

Newsletter of the Congregation of the Mission

Nuntia



FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF FIDELITY TO ITS
CHARISM AND THE NEW EVANGELIZATION



Nuntia

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Words of Pope Francis



Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Vincentian Family on the occasion of the Jubilee Year invoked by the Vincentians for the 400th anniversary of the foundation.

Thank you for your warm welcome, and thanks to the Superior General for introducing our meeting.

I greet you and together with you I thank the Lord for the four hundred years of your charism. San Vincenzo has created a momentum of charity that lasts for centuries: a momentum that came out of his heart. For this reason today we have here the relic: the heart of St. Vincent. Today, I would like to encourage you to continue this journey, proposing three simple verbs that I believe are of great importance to the Vincentian spirit, but also for the Christian life in general: to adore, to welcome, to go.

Adore. There are innumerable invitations by St. Vincent to cultivate the inner life and to devote himself to the prayer that purifies and opens the heart. Prayer is essential to him. It is the compass of every day, it is like

a manual of life, it is – he wrote – the “great book of the preacher”: only praying draws from God the love to pour into the world; only praying touch the hearts of people when announcing the Gospel (cf. Letter to A. Durand, 1658). But for Saint Vincent prayer is not just a duty, and much less a set of formulas. Prayer is to stand before God to be with Him, to devote himself to Him alone. This is the most pure prayer, the one that makes room for the Lord and his praise, and nothing else: adoration.

Once discovered, adoration becomes indispensable because it is pure intimacy with the Lord, which gives peace and joy, and melts the sorrows of life. Therefore, to someone under particular pressure, Saint Vincent also advised to be in prayer “without tension, turning to God with simple glances, not trying to have his presence with sensitive efforts, but abandoning himself to Him” (Letter to G. Pesnelle, 1659).

Here is the adoration: stand before the Lord, with respect, with calm and in silence, giving Him the first place, abandoning himself confident. Then ask him that his Spirit comes to us and let our things go to him. So also needy people, urgent problems and difficult

situations fall into adoration, so that St. Vincent asked “to worship in God even the reasons they are trying to understand and accept (cf. Letter to F. Get, 1659). Those who worship, those who attend the living source of love can only remain, so to speak, “contaminated”. And he begins to behave with the others as the Lord does with him: he becomes more merciful, more sympathetic, more available, exceeds his stiffness, and opens to others.

And so we come to the second verb: **welcome** . When we hear this word, we immediately think of something to do. But actually accepting is a deeper layout: it does not just require someone to put it, but also be welcoming, available, accustomed to others. Like God for us, so we for the others. To accept means to resize myself, to straighten the way of thinking, to understand that life is not my private property, and time does not belong to me. It is a slow detachment from all that is mine: my time, my rest, my rights, my programs, my agenda. Whoever accepts giving up on the ego and

making you and us enter our lives.

The welcoming Christian is a true man and woman of the Church, because the Church is Mother and a Mother welcomes and accompanies her life. And as a son resembles the mother, carrying the traits, so the Christian carries these traits of the Church. He is then a truly faithful Son of the Church who is welcoming, who without complaint creates concord and communion and generously sows peace, even though it is not reciprocated. St. Vincent helps us to enhance this ecclesial “DNA” of acceptance, of availability, of communion, because in our lives “all bitterness, anger, wrath, shout, and malice with all sorts of malice are lost” (Eph 4:31).

The last verb is to **go** . Love is dynamic, it comes out of itself. Whoever loves is not in the armchair to look, waiting for the advent of a better world, but with enthusiasm and simplicity it gets up and goes. St. Vincent said well: “Our vocation is therefore to go, not in a parish, and not just in a diocese but throughout the earth. And to do that? To inflame the hearts of men, doing what the Son of God did, He who came to bring fire to the world to inflate him of his love (Conference May 30, 1659). This vocation is always valid for everyone. Ask each of the questions: “Do I meet others, as the Lord wants? Do i take with me wherever I go this fire of charity or do I closed myself up in front of my own fireplace?”

