomaž’s visit concluded with several question-and-answer sessions, where members of the various branches of the Vincentian Family had the opportunity to express their concerns and receive direct advice. We also had several Eucharistic celebrations, as well as cultural and social activities. This visit not only boosted the morale of the members of the Vincentian Family but also provided new perspectives and strategies to revitalise our Vincentian charism with greater determination. The presence of Fr. Tomaž among us inspired us to continue offering the best of our charism. It also reinforced the values that characterise a Vincentian. In summary, Fr. Tomaž’s visit left a lasting mark on Vincentian culture, promoting a more cohesive, innovative environment aligned with the values of the Vincentian charism and the Kingdom. Thank you, Fr. Tomaž, for your visit.

Fr. Jean Rolex, CM



SYMPOSIUM ON VINCENTIAN VOCATIONAL CULTURE

Belo Horizonte - MG (Brazil) 16-18 August 2024



The Brazilian Province of the Congregation of the Mission (PBCM, Rio de Janeiro) is promoting a series of activities in preparation for the celebration of the 400th jubilee of the legal foundation of the Congregation of the Mission. Among them is the Symposium on Vincentian Vocational Culture, which took place at the St Vincent de Paul Institute (TREVO) from 16 to 18 August 2024. The theme of the symposium was: "The Church as a Vocational Symphony" and the motto: "Ask, therefore, the Lord of the harvest" (Mt 9:38). The main speaker was Fr. Rolando Gutiérrez, CM, Vice-Visitor of the Vice-Province of Costa Rica and General Director of Vocational Ministry. This symposium brought together various branches of the Vincentian Family in Brazil: ordained, consecrated, and lay people who contribute to Vocational Ministry, and they discussed the importance of cultivating a vocational culture among us.

There were three main conferences: a) The Vincentian vocational culture presented by Fr. Rolando Gutiérrez, CM; b) Reflection on the Vocational Month 2024 presented by Sr. Arlene Simões, CP, counsellor of the National CRB; and c) The theme of the 400th Jubilee of the CM: "Clothe yourselves with the Spirit of Jesus Christ", presented by Fr. Cleber Teodósio, CM, coordinator of the provincial and national commissions for the 400th anniversary jubilee of the CM.

In addition to the moments of celebration and prayer: Masses, Rosaries, and Lectio Divina, coordinated by the present branches, Sr. Ana Rocha, HdC, coordinated a group work session that helped us reflect on our vocational journey by asking two key questions: 1) How do you promote vocational culture in your branch? 2) Highlight the joys and challenges in vocational accompaniment, where all participants were able to share their experiences and present the results of the group work in the plenary session.

The symposium was lively and well-attended and concluded with a Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Provincial Visitor, Fr. Vandeir Barbosa, CM, where up to three members of the following branches were represented: Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Vincentian Marian Youth, Daughters of Charity (Provinces of Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, and Curitiba), Congregation of the Mission, AEALAC, Sisters of Gysegem, House of Ranquines, and Secular Vincentian Missionaries. All left with the commitment that the discussions held would not remain only on paper but would resonate in their communities, works, and endeavours.

We would like to thank everyone who responded to our invitation and attended the symposium, the St Vincent de Paul Institute for hosting us, the Provincial Commission for Vocational Ministry, the Visitor and his Council, all confreres of the PBCM who were present, and Fr. Mavrič for making Fr. Rolando's presence possible among us. May God make you happy, faithful, and fruitful in your vocation of service and evangelisation of the poor.



The Vincentian Missionaries of Italy gathered in Assembly

From 26 to 31 August 2024, the Provincial Assembly of the Vincentian Missionaries of Italy was held in Rome, at Casa Maria Immacolata.

Our Superior General, Fr. Tomaz Mavrič, presided over the Eucharistic celebration opening our Assembly. In his homily, Fr. Tomaz invited his confreres to be guided by Christ, who calls us to the authenticity of faith, to follow Christ with the pace of Vincent de Paul.

The Salesian Fr. Carlo Maria Zanotti, professor at the Salesian University in Rome, and Fr. Giulio Albanese, Comboni missionary from the CEI Committee for Charitable Interventions in Favour of the Third World, also participated.

Below are some “notes” for our journey.

1- To achieve integral, communal, and missionary formation within the context of consecration, it is no longer enough to have clarity about the guidelines of an educational project; instead, it is necessary to work towards activating a pedagogical action that makes those guidelines possible. Such action has its central point in the capacity for relationships. Education, and self-education, involves the experience of knowing how to relate to others and of feeling like a subject in a positive relationship with others, so as to cultivate a culture of fraternal encounter within communities.

Unfortunately, in consecrated communities, there is often the risk of relational indifference: others, in their diversity, are not perceived as part of a unity to which one feels they belong, whereas a formative relationship is possible through a “face-to-face” encounter. For this reason, it is necessary to practise looking towards the other and being close to them, recognising in them an original potential. People are an opportunity, not a problem: within each person there is a promising value. Every person has their own complexity, but every person needs to be recognised in their uniqueness and value, harmonised within the community. Community difficulties arise from the fact that, while each person needs to encounter faces and recognise themselves in them, communities often fall victim to organisational structures.

