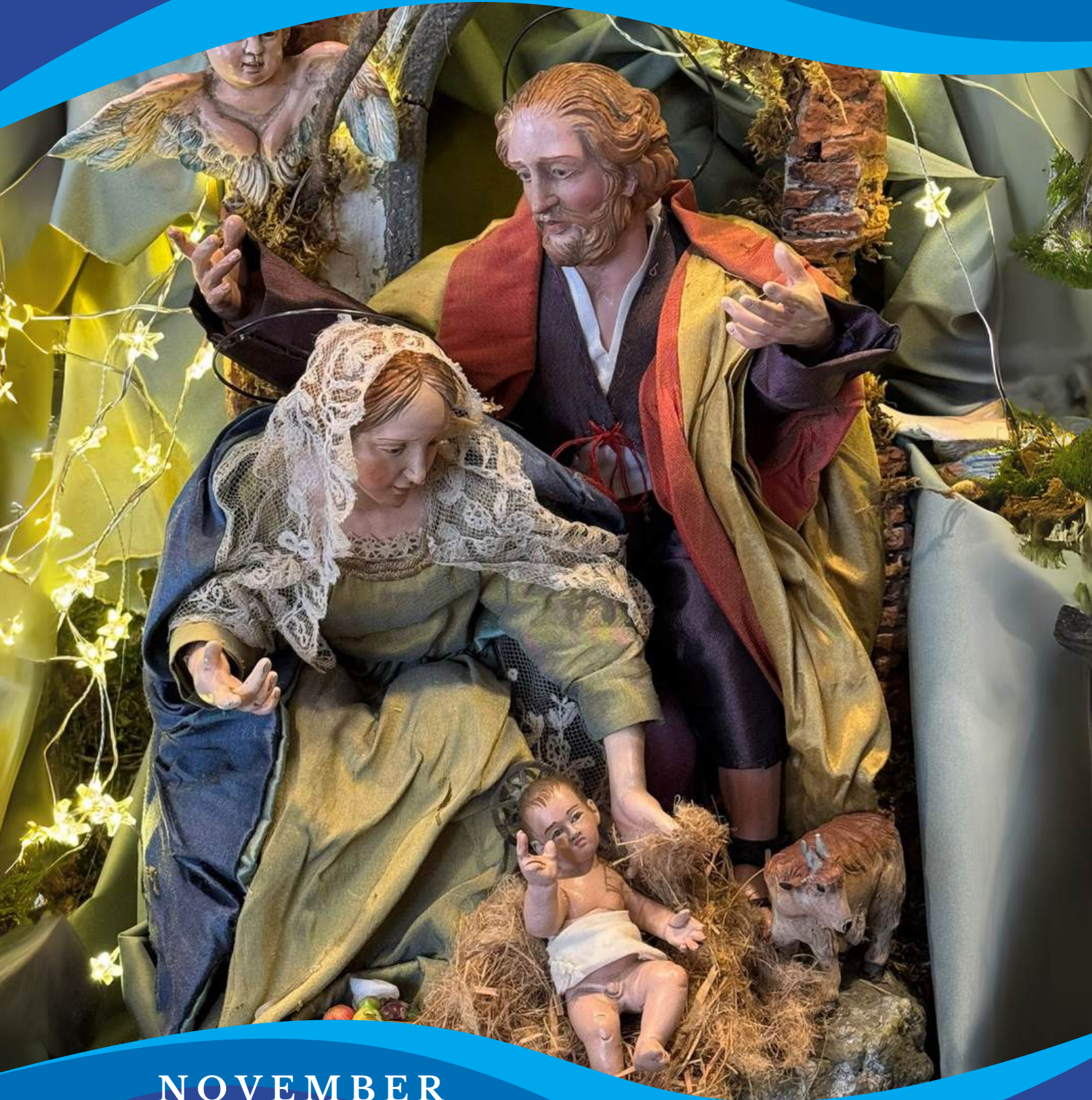


# NUNNTIA



NOVEMBER  
DECEMBER  
2024

ONLINE MAGAZINE OF THE  
CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION

# NUNTIA

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2024

## EDITORIAL

### **Towards the Grotto of Bethlehem**

In the dark night of war and poverty, God places once again the great sign of hope: THE LIGHT. Through the light, we learn to walk on righteous paths and rediscover the ways of peace. Peace must never fade from the depths of the human heart; as long as the Light remains lit within us, we will be bearers of peace. Every day will be Christmas in the heart of Christians. Every day, we are called to proclaim the message of Bethlehem to the world—"the good news of great joy": the Eternal Word, "God from God, Light from Light," has become flesh and has dwelt among us (cf. Jn 1:14).

