

NUNNTIA

Newsletter

of the Congregation of the Mission

2021
NOVEMBER



Congregation of the Mission
Communication Office



The Miraculous Medal: A Living Sign of God's Love Through Mary

Thank you, because you have borne witness to the style of the "outbound Church" that reaches out to all, starting with the excluded and the marginalized. Those were the words that Pope Francis spoke as he greeted the members of the Vincentian Family who gathered in Saint Peter's Square during the audience of November 24, 2021. The Pope greeted the Vincentian Family on the occasion of the approach of the Feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. Father Valerio DiTrapani: in our journey with Mary we discover the power of divine grace.

On the night of July 18-19, 1830, Catherine Laboure, a young Daughter of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, saw the Blessed Mother for the first time. On November 27th of the same year, Catherine saw the Blessed Mother again, but this time Mary was holding a globe in her hand (a globe that represented humankind). Catherine contemplated the beauty of this scene and accepted the mission to make a medal: the individuals who wear this medal will receive many graces. Such was the promise of the Blessed Mother ... and since that time millions of men and women throughout the world have become devoted to this miraculous medal. Thus, we see the power of a love that has continued throughout the years.

Father Valerio DiTrapani, superior of the Leonine in Rome and national advisor to the Vincentian Volunteers explained that the concrete sign of the feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is found in the desire for a tangible belief in the power of God: I remember an event that happened some time ago during a trip that I made to Albania immediately after the fall of the communist regime. I met a woman who showed me the medal that she had worn around her neck for some fifty years. At that time, the image of Virgin was not recognizable, but this woman told me: "I have held this medal in my hands during the most difficult moments of my life and the Lord has never abandoned me." That is the most beautiful sign, that is, to believe in a God who loves us and who draws near to us during our time of need. Indeed, that is the great significance of the Miraculous Medal.

The grace of forgiveness through the Virgin
Since last year (the 190th anniversary of the apparitions to Saint Catherine Laboure) the Vincentian Missionaries in Italy, in collaboration with the Vincentian Family, has promoted a pilgrimage of the image of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, a pilgrimage that encompassed all the Dioceses in Italy. This pilgrimage began on November 11th, 2021 ... began at the Vatican after a blessing from Pope Francis. Father Valerio stated that this has been a



a year of special grace not only for us who accompanied the image during this time of pilgrimage, but also for the many faithful who came to venerate this image. We began this pilgrimage when we were still in a situation of "lockdown" and our movement was very restricted. Yet the churches were filled with people (always, however, respecting the norms with regard to social distancing). People were filled with joy as they awaited the arrival of the image. I believe that one of the greatest graces was the many requests that we received for confession and reconciliation. Many people had not received the sacrament for over a year and words cannot describe their joy as they received God's forgiveness.

The Virgin was received in hospitals
A church that reaches out with the Virgin on pilgrimage. The image was received also in those places where "the least and most suffering members of Christ's body" are found ... in hospitals and prisons. Father Valerio stated: we will never forget the welcome that we received in those places. I remember the manner in which the image was received in the prison at Caltanissetta, Paola and Cosenza ... I also recall the welcome that we were given by the patients and health officials in the various hospitals. The Blessed Mother represents the Mother of the Savior and these people experienced salvation entering their dwelling place, entering their lives. In my opinion, all of this is a sign of a church that reaches out to others (a Church that Pope Francis so desires). In this way we become heralds of God who in turn transforms our lives and our story. Isn't that what happened to Mary. The Church that reaches out gives life to the gospel message and this experience of the Virgin on pilgrimage enabled us to share this mystery with all people, beginning with those who were furthest removed from their faith.

Source: The Vatican Radio.

COMMUNITY IN DIALOGUE

The Community in Dialogue is "a group of people who struggle to be themselves, to recover that dignity that makes man great, every man, whatever his history, whatever his wounds".

Because. "every man has his wounds and each one is wounded where he has not been loved".

It is an intense life experience that allows each person to rediscover the best part of himself: the one that makes us more honest, more sincere, more authentic, more free. It is a radical change in the way of conceiving existence that strikes at the heart of substance abuse, whatever it may be. People will stop taking drugs simply because they no longer need them.

One has learned to live one's existence to the fullest.



WHO WE ARE ADDRESSING

We address men and women who, in the experience of their own human poverty, choose, together with others, to believe in love and in the values of life. In particular, we address those who most clearly represent the spiritual crisis of our society and are both witnesses and victims: drug addicts, alcoholics and people with psychosocial and behavioral problems.

For many years, the community has operated on the basis of a psycho-educational and enhancement approach (empowerment of individuals and families, as well as the acquisition of inner, relational and social skills).

The Community is managed by an interdisciplinary team composed of a psychiatrist, a medical toxicologist, a psychologist, professional nurses, professional educators and workers.

WHY... "IN DIALOGUE"?

Why "in dialogue"? Because by learning to dialogue, to support each other, the man in each of us, day by day, comes to life.

And no matter the fatigue and sacrifice; on the contrary, no more fear and sacrifice, because the desire to live oneself in the deepest dimensions, in one's feelings, in one's affections, in the reality of one's own future (thought again as possible), this desire is stronger than any fear and sacrifice!

It is man. It is the life of man that the Creator and Father has powerfully imprinted in the "Being" of each one of us, so unique and unrepeatable, but so equal and in need of others.

PROPOSAL

We are aware that this problem is not only of our place but of the whole world, therefore we dream that the "Community in Dialogue" is present in every Province of the Congregation of the Mission and in every place where the Vincentian Family is present.

