

NUNNTIA

Newsletter

of the Congregation of the Mission

2021
APRIL



Congregation of the Mission
Communication Office

THE RESURRECTION made child and mission

Ever since I was ordained a priest, I have celebrated Mass for children and in my case I can say that, if I were given the choice of a community to celebrate Mass every Sunday, I would choose one where there are children. Many believe it is something simple because they are small and that is precisely the problem, since one must consider several factors such as: age, ability to be attentive, dynamics, pedagogy, creativity, flexibility since they will not always respond as one has thought and the ability to be able to speak of the mystery with great simplicity.

Easter is one of the mysteries we adults have incorporated into our lives very naturally, where it seems to be logical and that it should be so... but it is not. Talking to children about the Resurrection is often difficult because they do not have a tangible experience of it, although they do have a tangible experience of death. Death is even closer to them because in some way or another they have lost a loved one or at least a pet. How can I make them understand that the one who has died is alive.

While the Resurrection is not something "logical" (but rather a gift God has given us through his Son), I believe many of us have some experience of it in our lives, so we can talk about it and put into images what is a mystery, and in my particular case it has the face of a mission and of a child.

When I was 18 years old I had my first mission experience, in the north of Argentina (a few kilometers from Bolivia). In the mountains, about 4500 meters above sea level, very

cold, and extremely arid terrain. As the youngest in the group, I was in charge of the children and the preparation for communion. For 12 days I was able to watch a small group of children arrive at the chapel from far away. They got up early in the morning to walk between 1 to 4 hours to arrive on time and although they spoke very little, at the moment of singing they did it very loudly, as if raising their voices to a God of whom, the only thing they knew was what their grandmothers or mothers had passed on to them, but that was enough. On the day of communion one could notice, in that almost cultural silence, the joy and happiness of receiving Jesus made bread. At the end of the day and when I was about to return to my town, one of them, called Daniel, simply gave me a hug and said "thank you". Then I understood that, in spite of all that atmosphere of death, silence and sacrifice, there was life, there was resurrection.

In 2015, I experienced a personal crisis like never before and as God knows our inner self, one day He placed me amidst a group of children to whom I gave two little medals of the Virgin. One for them and the other to give to whom they thought might need it. Finally, when I was almost leaving, a child said to me, he wanted to give the medal to me so that I would not be sad anymore. At that moment I did not know how to respond, but I did know it was an encounter with the Risen One, like in that encounter of Mary who, hearing his name, without understanding much, was able to recognize her

master in that face.

And I could go on writing stories like these of those poorest and most inhospitable places where God made me understand, with a child's face, the meaning of the Resurrection, because yes, we the missionaries should not only go on mission to announce the Risen One, but also to meet the Risen One in the mission. Without this encounter, without this experience, the children will be able to hear from us a good theology about Easter, but they will never understand what Easter is in our lives in order to discover it in theirs.

Fr. Hugo Vera, C.M.



Easter Triduum

This year, in the General Curia, Holy Week was once again celebrated in the House. Most of us were not able to be present with other communities as in previous years. The Superior of the House, Fr. Giuseppe Carulli, was able to accompany a community of the Daughters of Charity in Albania during the Triduum.

Although the celebrations were simple, there was a climate of much prayer where the center was the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus and the prayer for the entire Congregation, in a special way for the confreres affected by COVID. We share with you the Homily for Easter Sunday.
Happy Easter!

Reflection on the readings for Easter Sunday.

(Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9)

I love Peter's announcement about Jesus of Nazareth, the Man who passed through the earth "doing good" and "healing all those oppressed by the devil." Why? Because God was with him. A beautiful summary of what we celebrate today: the Father has shown how much he loves his Son and that he was never far from him. If God is with you, who can be against you? Because of his closeness to God, Jesus had attained LIFE before he died. Life never abandoned Jesus at any time. And he was aware of it. He

affirmed the "living water" to the Samaritan woman. Water united with the Spirit of Life for Nicodemus to be reborn. He lives for the Father and so he announces it: I am the resurrection and the life...