In recent days, I have visited several families... I noticed that many decorate the Christmas tree but do not set up the Creche. Against those who claim that the Christmas tree and the Creche do not belong together (arguing that the tree, full of lights and loaded with gifts, symbolizes consumerist Christmas), I believe they do belong together.

The Jesuit B. Sorge wrote that their proximity not only does not disturb but actually helps to better understand the meaning they both celebrate in their own way. Indeed, it is neither the Creche nor the tree that gives meaning to Christmas, but it is the birth of Jesus that gives meaning to both. The Creche is not merely a memory of an event or a character from the past but a reminder of a living presence that continues in the Church and works in human history.

Christmas, therefore, will always remain contemporary with humanity. This is why the Creche never grows old. The message of peace and love, which the angels brought to people of goodwill on the Holy Night, comes alive year after year, always true and effective, even when events seem to contradict it, as they do now amidst the noise of war and the crimes of a faceless, borderless terrorism.

The living presence among us of the Prince of Peace (whom the Creche reminds us of every Christmas) is the best guarantee that, thanks to God and the goodwill of men, hatred will not overcome Love, nor darkness extinguish the Light.

Placed next to the Creche, the Christmas tree with its thousand lights proclaims the same message in a different way: the "true light that gives light to everyone" (Jn 1:9) has appeared in the world.

We know well that even during the Christmas festivities, tears and bitterness remain; many children will likely spend it again this year in cold, hunger, crying, and loneliness... And yet, despite the pain that sometimes enters our lives, Christmas is a ray of light for everyone, because it reveals God's love and makes us feel the presence of Jesus with all, especially with those who suffer.

On the journey to the grotto, there is Someone who has always been waiting for us.

**Fr. Salvatore Farì, CM**



# Virtual Tour of the Parish Saint Vincent de Paul



We have arrived at the month of December! It seems as though the year 2024 has flown by. Advent is here, and in a few weeks, we will be celebrating Christmas. Some will do so in warm weather, others in cold, depending on the geography that surrounds us. Let these humble pages serve as a preparation for our upcoming celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of the Congregation of the Mission.

As you may recall, we are still within the boundaries of what used to be the old and vast property of Saint-Lazare. Facing the small Franz Liszt Square stands the grand parish church of Saint Vincent de Paul (5, rue de Belzunce 75010 Paris). The church appears even more monumental as it is situated on a hill that Saint Vincent de Paul himself visited several times. We ascend the steps to reach the church.

The construction of this great temple spanned, with interruptions, from 1824 to 1844. Its main architect was Jacques Ignace Hittorff. The façade is neo-Greek. Particularly striking is the pediment, featuring a "Glorification of Saint Vincent de Paul." The sculpture summarizes the life of the saint: on his left, there is a priest, a galley convict, and a pagan; on his right are the poor women and children he helped, the Daughters of Charity, and the Lazarists he founded, as well as one of the noblewomen who supported his work. Saint Vincent de Paul is flanked by two angels representing Faith and Charity.

Above, the statues of the four Evangelists are positioned, while in the niches of each tower are Saint Peter and Saint Paul. And below? Twelve columns correspond to the twelve apostles.

Let us not be intimidated by this imposing building and its dark interior; let us enter. The interior decoration is inspired by Roman basilicas (this one is both neoclassical and romantic). As a whole, it is pleasing. Once inside, we are drawn to the beauty of its ceiling, the thick internal columns, and its tall stained-glass windows. Notice the magnificent organ by Cavaillé-Coll (19th century), beautifully centered amidst the Rose Window. In the central nave, there are stained-glass windows depicting Saint Vincent and Saint Francis de Sales.