Dear brothers and sisters, thank you for moving in the streets of the world, as Saint Vincent would ask you today. I hope not to stop you, but to continue to draw from the adoration every day the love of God and spread it in the world through the good contagion of charity, availability, and concord. I bless you and the poor you meet. And I ask you, please, the charity not to forget to pray for me.



Franciscus

The Vincentian Family Global Homeless Alliance in the Jubilee Year



On 14 October 2017, at the Vincentian Family Symposium and the meeting with the Holy Father, the Vincentian Family Global Homeless Alliance was launched and initiated officially. The three-year worldwide project was presented to the European Parliament in Brussels last 28 June.

This Vincentian initiative arose as a response to a global emergency: the UN has estimated that more than 1.2 billion people on this planet have no fixed abode and that this number probably will grow due to poverty, economic crises, wars, natural disasters, and urbanization. The initiative also results from the spiritual and material fruit of this Jubilee Year, which could not help but focus on those who do not have a roof over their heads. This commitment has distinguished the Vincentian Family from the beginnings of the Charism, as a sign of how charity is

done and done well, encouraging and organizing it, which was always the inspirational principle for the works of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The project, undoubtedly one of the most ambitious in the history of the Vincentian movement, will be carried out thanks to collaboration with Depaul International, which operates in seven countries and assists more than 22,000 homeless each year and has been working with the Vincentian Family for 27 years. The underlying concept, “dream” or vision if you wish, is to change the lives of thousands of homeless people, bringing their voices to a global plane so that politicians on the local, national, and international levels hear them, until they reach the UN.

Currently it is estimated that the homeless are divided globally into three areas: those living on the street, those living in refugee/asylum-seeker camps, and



those living in slums and favelas throughout the world. At this time, calculations indicate some 65 million refugees internationally, the highest number ever recorded. There are 863 million men, women, and children living in hovels and favelas worldwide. The data are clear: there are growing numbers of people living in the streets, both in Europe and around the world, people who have fallen through the safety net and need help to reintegrate into communities.

In this context, the Vincentian Family Homeless

Alliance hopes to make a difference in the lives of these hundreds of thousands of people, encouraging, globally, the growth of new opportunities for refugees, slum dwellers, and those who live on the street. It wants to build a stronger collaborative network among the Vincentian groups who care for the homeless, as well as supporting the development of this network and its emerging leaders. It plans to share research, techniques, and concrete operational models within agencies and countries by using websites and organizing conferences. It aims at encouraging and sustaining the growth of new and innovative services; supporting local, regional, and global lobbying in defense of homeless people; developing and making available formation material to support this initiative through spiritual accompaniment.

Finally, with the help of the recently founded Institute of Global Homelessness, located in Chicago at DePaul University, it seeks to solve the problem of homelessness in 150 countries around the world by 2030, through collaboration with other organizations that work in this field.

For information:

<http://vfhomelessalliance.org/>

FB: *Famvin Homeless Alliance*

E-mail: homeless@famvin.org

Vincentian Family Symposium

As a Vincentian Missionary, the recent experience of the Symposium has enriched me on both a personal level and on a vocational level. Let me share with you how this occurred.

I journeyed to Rome with a group of MISEVI (Spain) that was composed of fifteen adults and ten children ... all of whom were lay persons. With them was Father David Fernández (International Advisor of MISEVI), Sister María Donat, DC and myself (National Advisors of MISEVI). You can imagine that the rhythm of the families with small children (Ana, 4 months old and Vera, 3 months old were members of our group) would naturally be different from the rest of us. Nevertheless,



everyone participated in all the events. It was very enriching to be able to share with all those individuals this experience of the Vincentian Family. I do not know what the children did or did not understand, but I am certain that their concept of family has been broadened.

That was my first visit to Rome. Whenever I say that to someone, they are surprised ... but that is the truth. My life as a missionary has been directed toward persons on the peripheries and not persons who are at the center of all the different movements of society. The city of Rome and all its various monuments ... just incredible. The weather was wonderful and as a result we were able to walk from one place to another. You are also right in supposing that this was also my first visit to the Vatican, the heart of the Catholic Church and all that that represents ... there I was able to pray for the Congregation, for the Province, for MISEVI, for my loved ones and for all the many people who, in one way of another, accompanied me during my life.

