

SEPTEMBER - 2023

NUNTIA





VISIT OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL, P. TOMAŠ, A ANGOLA

O mbote mbote kya mwene yabanga Nzambi

A Kimbundu proverb says: "O mbote mbote kya mwene yabanga Nzambi" [the true good is God who does it] Angolan Catholics know this well and live every event of their lives in the presence of God. This is how the visit of Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, to Angola, one of the four International Missions that depend on the General Curia, was experienced as God's visit to this part of the African people.

In spite of the great distances, during the week of 2-9 September, we visited the mission of Lombe, the houses of the Daughters of Charity and met the branches of the Vincentian Family present in Angola. It was an intense week of celebrations full of joy and happiness, a time of getting to know the reality of this country, of encountering the culture, the colourful landscapes, the traditional clothes, the music, the gastronomic diversity and the festive liturgical ceremonies. In his journey, Father Tomaž was accompanied by Father Artivo Jonas Cossa, CM, Visitor of the Province of Mozambique, who also took the opportunity to get to know the country and the mission.





From the 2nd to the 5th we visited the mission of Lombe, in the province of Malanje, where we Vincentian Missionaries have been for 11 years, the local community formed by Fathers Rony Kannanaikkal, CM, from the Province of North India, Suresh Praban Siluvayya, CM, from the Province of South India and Jorge Luis Rodríguez, CM, from the Province of Colombia, were able to live together with the visitors in our mission house and during the trip through the provinces of Angola.

The Catholics of Lombe and the villages joined in the event in a simple but joyful way, taking advantage of the messages and teachings of Father Tomaž. In Lombe, in addition to the mass, we had a meeting with the apostolic groups and a cultural evening, each of the groups showed the cultural richness and the reality of the region, with songs, dances and representations of what is a funeral, the rite of alambamento (engagement) and the situation of witchcraft, which are situations that we have to live daily.

Other moments were the dialogue with Monsignor Luzizila Kiala, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Malanje and a meeting of the visitors with the local community, in which the activities carried out in the mission during this year and the central theme were presented, the proposal of the Superior General to begin to take steps for the Vice-Province of Mozambique to assume the International Mission, the first steps will be the strengthening of the pastoral project and the mission, the vocational pastoral and the accompaniment of the branches of the Vincentian Family present in Angola.

In the following days we made a marathon tour of the houses of the Daughters of Charity. The Vincentian Sisters arrived in Angola twenty-five years ago. There are currently 15 sisters, as well as 24 aspirants and 5 postulants. Angola is a mission belonging to the Province of Central Spain and is distributed in four houses: Balombo, Luanda, Quibala and Lobito. During the tour we were able to see the works and also meet the members of the Vincentian Family. The sisters have different works at the service of the poor of this country, among which the following stand out: education with several schools, health pastoral and two health centres, catechetical and missionary pastoral, care for the elderly, accompaniment of pregnant mothers and infants, prison pastoral, advisory services to the branches of the Vincentian Family, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Association of the Miraculous Medal, Sons and Daughters of Mary and Vincentian Marian Youth and parish pastoral.

In Lobito we were also able to learn about the work being done by MISEVI from Spain who have been present in that city since 2016, the project is called Ondjango Yapongololi. In Unbuntu Ondango means, the meeting place of the community where important issues are dealt with; and Yapongololi which means of the innovators, those who do new things. The project has two areas of focus: Ondjango Yapongololi: training of young leaders and Omõla wasandjuka: family intervention with a focus on children.





The last day in Angola was no less than the previous ones. We began the day with a brief visit to Monsignor Giovanni Gaspari, Apostolic Nuncio of Angola, who was in contact with the Superior General, supporting us before our trip, for the acquisition of visas for the confreres. The farewell in Luanda was the celebration of the Eucharist in the Church of the Holy Family of the Redemptorist Fathers, which was made available to us, and the meeting with about 500 people belonging to the branches of the Vincentian Family mentioned above.

The message of Father Tomaz to the members of the Vincentian Family was very clear, the testimony of life and an invitation to organize a National Board, regional boards, but above all, to join the alliance of the Vincentian Family in the world in "the campaign of the 13 houses", all the participants were happy and with enthusiasm to live the tasks left by the Superior General in his visit to Angola.