Now, I invite you to look at the frieze, which is undoubtedly the church's masterpiece. It stretches to the right and left. This procession, symbolizing the Church, marches toward Jesus as Pantocrator, surrounded by prophets welcoming the saints into eternity. The double procession of saints and holy women illustrates the universality of the Church and the diversity of its gifts, charisms, and vocations. Saint Vincent de Paul is not depicted in the procession. Where is he? In a privileged position, he can be seen, accompanied by the children he rescued, at the feet of Christ in Glory. Closest to Jesus for having practiced charity with the poor. Finally, under the vault, Picot painted a semicircular frieze illustrating the seven sacraments.

Let us bow our heads and continue walking. An inscription on the wall commemorates Louise de Marillac, co-founder of the Daughters of Charity. Entering the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, after greeting the Lord, let us observe the typical statue of the compassionate Saint Vincent de Paul with abandoned children. Did you know? This image inspired the actor Pierre Fresnay in his portrayal of Saint Vincent in the award-winning 1947 film *Monsieur Vincent*. Nearby, there are two modern stained-glass windows that read: 1. Charity. 2. Saint Vincent de Paul, Apostle of Charity, pray for us.

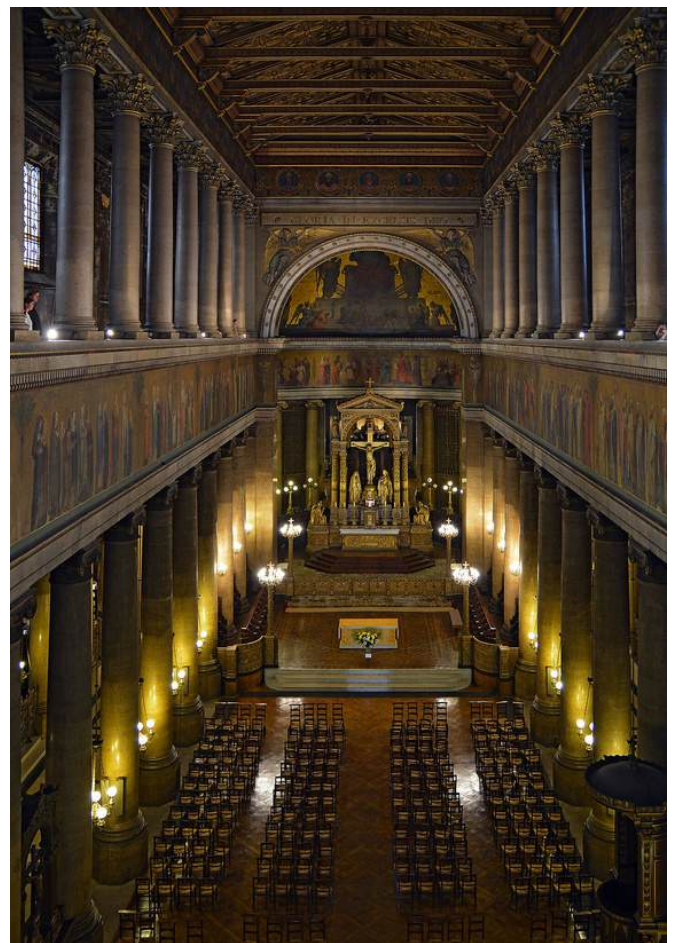
The parish is under the care of diocesan clergy and has two Vincentian groups: a Conference of Saint Vincent de Paul and another solidarity group called "The Companions of Saint Vincent de Paul." Often, when people are searching for our Church of Saint Vincent at the Motherhouse (which is not a parish), they confuse it with this one and come here.



Let us exit through the back door. I will briefly show you three more places. On the side, there is a youth center dedicated to the saint (12 rue Bossuet). Behind the church, not far away, at 6 rue de Rocroy, there is the Saint Vincent de Paul school. Its front features the typical French statue of Saint Vincent holding one child in his arms and another by his side. On our return, let us proceed along the small rue Saint Vincent de Paul.

Now, I have shown you these four places (including the parish). As we contemplate all this, we may ask ourselves: How can I live our Vincentian life more fully? See you next month.