2- A missionary community must be aware of the context in which it is called to live. We are at the fault line of an era in which all of human experience is changing: our humanity is living on a fracture between a past that is no more and a future that has not yet arrived. At the centre is a complex and complicated society, difficult to decipher. Today, everything is fast. Life's scenarios change rapidly. One year today is roughly equivalent to 24 years in the past: “everything changes so that nothing changes”. We must proceed by trial and error; and to some extent, change may occur.

3- Therefore, the missionary dimension must be “light” and focus on “what is essential”. As Pope Francis says, the proclamation of the Gospel must follow the principle that “time is greater than space”. This is an invitation to an evangelising ministry that is attentive to initiating processes rather than occupying spaces, to proposing broad horizons, seeking the possible good, and taking the long road (EG 223-225). “Projects” are set within the horizon of the domination of space; “processes” in the unpredictability of time. Space is measurable and controllable, it is under the control of reason and gives the impression of tranquillity. Time, however, quickly overwhelms its own certainties and demands flexibility and new adaptability. Giving primacy to time in missionary action implies the intensity with which the mission is lived: an hour lived under the guidance of the Spirit flows lightly and deeply, while the same hour lived out of duty becomes heavy and long.

Fr. Erminio Antonello, C.M.



Master in Vincentianism

Dear confreres!

May the grace and peace of Jesus be always with us!

As I recalled at our last General Assembly, we find ourselves at a time of profound grace as we prepare to celebrate, in 2025, the 400th anniversary of the founding of the Congregation of the Mission and the beginning of its fifth century of life. The Assembly's own insistence on the revitalization of our missionary identity invites and urges all of us to deepen our Vincentian spirituality and charism.

One of the means at our disposal to deepen our Vincentian spirituality and charism is the Master in Vincentian Studies, which has already given good results in the last four years. We are now opening the registration for a new edition, which will be developed in French, English and Spanish.

Together with this letter, you will find detailed information about the program. I urge you to facilitate the participation in the program to all the missionaries of your Province, Region, or Mission. I also ask you to transmit this information to all the members of the Vincentian Family.

Pope Francis pointed out: Paying attention to one's own history is indispensable to keep alive the identity and strengthen the unity of the family and the sense of belonging of its members. It is not a question of doing archaeology or cultivating useless nostalgia, but of retracing the path of past generations to rediscover in it the inspirational spark, the ideals, the projects, the values that have driven them, starting from the founders and foundresses and the first communities. It is also a way of becoming aware of how the charism has been lived through the ages, the creativity it has displayed, the difficulties it has had to face and how they were overcome.

Let me conclude this letter with the same words with which I concluded my report to the 2022 General Assembly: "In the next six years, I ardently hope that all these... initiatives will help us personally to revitalize our identity and also to help others to be on fire and in love with the Vincentian spirituality and charism, so that we can all become "Mystics of Charity" in the 21st century and beyond.

May Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, St. Vincent de Paul and all the rest of the Saints and Blessed of the Little Company intercede for us.

Your brother in Saint Vincent,

Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM

The Congregation of the Mission presents:

MASTER IN Vincentianism
Gospel and Charity

ADDRESSEES

- Members of the Congregation of the Mission and the Vincentian Family.

OBJECTIVES

- To deepen the history and spirituality of the Vincentian charism.
- To read the sources of the Vincentian patrimony in dialogue with the theological disciplines.
- To train in accompaniment in the service of the poor and in evangelization.

Information and registration:
siev@cmglobal.org

Congregation of the Mission
Communication Office

The editorial staff of NUNTIA wishes
Happy Feast of St Vincent de Paul



From the General Secretariat

NOMINATIONES

ROSALES Guillermo Daniel	15/08/2024	Visitor Argentina
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ORDINATIONES

VELOMANJAKA Gérard	Sac	MAD	07/07/2024
NYIRIRI Essau Edward	Sac	INM	25/07/2024
ANDRIAMISSETRA Tojoniaina Léon	Sac	MAD	04/08/2024
ANTSONIAVONDRINDRA Goutran Jeannot	Sac	MAD	15/08/2024
KATYENTYE Leonard Lugandya	Sac	INM	08/08/2024
MWANGOGO Yohana Moses	Sac	INM	08/08/2024
AMANUEL Paulos Andu	Sac	SJJ	25/08/2024
LE HUY Andrew Cuong	Sac	VTN	27/08/2024
LE TUAN PHUOC Louis Tam	Sac	VTN	27/08/2024
NGUYEN HONG Joseph Tam	Sac	VTN	27/08/2024
NGUYEN SON Peter Luan	Sac	VTN	27/08/2024
NGUYEN VAN Anthony Chung	Sac	VTN	27/08/2024
PHAM DUC Joseph Chinh	Sac	VTN	27/08/2024
TRAN PHU Vincent Ferrier Quoc	Sac	VTN	27/08/2024
VU TIEN Joseph Dat	Sac	VTN	27/08/2024

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
RAHMAT Eligius	Sac	06/08/2024	IDS	81	54
PEREDA VALDERRAMA Ángel	Sac	10/08/2024	SVP	82	64
GIRALDO MONTES Leonidas	Sac	15/08/2024	COL	69	47
INTISO Michele	Sac	19/08/2024	ITA	94	67
TARDÓN HERRANZ Rufino	Sac	24/08/2024	SVP	89	73
APPENDINO Pietro	Sac	30/08/2024	ITA	83	66
VEGA HERRERA José	Sac	30/08/2024	CAE	87	71

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