The disciples found it hard to believe that Jesus is Life himself. Perhaps it is because of the many moments of darkness that cross life: suffering, pain, death, uncertainty, loneliness, emptiness, opposition... these are signs that overwhelm us, that push us into the "dark night" of faith. This is how we have experienced this year of sickness, isolation and death. Like the converted disciple of Magdala and the other disciples we ask ourselves: "They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we do not know where they have laid him." We have a very materialistic faith. Like John, and other disciples, we need to see the empty tomb, the burial cloths, to believe that "he is risen" as he said. Today we have seen them and believed. Especially those who, like Mary and John, seek Jesus because they love Him. The disciple needs to believe deeply in life, to love the Risen One, because he is called to be a "witness". We preach to the poor what we have seen and heard, and even more, we preach the love that we have experienced and which gives meaning to our life. We preach as one who responds to the love he has received. Contemplating the Risen One, we too, disciples of the Lord, are already in possession of Life. A faithful disciple is the one who has been able to bet on this Life that has reached him long before his resurrection.





But if we still walk in the dark night, with Christ our love and our hope must be reborn. New life awaits us on the path of the integral following of the life of Jesus Christ. I was once asked the question: What would become of our faith if, instead of the empty tomb, we found the body of the crucified One? I think nothing, I said. It seems Jesus doesn't care what happens to his biological life. What really interests him is the LIFE with a capital L that he attained during his life, with a small letter. St. Vincent invites us to live something of this, because this is what we have to be witnesses of when we announce the good news to the poor. Never have his words been more timely than today: "Remember, Monsieur, we live in Jesus Christ through the death of Jesus Christ, and we must die in Jesus Christ through the life of Jesus Christ, and our life must be hidden in Jesus Christ and filed with Jesus Christ, and in order to die as Jesus Christ, we must live as Jesus Christ." (CCD I:276) How similar these words are to those of Paul: "For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory."

If God is with us as he was with Jesus, what a joy! Let us reject the dark night of a religion that compelled the disciples "to postpone their search for Jesus", under the pretext that God keeps the Sabbath and rests. The search for life must never be postponed... we must hasten to meet the Risen One facing the tension in which circumstances keep us away. In keeping the law, let us not wait for the early hour of Sunday to seek the Beloved. He is already waiting for us. Something has to move us to look for him continually.

Forgive us, Lord, when we do not know what to do with the "dark night". Listen to me well, I would rather see you dead than missing; I would rather see you lying there with all your torments, than ignored; I would rather see you slaughtered for the utopia of the Kingdom, than indifferent. I have learned this from so many families who, because of COVID, did not have the opportunity to see their loved one for the last time. Their reactions have taught me what a heart that refuses the disappearance of the loved one is capable of.

"Etsi Deus non daretur" [Even if God did not exist] ... in the dark night give me, O Lord, a heart in love.

Even if you had not risen, even if you had disappeared, even if they deny your commitment to the Kingdom, I need you alive, Father-Brother-Friend-Companion, Redeemer and Liberator... I need you alive because I myself want to live knowing you will never be among the dead, because you lead us to your Kingdom that is Life. "I beg Our Lord, - Saint Vincent prays - that we may be able to die to ourselves in order to rise with Him, that He may be the joy of your heart, the end and soul of your actions, and your glory in heaven. This will come to pass if, from now on, we humble ourselves as He humbled Himself, if we renounce our own satisfaction to follow Him by carrying our little crosses, and if we give our lives willingly, as He gave His, for our neighbor whom He loves so much and whom He wants US to love as ourselves. (CCD III:616) Amen.

Fr. Aarón Gutiérrez Nava, C.M.



EASTER IS MISSION

Holy Week Mission in the PARAGUAYAN CHACO

On Friday, March 26 this year, the mission teams made up of Vincentian and Carmelite Priests, Vincentian and Carmelite Seminarians and the Daughters of Charity left for the Paraguayan Chaco to celebrate Holy Week in four communities: Ninfa and Gral, Brugués (the Parish of St. Librada), Fortín Caballero and Esteban Martínez (the Vicariate of Our Lady of Fatima) in the Diocese of Benjamín Aceval.