We thank God for this moment of encouragement and missionary courage that Father Tomaž left us, and above all for his testimony of adaptation to live the conditions of the mission (we are living in a time of water shortage) and the simplicity in meeting people and the affection with which he approached each one of them.

Fr. Jorge Luis Rodríguez B., CM



PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF FATHER RROK SHPORAJ CM



It is with joy that the Mission of the Vincentian Fathers in Albania and the Province of the Vincentians in Italy celebrated the priestly ordination of Fr Rrok Shporaj cm.

Our confrere was ordained by the Bishop Emeritus of Rrëshen, Mgr Cristoforo Palmieri cm, in the Cathedral of Shkodra on 23 August 2023. He celebrated his first Mass in the parish where he met the Missionaries.

Our small company recognised in this ordination not only a sign of hope for these "vocationally" somewhat meagre times, but also a great gift of the Trinity: before being given to ourselves, a gift given to the Albanian Church, to the poor in particular and to his family of origin.

In his homily, the bishop illustrated the spiritual identity of the priest and his mission: identification with Christ the Servant Priest, Head and Shepherd. He then pointed out that this event coincides with the celebration "full of great joy" of the 30th anniversary of the return of the Vincentians to Albania - 27 September 1993 - "when, after the end of the atheistic communist regime, the Vincentians returned to this place, washed by the blood of the martyrs, called by the newly reborn Church, to help fraternally in the re-evangelisation of those who risked their lives preserving the faith in the shadows".



Father Rrok was born on 31 January 1994 in Mazrrek-Scutari. As a young man he came to know the Vincentian Missionaries in the parish of Grudë e Re, where he moved with his family in 2005. He became involved in the parish as a minister and on this path he discovered the first signs of his vocation. After a few years, he started his journey in our community by doing a weekend experience. After the propaedeutic year, which he completed here in Shkodra at the Interdiocesan Seminary "Our Lady of Good Counsel", he continued his studies in philosophy and theology in Italy, in Piacenza, at the Gollegio Alberoni. In September 2015 he began his novitiate in Naples and on 27 September 2020 he took his vows in Vinoteka, a church dedicated to St. Vincent.

Ordained deacon in the cathedral of Shkodra on 21 August 2021, he was sent to Lamezia Terme (Italy) to continue his formation and dedicate himself to parish ministry. For the last year he has been working in Catania (Italy) in direct service to the poor: the homeless in the "Samaritan's Inn", in the juvenile prison, in the canteen of the Sisters of Mother Teresa, in the street unit at night.

As a Vincentian missionary, Father Rrok is called to follow Christ as Saint Vincent de Paul saw him, that is to say, as the one sent by the Father to evangelise the poor, with an effective and affective love, in word and deed, in the spirit of the 5 virtues proper to our Little Company: simplicity, humility, meekness, mortification and zeal. We commend him to your prayers.

We are currently 6 Vincentian missionaries in Albania, one of whom is Italian and the others Albanian. Our presence in the country has known two phases: the first in the pre-war period, from 1931 to 1942. The first destination was Korça, from where they expanded to Pogradec. The outbreak of World War II put an end to the mission. The second phase began in 1993 in Miridita in Rrëshen. Currently we are present in Grudë e Re (Archdiocese of Shkodër-Pullt) and in Ferrë Trash (Archdiocese of Tirana-Durazzo).

May God continue to bless our Albanian Church with the gift of good priestly and religious vocations for His Kingdom!

Father Luigi Cannato, CM
Regional Superior of Albania





INTERNAL SEMINAR ADMISSION



Province Vincentian Missionaries Italy

On 24 September, in the Parish of St. Mary Immaculate and St. Vincent de Paul, David Gall and Antonio Alsalah entered the Internal Seminary.

The formation team is composed of three brothers: Father Valerio from Trapani as director, Father Antonio Di Santo and Father Daniel Ortega, brothers from the same community of Tor Sapienza (Rome).

C. 53 - § 1. The candidate is admitted to the Congregation when, at his request, he is accepted to complete the probationary period in the internal seminary.

S 20. § 1 The internal seminary begins when the candidate is declared admitted by the Director or his deputy in accordance with the Provincial Norms.

(Constitutions, Part II - Members of the Congregation; Statutes 20, § 1).

Our prayers go out to these two young men.

Our best wishes and best wishes for a good journey.