**Fr. Andrés Motto, CM**



# In Rome, the World Meeting of the Vincentian Family

It is always fascinating to closely observe the gathering of a large family that shares everything: joys, sorrows, hopes. But one is truly left in awe when this family—the Vincentian Family—boasts an infinite number of members worldwide: more than two hundred congregations, associations, and entities united by the charism of Saint Vincent de Paul, the saint of charity. And it is even more moving to know that the theme of the international meeting, which began in Rome on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 14, is “Keeping the Fire Burning: Vincentian Synodality in Action.” This theme resonates with the three dimensions that the Pope has identified for the journey of the entire Church: communion, participation, and mission.

At the heart of this fraternal gathering, which will conclude on Sunday, November 17, when participants will head to St. Peter’s Square for Mass celebrated by Pope Francis on the occasion of the World Day of the Poor, lies an ancient question continually seeking new answers: How can we act in a world shaken by violent wars and gripped by injustices and abuses? The compass guiding this movement remains the charism of the founder, whose acts of selfless generosity even led King Louis XIII of France to name him his trusted advisor.



“There is a challenge that concerns us for the future: to keep our eyes open and respond swiftly to the needs of the 160 countries where we are present. We must intervene wherever people need help, both spiritually and materially.” Father Tomaž Mavrič, president of the executive committee of the Vincentian Family and Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, explains to L’Osservatore Romano that this goal is achieved through the collaboration of all Vincentian entities, which together become a powerhouse of good. He emphasizes that “our founder did not act alone; he always sought to involve others to advance projects of evangelization and charity.”

This year’s world meeting, the second following the one in Castel Gandolfo in 2020, also clearly underscores what Father Mavrič has long advocated: “I believe that now the Vincentian Family should be called the Vincentian Family Movement. The difference lies in the fact that previously the Vincentian Family was composed of religious congregations and lay associations, but now we have discovered that many, even if they do not belong to any branch, live out the same charism. Altogether, we exceed 4 million people.” On Sunday, the Pope himself will contribute to keeping alive the fire of love for others that always burns in the hearts of every Vincentian. He will do so by blessing 13 keys linked to the “13 Houses” project, which aims—especially during the Jubilee year—to inspire the international community to find solutions for homeless people living in 13 different countries. “The idea, born long ago, follows the initiative of Saint Vincent de Paul, who allocated part of his personal inheritance to buy 13 houses for the destitute.

Today, in many parts of the world, the project has made it possible to provide shelter to approximately 100,000 people. The 13 houses will also be opened in Syria with the support of the Holy Father. And for us, this assistance is truly significant.”

**By Osservatore Romano 15.11.24**

# Listening to Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM

## Rome, November 14, 2024

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### **What flames must be kept alive?**

Four flames to keep alive: spirituality nourished by prayer and expressed in charity; collaboration by overcoming divisions and uniting resources; innovation by responding creatively to new and old forms of poverty; and formation by educating future generations for mission and charity.

### **The fire ignited**

How can we keep the fire of the Vincentian charism burning? By following Divine Providence, listening to the Spirit at work within us, and living humility and simplicity.

### **Synodality**

How was the life of Saint Vincent a lesson in synodality? Vincent knew how to listen to the poor and their needs; he collaborated with others and walked alongside the Church of his time.

### **What are the obstacles to collaboration?**

Not feeling part of the family, rivalry, and individualism.

The earth, our common home

If Saint Vincent were alive today, he would see the connection between the suffering of the earth and that of the poor who inhabit it, and he would invite us to care for the poor and for the earth, our common home.

God continues to care for our world and the poor... what are we willing to do?



# Gen Verde Concert

## November 16, 2024

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"I go out, step outside, and look beyond my small world and my weaknesses. I open my heart and discover that when I think of others' well-being, I give my best. I am not a superhero. I believe in us. If I am there for you and you for me, we can win."