Fr. Roberto Ríos, C.M., Sr. Carmen Ferreira, D.C. and seminarians Álvaro González (Vincentian), Osmar Brítez and Matías Vargas (Carmelites) were sent to Ninfa community. Fr. Sergio Plana, C.M., Sr. Natalia Romero, D.C., Sr. Teresita Giménez, D.C. and Vincentian seminarian

Agustín Barattini went to Esteban Martínez. Fr. Daniel Rosales, C.M. and Vincentian seminarians Pablo Barrera and José García came to Fortín Caballero community. Fr. Carlos Medina, O.C.D., Carmelite seminarians Juan Vázquez, José Benegas and Pablo Barreto, and

Sr. Rosa Ovelar, D.C. went to Gral. Burgués community.

Each mission team, when they settled in their respective communities, made arrangements of how the mission would be carried out, taking into account the restrictions placed by the Paraguayan government due to the COVID-19 virus contagions.



On Sunday, March 28, in all communities the celebration of Mass and the blessing of the palms opened the mission. In Fortín Caballero community, where the Police Chief was very strict with the restrictions, few parishioners took part in the celebration. As a gesture of communion on this important day for the Catholic faith, little crucifixes made of blessed palms were made and taken to the families in their homes.

On Monday 29, we visited families and blessed houses in the morning,

and in the afternoon in some communities we held meetings with children, young people and adults. The same dynamic continued until Holy Wednesday. On this day, Holy Wednesday, it is a tradition in Paraguay to prepare the Chupa (a kind of bread made of corn flour, manioc flour, egg and cheese), all the mission communities joined the families in the cooking of this traditional food.

On Holy Thursday morning we continued what we had been doing in the previous days and in the afternoon the Lord's Supper Mass was celebrated. On Good Friday in some communities there was a meeting with the people to watch the movie (The Passion of Christ). There were celebrations of the Passion and the Stations of the Cross, which in some places were performed by young people from the pastoral centers.

In the morning on Holy Saturday the visits to the houses continued.

In the afternoon the Easter Vigil was prepared and in some of the communities they organized meetings for the youth. The parishioners participated in the celebration with great enthusiasm. They were involved in the preparation of the blessing of the fire, they carried candles and water with devotion and one could feel the joy of living the Vigil, which for many was the first experience as, due to the lack of ordained ministers, this celebration had never been held in their communities.

On Sunday morning, the Easter Masses were celebrated. Local people expressed their gratitude to the missionaries, many of them, with tears, expressed their sadness because the missionaries had to leave...

It was observed during this mission there is a great shortage of assistance in these communities. They have very basic catechesis (no training for

catechists); they lack formation and didactic materials for catechists and catechized people. In the areas of education and health, we have seen a great neglect of the inhabitants in these places by the national and local governments, as the schools do not have books for reading and the health centers have almost no supplies, not even for first aid.

Following this beautiful experience, we will continue working as the Vincentian Family of Paraguay and in collaboration with the Carmelite Fathers, to give continuity to the initiated pastoral tasks.

José García

Vincentian seminarian

*Saint Vincent de Paul Seminary,
Asunción, Paraguay*



Holy Week in Talamanca: Vocational Mission



The vocational culture is lived in the Vincentian charism and this occurs as a result of the proper mission of the Congregation of the Mission, namely, the evangelization of the poor.

Therefore, the popular missions, which become a powerful experience of sharing in the life of those who are most abandoned, are an expression of vocational fidelity for the confreres. They are also a wonderful opportunity to invite young men and women to examine and reflect on their motivations with regard to their options for life ... and are also an opportunity to awaken the desire to follow Jesus Christ, evangelizer of the poor.

Such was the situation in Talamanca in the Vice-Province of Costa Rica, an indigenous mission that encompasses a vast territory and requires hours and

days of walking in the mountains and navigating many rivers. The Bribas and Cabécar are the indigenous groups that reside in this area and the Congregation has been with them for a half-century, promoting their human and social development and accompanying them in a pastoral manner.