**PADRE ODAIR MIGUEL
GONSALVES DOS SANTOS
OBISPO AUXILIAR DE LA
ARCHIDIÓCESIS DE
PORTO ALEGRE**

On Wednesday 20 September, Pope Francis appointed Father Odair Miguel Gonsalves dos Santos auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese of Porto Alegre (RS).



Born on 2 September 1965, Father Odair Miguel is the son of Miguel Gonçalves dos Santos and Eunice dos Santos (in memoriam), and has two brothers: Ocimar Antônio Gonçalves dos Santos and Odete Aparecida dos Santos Ferreira.

In 1992 he entered the Propaedeutic Seminary of Colombo (PR), studied philosophy at the Vincentian Institute between 1993 and 1995 and graduated from the University of São Francisco de São Paulo (SP) in 1997. That same year, he began studying theology at the Pontifical Faculty of Theology Nossa Senhora da Assunção in São Paulo, graduating in theology in 2000. His ordination to the priesthood took place in Irati (PR) on 16 December 2000.

In 2001, he was appointed substitute director of the Philosophical Seminary of Curitiba (PR), and then vocation promoter of the Province, a position he held from 2001 to 2005, when he was appointed director of the Daughters of Charity of the Province of Curitiba and remained in the post for six years.

Odair was also provincial councillor of the Congregation of the Mission of the Southern Province from 2005 to 2008; assistant provincial of the Congregation from 2010 to 2013; parish priest of St. Anne's Parish from 2011 to 2016. That same year he was appointed provincial of the Congregation of the Mission Province of Curitiba, a mandate he has held until the present, having been re-elected in 2019.

From 2017 to 2022 he was president of CLAPVI - the Latin American Conference of Vincentian Provinces. At the end of his term of office he was appointed administrator of the Parish of St. Vincent de Paul, where he currently ministers, and on 25 May 2023 he was appointed assistant to the Secretary General of the Congregation of the Mission in Rome.



NEW COMMUNITY IN ERATTAYAR, IDUKKI, IN SYRO MALABAR DIOCESE



With the aim of expanding and extending the Vincentian presence and mission to as many new places as possible, the South Indian Province had purchased a plot of land in the High Ranges of Idukki district in the Syro Malabar Diocese in the month of January 2023. The property included three acres of land and small house with 4 rooms. The existing house was painted and two rooms were converted into a small chapel.





On 18th September 2023 at 5:30 PM His Excellency Rt. Rev. John Nellikkunnel, Bishop of Idukki diocese blessed the new altar and chapel and celebrated the Holy Mass. In his homily Bishop John Nellikkunnel highlighted the significance of St. Vincent de Paul, Vincentian mission, and formation and ongoing formation of priests and seminarians and expressed his happiness in welcoming the Congregation of the Mission to the Syro Malabar Diocese of Idukki. The Vicar General of the diocese of Idukki Rev. Msgr. Jose Karivelickal, about 25 priests from nearby parishes, about 20 religious sisters and 250 people participated in the blessing, Holy Mass and agape. With this we have officially established a house in the high ranges of Idukki district in Syro Malabar rite. We sincerely thank Rev. Fr. Tomaž Mavrič and the General Council for the constant encouragement and generous support in establishing this new house.

Anil Thomas Karackavayalil CM
Provincial Visitor, Southern Indian Province

FEAST OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL IN KIEV



For over 400 years, the Catholic Church has celebrated the solemnity of St. Vincent de Paul on September 27th - the patron saint of the poor, destitute, and oppressed. On this day, the Vincentian Family around the world honors the memory of the saint, who inspired and continues to inspire acts of Charity among his followers. With a passionate heart, St. Vincent devoted his entire life to the Charity, igniting his followers with his compassion and simplicity of service, converting the godless and performing countless deeds that still live on today.

During the holy Mass, everyone united in prayer, thanking God for the fruits of St. Vincent's work, the work of all branches of the Vincentian Family, for all the poor and needy of this world, and for those who serve them with humility. The holy Mass was led by Fr. Leonid Kuklyshyn, CM, Visitor of the Vice-Province of SS. Cyril and Methodius.



This day became special for seminarian Vitaliy Beliak, who received the ministry of Lectorate and became a lector of God's Word. Let us pray for him and wish him as it is written in the rite: "As you proclaim God's word to others, obedient to the Holy Spirit, receive it yourself and meditate on it carefully so that you may find joy and strength in it. Proclaim our Savior, Jesus Christ, in your daily life."