# Lunch with the Poor

## November 17, 2024

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The Superior General, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, distributes Saint Vincent's backpack to the poor who shared a meal with Pope Francis and gives them a message: "I write to you, my brother... I write to you, my sister! On this special day, the Lord's Day, my eyes are fixed on you. My eyes meet yours, full of suffering but also of hope. Your gaze questions my life. Yes! I have already chosen you! Take heart! The Family of the Mystic of Charity, Vincent de Paul, walks with you!" (Fr. Tomaž Mavrič)



# Meeting of the Directors of the Daughters of Charity

## Paris, December 1–15, 2024

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The office of the Provincial Director dates back to the origins of the Company. In fact, it was Saint Louise who always desired and did everything possible, not only for the Company to remain under the authority of Saint Vincent and his successors, the Superiors General of the Congregation of the Mission, but also for the Sisters to receive spiritual guidance from the Missionaries. The Foundress believed this would be an effective means of preserving in the Company the spirit that God had given it and thus safeguarding its identity. She expressed this desire clearly in her writings. For example, in 1646, she wrote to Saint Vincent in these terms:

“In the name of God, Father, do not allow the slightest thing that might give reason for the Company to stray from the direction God has given it; be assured that it would cease to be what it is now, and the sick poor would be left without assistance; I believe that then God’s will for us would no longer be fulfilled” (III, 115).

The Provincial Directors of the Daughters of Charity gathered in the City of Light, Paris, for a fraternal and formative meeting from December 1 to 15 under the theme: “Encourage and Accompany in Hope.” From various Provinces of the Daughters of Charity across continents, we, the Lazarist priests, shared the experience of serving the Sisters in this ministry as Directors.

Three objectives guided these days:

1. Continuing reflection on the “being” and “doing” of this unique ministry to the Daughters of Charity.
2. Being attentive to realities that, as signs of the times, encourage and compel us to update our service.
3. Sharing, in fraternal communion, experiences and concerns that represent challenges to be addressed by Provincial Directors.

These three objectives were achieved over the days, enriched by the reflections of experts who helped prepare us for this ministry to better serve our Sisters, the Daughters of Charity. The methodology varied throughout the sessions: morning lectures, shared experiences of our confreres in pastoral service, and fraternal exchanges within linguistic groups. This expressed a sincere desire to improve service in each Province and in the pastoral ministries of the Daughters of Charity, who respond to the Church’s call and the needs of the poor in diverse realities and cultures.

Forty-five confreres made this long-awaited gathering a reality. The daily presence of the Director General, Fr. José Antonio González Prieto, CM, was a source of great joy for all the Provincial Directors. The presence of the Superior General, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM, during one of the sessions, and of the Mother General, was an expression of unity and shared responsibility in this service that dates back to the founding of the Daughters of Charity, born of the vision of Saint Louise de Marillac and the Congregation of the Mission. The presence of the Sisters of the General Council, who accompanied the sessions with attentive silence, was invaluable. Gratitude also goes to the Sisters involved in translation and secretarial work, whose efforts maintained a climate of communication and dialogue.

But from where did the Directors of the Daughters of Charity arrive at the Motherhouse? A formation and participatory meeting like this had not occurred for 12 years. Confreres arrived from:

- Africa: Seven Directors from the Provinces of Central Africa, Cameroon, Congo, Eritrea, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Nigeria.





- America: Fourteen Directors from North America and Canada (Provinces of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Louise, USA); Latin America and the Caribbean (Directors from Central America, Amazonia, Belo Horizonte, Curitiba, Recife, the Caribbean, Bogotá-Venezuela, Cali, Ecuador, Mexico, Nuestra Señora de la Misión-America South, and Peru).
- Asia: Five Provinces: North India, South India, Indonesia, St. Louise de Marillac-Asia, and Vietnam.
- Europe: Fourteen Provinces: Central Europe (Graz), Belgium-France-Switzerland, Spain-Central, Spain-North, Spain-South, Rosalie Rendu, Ireland, St. Vincent-Italy, Chelmsno-Poznan, Krakow, Warsaw, Portugal, Slovakia, and Slovenia, along with one Region: Albania.