Holy Week was a good opportunity for the seminarians and the young men in the process of discernment to have an opportunity for such a missionary experience. They arrived in Talamanca on Saturday, March 26th and immediately began their missionary work. On Monday, March 29th, they participated in the Chrism Mass in the Cathedral of the Diocese of San Vicente de Pául (which bears that name in honor of the missionaries of the Congregation). Then, between Tuesday, March 30th and Saturday, April 3rd, they dedicated their time to visiting some of the distant communities. In those places, the young men shared with the residents and led various liturgical celebrations that were adapted to the indigenous

reality (other adaptations had to be made because the heavy rains made it impossible to cross some of the rivers). The community experience played an important role during Holy Week. It impacted the prayer life and the fraternity among the group of young men who were not overwhelmed by the work that the mission involved and were able to share their experience with the other missionaries who were accompanying them on this mission as well as with the formators and the members of the vocational team. Easter is the great news of our lives and it is the joy that we communicate to the poor. Indeed, we must learn to proclaim this good news to others in a manner that makes people feel challenged to want to live and die in service of Jesus Christ, the evangelizer of the poor. This is also the manner in which a vocational culture is built.

Fr. Rolando Gutiérrez, CM



St. Vincent's **TRANSLATION**



Dear reader, remembering the day of the Translation of the Relics of Saint Vincent, I want to share with you some details and stories that concern this Vincentian Celebration. The Feast of the Transfer of Relics commemorates the transfer, in 1830, of the relics from the Chapel of the Daughters on rue du Bac to their current location. Meanwhile, they were displayed at Notre-Dame (the diocese had paid for the silver reliquary), and then there was a solemn procession through the streets of the city, one of the first public religious processions in Paris since the revolution. A bishop had been invited to give a great sermon at the end of the procession, but by that time. It was so late that there was no time, so everyone went to the refectory for dinner! The bishop's eulogy was published later. In 1959, in preparation for the 300th anniversary of Saint Vincent's death, the relics were removed from the

reliquary and taken to the present-day Vincentian Museum. There the coatings, etc. were examined. After all this examination, I believe the garments were replaced or at least dusted off, and the reliquary was returned to the chapel. Our Holy Founder traveled around Paris, even after his death.

Today in the reliquary the only wax parts are the face (not the whole head) and the hands. The rest of the bones are wrapped in silk and secured with silk ribbons of some kind, and finally sealed with wax, probably with the seals of the CM and perhaps also of the diocese of Paris.

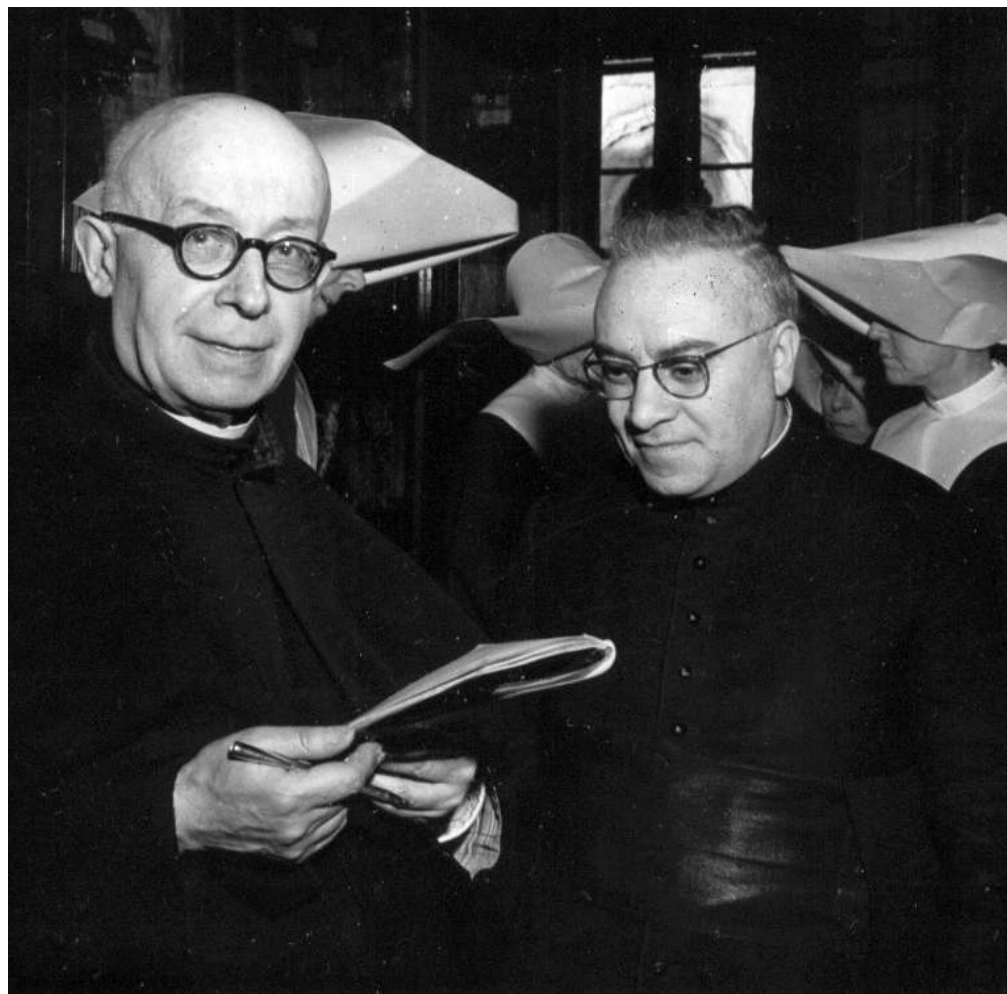
As an anecdote, I remember one day I was in the chapel while a group of American pilgrims made a visit. One of the women was delighted with