After the holy Mass, the present faithful were invited by superior of the "God's gift" house to a sweet treat and to participate in an all-Ukrainian Vincentian charity event.

In September, the Vincentian Family and its supporters throughout Ukraine launched a charity campaign called "Vincentian gingerbread," which will run until the end of 2023. During the campaign, we are raising funds for building materials to rebuild the destroyed homes of people who suffered from Russian occupation in the Kyiv region. There are many damaged houses, and we cannot restore them all, but at least part of them is achievable! Our modest help motivates these people to act, to live, and to believe that good will triumph! We encourage everyone to support the campaign and donate.





FRATERNAL MEETING WITH VINCENTIAN STUDENTS FROM MEXICO CITY 2023

The Church of Christ, the branches of the Vincentian Family, especially the Congregation of the Mission, have joyfully celebrated St. Vincent de Paul on 27 September. In this year 2023, I have had the joy of celebrating this feast in a memorable way at the Major Seminary of Theology of the Congregation of the Mission, Province of Mexico, in the south of the city, in Tlalpan Centro.

The celebrations for the feast of our Holy Founder consisted of a Triduum and the Solemn Eucharist, very well organised by the local students. I had the honour of presiding on the 2nd day of the Triduum (26th September). I thought of having the celebration in Portuguese, but when the time came we went to Spanish, and it came out as it seemed to the Spirit. On the morning of the 27th we gathered early in the seminary chapel, and devoutly sang Lauds, followed by the Mañanitas to St. Vincent de Paul. At noon there was an "open house" for guests from other seminaries and friends, who partook of the delicious Mexican food (Pozole, a pre-Hispanic dish), followed by a sports tournament between the seminarians of the different congregations present, who played volleyball, basketball and football; in the end the host team won (congratulations to the Vincentian Students!). In the evening, the seminary chapel was left small to the great satisfaction of the guests and residents, as we solemnly celebrated St. Vincent de Paul with the Eucharist presided by the Provincial Visitor, Father Juan Rodríguez, and concelebrated by the formators, Father Antonio Guadalupe Escobedo and Father Arturo Ernesto Hernández, and by me, Father Cleber Teodosio, students and other members of the People of God present. The evening was closed with a delicious dinner, inaugurating a place in the external part of the seminary, suitable for this type of conviviality and fraternity.



On the evening of the 28th, I shared with the boys a talk entitled: "Being a priest according to St. Vincent de Paul", a text by Fr. Corpus Delgado, which we have worked on in the Master's course in Vincentianism, complemented by the text of the identity of the Brazilian collegiate of the "Fathers of the Way". We also shared with the young people experiences already in exercise in Brazil, and we filed on the celebration of the IV Centenary of the Foundation of the Congregation of the Mission, we concluded the evening with the celebration of the Eucharist.

In between the gaps in the activities of the seminary, I had the grace of visiting some special places in the country, beginning with the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the Historic Centre of Mexico City, Chapultepec Castle, the Frida Kahlo Museum and the Pyramids of Teotihuacan. Each of the places visited present a wealth of knowledge demonstrating how rich, strong and vibrant is the religiosity, culture and strength of the Mexican people.

Not enough of all the marvels that the good God allowed me to experience, add to that, precious moments lived in Panama City, where I had long hours of connection that moved in minutes, with how big is the heart of the Panamanians or Americans who live there, and who did not measure efforts to give me unforgettable moments, such as meeting new people, visiting the canal, celebrating and concelebrating with the confreres, the daughters of charity and with the people of the parish.

For all these experiences, I can only thank God, the Congregation, my confreres in Brazil, Mexico and Panama and other friends that life has presented to me, seeds that I ask God to know how to cultivate. God bless you all, may we meet again soon, here or there. Here is your home.





NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
VILLAFRANCA CALVILLO Félix Ignacio	Sac	21/09/2023	CAE	87	68
TARDY* Bernard	Fra	30/09/2023	FRA	87	61

MOVEMENTS

Congregation of the Mission

General Curia

Via dei Capasso 30 - Zip Code 00164 - Rome - Italy

Tel: +39 06 661 3061 -Email: nuntia@cmglobal.org



@congregatiomissionis



@SuperiorGeneralCM



@CongregaciondelaMision



@CMissionis



@CongregatioMissionis



Congregatio Missionis



nuntia@cmglobal.org



www.cmglobal.org