Nine absences were justified due to health issues or difficulties obtaining visas from the French government. This privileged time of encounter was a true kairós in the life and ministry of each confrere. Coming from diverse nationalities and cultures, the meeting allowed us to share face-to-face the unique experiences of this particular ministry to the Daughters of Charity. Workshops facilitated open expression and the sharing of diverse experiences that enrich service and closeness to the Sisters in their respective countries. Pilgrimages to Vincentian sites were special moments to recall the roots of the Vincentian charism and rediscover its contemporary significance. The conferences were varied and enriched by dialogue with the speakers, clarifying doubts and complementing what was presented. A thorough review of the Directory for Provincial Directors of the Daughters of Charity was undertaken, covering topics such as:

- The origin and historical development of the Director's service,
- Relations and commitments with the Curia,
- Accompaniment of elderly or struggling Sisters,
- Reconfiguration processes of Provinces and review of works,
- Pastoral visits,
- Contributions to formation,
- Permanent formation, personal dialogues, matters of conscience,
- Permissions related to poverty, and more.

These key topics deepened understanding of the Provincial Director's role and commitment in ministry to the Daughters of Charity.

Liturgical and festive celebrations were expressions of gratitude to God for this ministry. The locations were varied and meaningful, renewing the mission entrusted to us by the successor of Saint Vincent de Paul.

A heartfelt and special thanks to those who envisioned and carried out this international meeting of Directors of the Daughters of Charity in 2024. The hope now is to apply what was experienced and learned in the various Provinces of the Daughters of Charity.

**Fr. Álvaro Mauricio Fernández Monsalve, CM**  
**Province of La Milagrosa Bogotá-Venezuela**



## Events November – December



**Blessing for the start of construction on the Chapel in Enugu (Nigeria)**



**Assistant General Fr. D. Iyolo in Thessalonica**



**Meeting of student confreres at the General Curia in Rome**



**Assistant General Fr. D. Iyolo at the Berceau de Saint Vincent de Paul**



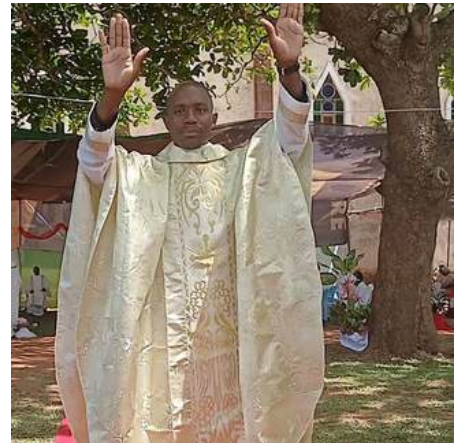
**Assistant General Fr. D. Iyolo in Paris at the CIF**



**In Tanzania, the purchase of a bus for our seminarians and the agricultural project; thanks to our benefactors**



**Priestly ordination of Fr. Francisco and Fr. Mendes in Mozambique**



**Priestly ordination of Fr. João Massango in Mozambique**



**Welcoming of 15 students, lectorate, and acolyte institution in Madagascar**



**Assistant General Fr. D. Iyolo in Dembidolo (Ethiopia)**



**Provincial Assembly in Ethiopia**



**In Madrid, the closing of the Jubilee Year  
of the Basilica La Milagrosa**



**Fr. Vicente Bokalič Iglič, Archbishop of Santiago del Estero (Primate of Argentina),  
created Cardinal by Pope Francis in the Consistory of December 7**



In Nigeria, the Diaconal Ordination of 16 confreres

The editorial team of Nuntia wishes its readers a  
Merry Christmas

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# From the General Secretariat

## NOMINATIONES

COSSA Artivo Jonas	MOZ	Visitor Mozambique (Reconfirmed)
PELLEFIGUE Frédéric	FRA	Visitor France (Reconfirmed)

## ORDINATIONES

MASSANGO João Ngaiane	Sac	MOZ	16/11/2024
DANIEL Mendes	Sac	MOZ	30/11/2024

## NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
LEITE DE CARVALHO José Maria	Sac	02/11/2024	LUS	77	60
TADIOLI Giuseppe	Sac	02/11/2024	ITA	85	68
GARRIDO RIBADA Manuel	Sac	02/11/2024	MAD	87	68
FIRUTA Edward	Sac	14/11/2024	POL	65	43
GARCÍA MANZANEDO Alberto	Sac	23/11/2024	COL	89	73
MBATA Cyril Nnamdi	Sac	28/11/2024	NIG	65	45
PONTICELLI Silvano	Sac	30/11/2024	IDS	89	73
MAHONDE MANGAYA Joseph	Sac	16/12/2024	CNG	65	45

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