the uncorrupted body. I told her that what she saw was a wax mask. Her response was that I had no faith. Mine was that: I have pictures! She withdrew angrily.

I invite you to be able to see some photos of this moment on my website.

This is the URL:
<https://vincentianpersons.azurewebsites.net/StVincentImages/Home/ViewArchive/11>

John Rybolt, CM



Sacerdotal ordination in the **PROVINCE OF VIETNAM**

On Easter Thursday, April 08, 2021, at the Durando Institute in Dalat (Philosophy and Theology Institute of the Province of Vietnam), fifteen Vincentian deacons of the Province of Vietnam were ordained to the priesthood by the Most Reverend Dominique Nguyen Van Manh, Bishop of the Diocese of DaLat.

The new priests are:

1. CAO VAN Martin Luan
2. DANG TIEN Francis Xavier Duc
3. HOANG TRONG Joseph Mary Hoan
4. LE MINH Anthony Thuat
5. NGUYEN NGOC Louis Luan
6. NGUYEN THANH Joseph Minh
7. NGUYEN VAN Anthony Loc
8. NGUYEN VAN Vincent Doan

9. PHAM MINH Peter Trieu
10. PHAM NGUYEN Hoang Augustin Tu
11. PHAM THE Joseph Hoan
12. PHAM TRUNG Vincent Hieu
13. TRAN DINH Peter Dong
14. VO XUAN Peter Quang
15. VU TIEN John the Baptist Duc

About a hundred and eighty priests concelebrated with the Bishop in the joyful and solemn ordination mass together with many religious, and faithful.

At the beginning of the Mass, the Most Reverend Dominique reminded the liturgical community about the greatness of the Holy Order of Priesthood, asking everyone to give thanks

to God, and to respect and pray for priests.

Ordination to the priesthood is a joyful and sacred celebration of all the faithful and the Church because priests are great gifts of God to the community. In his homily, the Bishop reminded that priests are also human beings who need God's graces, especially in times of temptation.

Only with God's grace and prayer, priests are able to be faithful and vigilant. The Bishop warned that priests should not rely on their own abilities but rather on God's help. He also mentioned that the priests are





servants, that is, at the service of all Christians. He emphasized especially the vow of obedience. He said: "It is the foundation of the life of communion of the new priests with the Church and the Congregation." At the same time, he reminded the new priests about being patient in the missions. They must live for the Congregation's missions, ready to go anywhere and to do whatever the Congregation entrusts to them. He also said: "Dear new priests, you must be ready to go anywhere, including 'the middle of nowhere'".

In conclusion, he emphasized the greatness of the priesthood, the value of obedience and the importance of being living witnesses.

At the end of the Mass, Father Peter Nguyen Cong Tuan, CM, Visitor of the Vietnam Province, on behalf of the whole Province and the newly ordained priests, thanked the Bishop of the Diocese of Dalat, the concelebrating priests, the religious, the families of newly ordained priests, the Christian faithful, and all the guests. He

asked all the people to continue to pray, help and support the new laborers in God's harvest.