We invite you to get to know us better at:
<http://www.comunitaindialogo.it/>



New confreres incorporated into the Congregation of the Mission



On 06/11/2021, through the Holy Vows (stability, chastity, poverty and obedience) the following confreres were incorporated into the Brazilian Province of the Congregation of the Mission: Allan Júnio, Cléber Fábio, Michel Araújo and Tulio Medeiros.

The celebration of the vows took place in the interior chapel of the Vincentian Theological Seminary - São Justino de Jacobis, in Belo Horizonte - MG (Brazil), in a Eucharist presided by the Provincial Visitor, Fr. Eli Chaves, CM and concelebrated by the other confreres present.

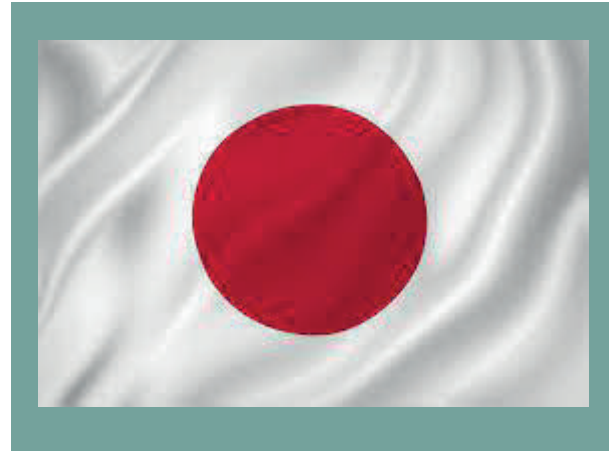
May God enlighten them, strengthen them and keep them persevering in following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and St. Vincent de Paul and may the Miraculous Virgin protect them in the vocation and mission entrusted to them.



Japan Mission

You may have known that the Japan Mission of the Vincentians is the longest for the Philippine Province (1977). It has absorbed some of our talents and precious personnel but it is also a very good example of a modern missionary activity. At present, the confreres are involved in parish activities and some apostolate with the Sisters. We have heard so much about the problem of language but it seems that there are many recompense for suffering the hardships. We are happy to share with you a description of their life as seen on Facebook; pictures with St.Vincent, smiling team of missionaries, eating wonderful food, many beautiful sceneries of Japan , birthday greetings and pictures of smiling confreres, pictures of the bursting beauty of Fall,, ordination anniversary, teachers proclaim joy for priest who were their students in grade school, beautiful lake, fur trees, ordination banquet, etc. As of now, there are six Confreres in Japan making it the largest contingent of missionaries we have abroad.

Here are some background for the Japan Mission. Fr. Foley related several times and on several occasions, the history of the Vincentian Japan Mission. According to him, the first Vincentian to be assigned in Japan was Fr. Kevin O'Hagan of Ireland in 1949 and became the chaplain of the Daughters of Charity who arrived in 1933. Father Louis Reinprecht of Austria arrived in 1952 and was installed as director of the Sisters on April 14, 1952. Fr. O'Hagan stayed on till 1958 and Fr. Joseph Tichit of France came to Japan to be confessor and chaplain. On April 18, 1963 Fr. Reinprecht had a heart attack and in the spring of 1964 Fr. Foley of the Midwest Province of USA was sent to Japan as Director of the Sisters. In 1967 Father Tichit left for France and in 1973 Father Thomas Davitt came to Japan but because of health reasons he had to return to Ireland in 1974.



Fr. Robert Lucas of the Midwest Province USA in 194.... became ill and returned to the USA in two years. In 1964, Fr. Ignatius Foley went to Japan and stayed there until 1984. From 1977 Filipino Vincentians worked in Japan and finally took over the Mission in 1984.

Father James Richardson saw the need of the Philippine Province to take over the Mission in Japan and requested for volunteers. Father Michael Gimarino was chosen and arrived in Japan in 1977; Fr. Ortazon at the end of his term as Provincial Visitor came to Japan in 1979. Fr. Gimarino was appointed Director of the DC in Japan in 1980 and took over the position in 1981. The following Filipino confreres worked in Japan: Fr. Gimarino, Fr. Ortazon, Fr. Vic Torres, Fr. Caballero, Fr. Colina,, Fr. Consulta, Fr. Rodge Cardenas, Fr. Roed Desamparado, Fr. Darryl Dino, Fr. Pormento.

Fr. Rolando S. DelaGoza, CM
Province of the Philippines

NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

PELLEFIGUE Frédéric	27/10/2021 (start 29/11/2021)	Visitador Francia
BORDA MONTES Rubén Pedro	27/10/2021	DC Director Peru (Reconfirmed)
BOUCHET Yves	27/10/2021	DC Director Belgium-France- Switzerland (Reconfirmed)
TECLU Oqbamicael	27/10/2021	DC Director Eritrea (Reconfirmed)
SCHINDLER Eugen	11/11/2021	Visitor Austria-Germany (Reconfirmed)
FITZGERALD Joseph G.	18/11/2021	Regional Superior Panama
GIGIH JULIANTO Antonius	26/11/2021 (start 25/01/2022)	Visitor Indonesia

ORDINATIONES

SILVA COSTA Adalberto	Sac	FLU	13/11/2021
GUERRA VALENCIA Olmedo	Sac	ORL	20/11/2021

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
PASCUAL PEQUEÑO José	Sac	08/11/2021	CAE	93	74
RATAJ Franc	Sac	14/11/2021	SLN	72	53
KARIANKAL Cherian	Sac	21/11/2021	INS	87	67
MARRODÁN VITORIA Francisco Javier	Sac	21/11/2021	POR	82	67
BARRY Stanislaus Joseph	Sac	27/11/2021	AUL	95	77

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