The audience with Pope Francis was very emotional ... he is the successor of St. Peter and the head of the Church, but more importantly, Pope Francis, in my opinion, represents a renewal of the Church. He has exhorted all of us to live the gospel in a manner that

closely resembles our Vincentian charism. The Pope is continually inviting us to be a Church that goes out, that reaches out to others, to be a church of missionary-disciples and to be a church that is close to those men and women who are poor.

To be with confreres from all over the world ... during my life as a missionary I have had the opportunity to travel to many different countries and to participate in different international conferences and that enabled me to meet many other Vincentian missionaries. It was a great joy to see those confreres, to greet them, to know more about their life and their hopes and their dreams. At the same time I was able to meet many other confreres for the first time and thus extend the bonds of fraternity.

I want this experience to become an integral part of my life, to strengthen me in my vocational and missionary life.

By: Brother Francisco Berbegal, CM

Province of St. Vincent de Paul (Spain)

Translated by:

Charles T. Plock, CM



The International Film Festival



Clarence Gilyard

“Finding Vince 400”: The International Film Festival and competition dedicated to Saint Vincent to tell of the globalization of charity

The closing initiative of this Jubilee Year, which was launched at the Symposium, is called “**Finding Vince 400.**” Cultural communication, carried out through cinema, will make evident one of the recurring themes of this Vincentian Jubilee, globalizing charity. From this insight came the idea of organizing an authentic and typical International Film Festival in which the protagonist is the figure of Saint Vincent de Paul and his love for the poor. The coordinator of the event, to be held at Castel Gandolfo from 18 to 21 October 2018, will be the actor Clarence Gilyard, from the United States. He is known to the general public for his work in the television series “*Walker Texas Ranger*” and in many successful films including “*Top Gun*,” among others.

The aim of the Festival is to stimulate creativity on the theme of the globalization of charity. To this end, the invitation to participate in the contest for the production of scripts and short films that focus on this

perspective was promoted during the Symposium. “*Finding Vince 400*” is a challenge to develop stories and spread the message of globalized charity through the art of modern narrative. The competition, open to all, from youth to adults, envisages its “climax” at Castel Gandolfo with the presentation of and subsequent awards to the best works. It is divided into three sections, the first of which is addressed to those who are less than 18 years old and is called “Seeds of Hope.” They are requested to use any expressive form from music to sculpture to poetry. The second is that dedicated to screenwriters who are asked to conceive and produce the screenplay of a short film. The third is directed to those who will present a short film or a feature film. The only condition required is that all three sections use the theme: the service of the poor.

The festival program, in addition to the awards ceremony, will include performances and the participation of actors as competition judges. There will be conferences, group work, projection of short films and feature films, music and entertainment. It also will provide an opportunity to meet directors and screenwriters from all over the world.

In Family and As Family



Upon my return home from the Vincentian Symposium in Rome, I heard a phrase that I believe is most relevant at this time: *so quickly we forget!* After having lived and experienced those four days in Rome, those days during which I was privileged to participate in the Symposium of the Vincentian Family on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the origin of our charism, I must say, we CANNOT forget, I cannot forget, I should not forget that which was just celebrated; I CANNOT forget the fact that we gathered together and celebrated together the relevance of our charism. We lived together IN FAMILY AND AS FAMILY.

I could speak about many things: about the wonderful city of Rome, about the Spanish speaking group, about the organization of this event ... about everything that was good or less than good. But I would like to speak about and reflect upon this which I perceived as outstanding, that which touched my heart. That is what I always do (that which is less good I speak about at the appropriate time and with the appropriate persons and always for the purpose of making things better).

Engraved in my being is the **color yellow**, the color of the scarfs that I encountered on the streets of Rome and that people wore with great pride and joy as they exchanged greetings and smiles with other persons who were wearing the same yellow scarf ... people from

different countries, different cultures, different rites ... different in so many ways but nevertheless united in that which is essential: the Vincentian charism.