Finally, the Bishop and the liturgical community received the first blessing from the newly ordained priests.

*Fr. Joseph Vu Tuyen Huan, CM
Secretary of Vietnam Province*

VSO and new Executive Director



Vincentian Solidarity Office

The current Executive Director of the VSO, Fr. Greg Semeniuk, has actively planned for the future of the VSO since 2017. Part of that planning was assuring a smooth transition for the next Executive Director. Initially this meant balancing the project of formation for project managers with making this transition to new leadership in 2022. As the formation program came more clearly into focus, the date of transition moved to the end of December 2021.

In the 2020 December Tempo Forte meeting the General Council made a priority out of what had been a moderate engagement with the search for a new Executive Director. By the Tempo Forte of March 2021, the VSO corporation board had approved the search process and the General Council had implemented it. In our final discussion emerged our choice of Fr. Joel Y. BERNARDO CM. The Superior General confirmed his willingness and established that a three year renewable term would begin in on January 1, 2022. Between now and then, more intense beginning

in September, Fr. Greg and Fr. Joel will work together to insure that the transition of leadership is smooth.

Fr. Joel Bernardo, CM is currently based in Papua New Guinea (PNG) as a member of the International Mission since 2015.

He serves as the Head of the Research and Development Unit at the Melanesian Institute (MI), an ecumenical and inter-congregational 'Mission Resource' Institute that provides diverse socio-pastoral services to the missions and churches in Melanesia (South Pacific) through social research, culture-related courses, publications, and participatory social development alternatives.

With an anthropological research background and academic degrees from the University of the Philippines (UP) and University of London (LSE), he continues to work as a grassroots development anthropologist among the disadvantaged sectors in high-risk urban slums and rural villages. His sustained engagement in grassroots development processes

goes a long way back to the early years of his Vincentian ministry in the 1990s, working on varying capacities to mobilize the affected communities in pursuing their broad range of development agendas from humanitarian services to housing security.

He joined the Vincentians in the Philippines as a minor seminarian in 1981 and was ordained on December 9, 1995.



GENERAL INFORMATION

NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

RANDRIANANTENAINA Césaire	23/03/2021	Director HC MADAGASCAR
MURDANI Willibrordus	14/04/2021	Director HC Indonesia (Reconfirmed)

ORDINATIONES

MAMANI CHOQUE Roger Richard	Sac	PER	19/03/2021
PALOMINO PANTALEÓN Bryan Angel	Sac	PER	19/03/2021
URBINA VERONA Vero Carlos Ernesto	Sac	PER	19/03/2021
CAO VAN Martin Luan	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
DANG TIEN Francis Xavier Duc	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
HOANG TRONG Joseph Mary Hoan	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
LE MINH Anthony Thuat	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
NGUYEN NGOC Louis Luan	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
NGUYEN THANH Joseph Minh	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
NGUYEN VAN Anthony Loc	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
NGUYEN VAN Vincent Doan	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
PHAM MINH Peter Trieu	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
PHAM NGUYEN Hoang Augustin Tu	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
PHAM THE Joseph Hoan	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
PHAM TRUNG Vincent Hieu	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
TRAN DINH Peter Dong	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
VO XUAN Peter Quang	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
VU TIEN John the Baptist Duc	Sac	VTN	08/04/2021
NAYAK Tileswar	Sac	INS	12/04/2021
KINDO Rajen Prabin	Sac	INS	15/04/2021
BADING Ephrem	Sac	INS	20/04/2021

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
ENDOM Gabriel	Sac	25/03/2021	CAM	45	19
PICHON Bernard	Sac	27/03/2021	FRA	95	74
STANISZEWSKI Stanislaw	Sac	27/03/2021	NAN	83	64
ZAJĄK Stefan	Sac	01/04/2021	POL	76	59
RAKOTOARISON Pierrot Martin	Sac	04/04/2021	MAD	52	29
AGUILAR LÓPEZ Pedro	Sac	12/04/2021	AMC	72	54
VELASCO ROBLA Juan	Sac	15/04/2021	SVP	71	54
ARYONO SOEGIARTO Paulus	Sac	22/04/2021	IDS	75	53
DÍEZ VARONA Vicente	Sac	26/04/2021	PER	85	69

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Congregation of the Mission

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