Many of those persons I knew as a result of my pastoral experiences during the summer or during Holy Week (Spain, Lebanon, Honduras), from my time at the Internal Seminary in Italy, from my time as a member of the Vincentian Marian Youth (before entering the seminary); other confreres and Daughters of Charity I knew because they were my formators and had accompanied me during some particular stage of my life. What a great joy to encounter these persons once again, persons whom God has placed in my life, persons whom God has sent to me as gifts and many of whom have remained as friends and companions on the journey of life.

Engraved in my being is the **meeting** of the Superior General, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič with the **consecrated** young men and women during which we listened to several witness talks that made us think, evaluate, reflect ... presentations that made me ask questions and that led me to a more profound “yes”. I was touched as I listened to the vocational story of the Superior General, especially when he highlighted the importance of his family and the importance of those other individuals who both extended the invitation and who accompanied him on his vocational journey.

Engraved in my being is the meeting of the Superior General with all the young men and women. That was a very festive and joyful time, a very moving time

that had a powerful impact. In front of the image of St. Vincent that was illuminated by candles held by young men and women, Father Mavrič knelt down and prayed in silence. Then he stood before us and asked us a question: are you willing to dirty your hands in the service of the poor? An image and a question that became a personal invitation that, therefore, demanded a personal response. YES, I want to, I am willing to dirty my hands in the service of the poor ... but help me Lord, to do this; help me Lord to remain with you and in you.

Engraved in my being is the **gathering** in Saint Peter's Square and **the presence of Pope Francis**. Such gatherings can provoke a mix of many different feelings and the three verbs, to adore, to welcome and to go,

I will not forget this Symposium



Certain experiences in life cannot be described with words, they must simply be lived. That is what happened to me during those days of grace, days during which I shared the spirit of St. Vincent and at the same time found myself in the presence of St. Vincent's heart. I felt as though the very heart of Vincent touched me and moved my heart. I felt as though Vincent was present with all the participants, in times of silence and in times of

summarize the three invitations that Pope Francis extended to all of us.

Finally, engraved in my being is **the return home** because now I have the opportunity to live anew in my daily life those four days. Returning to my everyday life, to our everyday life, does not mean that we must quickly forget that time together ... rather we are invited to live and to actualize all that occurred during those four days.

THANK YOU VINCENTIAN FAMILY!!!

By: Ricardo Rozas, CM - Theologian, Seminarist

*Translated: Charles T. Plock, CM
Eastern Province, USA*

prayer. So let me tell you something about myself, about my origins and about my being a part of this Vincentian Family.

My name is Rrok, I am a seminarist from Albania and a member of the Province of Italy. I am a member of the Vincentian Family because that is the family that revealed to me God's infinite love, the family that filled my emptiness, the family that led me to a deeper knowledge of myself. I will not forget this

Symposium because I have experienced the warmth of the Vincentian Family, because I have experienced the need of going out and opening my heart to the stranger, because I have experienced the need of welcoming the stranger, because I have experienced the God who accompanies me as my neighbor. I have to confess that the night before the beginning of the Symposium, I was unable to sleep because I was filled with the expectation of meeting many different people, many different young men and women from so many different branches of the Family ... I was filled with the expectation of being in the presence of the heart of Saint Vincent and of participating in an audience with Pope Francis.

The days of the Symposium were indeed a time of grace. I greeted countless people whom I had never previously met. I did not speak their language but we understood one another through a shared smile (something I did not believe was possible). Yes, I was living the Symposium. I want to share with you one particular experience that occurred during the time of the Symposium. Another seminarist whom I did not know greeted me and said, Hello Rrok. I responded, Hello, do we know one another? Yes, this young man responded, I have seen you on Facebook. We then embraced one another ... something completely unexpected. Another important event was the encounter with other young consecrated men and women ... listening to those individuals enriched my life and as the Superior General celebrated the Eucharist

at Saint Paul's outside the Walls well, all of those events are truly unforgettable. With Saint Vincent I can only say: Love is inventive unto infinity! Every moment of the Symposium was important and every person had something to say and something to share.

I will not forget this Symposium because of the wonderful experience of sharing this time with other confreres from Albania, with other groups of pilgrims from Albania and Kosovo (so many of whom I knew). I will not forget this Symposium because of the simple but profound words of Pope Francis who invited us to prayer, welcome and go; I will also not forget the encouraging words of Father Tomaž whose simplicity helped me to deepen my love for our charism.

Yes, it is true that four hundred years have passed since the time that Vincent de Paul gave birth to our charism, a charity that is to be lived day after day. Now I am challenged to live this Symposium in my local community, in my daily activities, in my encounters with people. I am thankful for all the many people who participated in this event and I ask that we continue to pray together for the future of our Family. Together let us bring "the heart of Saint Vincent" to those who are homeless, hopeless, to young men and women, to the infirm, to the poor, to those individuals who are "our neighbor".

Rrok Shporaj, CM
Italy Province

Conference of the Vincentian Provinces in Latin America

United under the words, the 400th anniversary of the origin of the Vincentian charism: pastoral conversion in Latin America and the Caribbean, the members of the Vincentian Provinces in Latin America (CLAPVI) gathered together in the city of Belo Horizonte (Brazil) for their XVI Ordinary Assembly (October 22-28, 2017). Father Aarón Gutiérrez Nava, CM (Assistant General and CLAPVI liaison), the Visitors from the twelve provinces, the Vice-Visitor of the Vice-Province of Costa Rica, the superiors of the four Regions and the Executive Secretary participated in the Assembly. Also present at the meeting were: Bishop Fernando Barbosa (bishop of the territorial Prelature of Tefé:



Brazil), John Carney (counselor and treasurer in Panama), Paulo Estaquio Venuto (missionary in

The Assembly took place in a fraternal environment and in a spirit of communion with the whole Congregation of the Mission which is celebrating the 400th anniversary of the origin of the Vincentian charism. The presentations and the reflections helped us deepen our understanding of our identity so that we might continue to minister on behalf of those who are most poor and most in need.

During the first two days of the Assembly, we listened to the experiences of the various provinces and to the words of Father Aarón Gutiérrez. Then, during one of our sessions on Wednesday, Father Mizael Poggioli gave a presentation on systemic change (inviting us to look at systems as a whole, as a unified entity composed of parts that work together). In the afternoon, we listened to Bishop Fernando Barbosa who spoke about the mission in Tefé as a missionary project that responds to the Vincentian charism and that is awaiting the assistance that was decided upon during the 2016 General Assembly (one of the decision of CLAPVI). Also on Wednesday we spoke about and analyzed all the decisions that were made at the 2016 General Assembly.

On Thursday, the Executive Secretary present a report

about the various activities as well as a financial report for the years 2015-2017. There was a revision of the Statutes and the formulation of a three year plan.

On the last day, in accord with our custom and our Statutes, a new Executive Council was elected. Their term of office is for three years (2018-2020). The following were elected: Fr. Odair Miguel Gonçalves: president (Brazil), Fr. José de Jesús Plascencia: vice-president (Mexico), Fr. Gustavo Martín González: First Assistant (Argentina), Fr. Alejandro Juan Paulino: Second Assistant (Puerto Rico), Fr. José Carlos Fonsatti: Executive Secretary (Brazil).

We ask that you pray for the members of the new Executive Council and for all the members of the CLAPVI Conference so that in fidelity to the charism of Saint Vincent they might continue their missionary activity in all the different places where they are present.

By: José Jair Vélez Duque, CM

Former Executive Secretary

Translated:

Charles T. Plock, CM (Eastern Province: USA)



General Information

NOMINATIONES / CONFIRMATIONES

JERNEJ Alexander (AUG)	18/10/2017	Director DC Graz-Central Europe (Confirmed)
BARTA Szabolcs (HUN)	18/10/2017	Sub-Director DC Graz- Central Europe

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
RYAN Richard R.	Sac	06/10/2017	Occ	77	55
SANZ SÁINZ Pedro	Sac	18/10/2017	Cae	84	66