



Bulletin

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VINCENTIAN MARIAN YOUTH INTERNATIONAL
LET US LIVE OUR FAITH WITH JOY!



“GIVE THEM TO EAT”

CONTENIDO:

II AFRICAN
ENCOUNTER

VMY THROUGHT
THE WORLD:
ÁFRICA

MISSION AS VMY
DIRECTOR

WITNESS:
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INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL



By: Rita Bemposta

International Volunteer VMY
Responsible for the Portuguese speaking
countries

Some days ago we celebrated with the whole Church the feast of Corpus Christi, the mystery of God's love ... the mystery of this God who desires to be with us always in the bread and the wine that is broken and shared.

More than an important feast, that celebration presented us with an opportunity to enter into a more intimate relationship with Jesus and to ask ourselves, how do we feed those who are hungry.

All of us hunger for love ... a hunger that is not satisfied by the five loaves of bread and the two fish, is not satisfied with three hundred free text messages or five hundred friends on facebook ... and is certainly not satisfied with *whatsapp*...

Our hunger is satisfied when we are nourished by Jesus and when we allow ourselves to be

enlightened by the Holy Spirit who sends us forth to engage in a mission.



Jesus' disciples had just had their first experience of mission: *they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere* (Luke 9:6) ... but because they had not yet come to know the Risen Lord they were motivated by human concerns and stated: *Dismiss the crowd so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms and find lodging and provisions; for we are in a deserted place here* (Luke 9:12).

How many times have we not made the same error? It is much easier to look at our abilities to confront a difficult situation that it is to trust in our God, a merciful Father. It is much easier to allow

ourselves to be guided by that which is comfortable than to ask ourselves how could we be nourished by God. What do we do with this wonderful gift of the Eucharist? How does the Eucharist transform us as we serve others? How do we share the Eucharist with those who hunger for bread and joy, with those who have had their dignity taken from them, with those who move aimlessly from one day to the next, with those who are beside us, with those who need you and me?

We have much to learn from Mary who had complete trust in the Lord, who knew how to serve better than anyone else. She was the first one "to receive Jesus", the first tabernacle and it is Mary who invites us: ***Come to the foot of the altar; come and find yourself with Jesus in the Eucharist ... trust in Jesus and renew your faith and share your faith ... take advantage of this opportunity because this is a special grace that is poured forth upon you.***

II AFRICAN ENCOUNTER



II AFRICAN
ENCOUNTER
LOGO

We are approaching the opening of the II African Encounter whose objective is to stir up in the young men and women of Africa a hope that impels them to give witness with their lives to the Risen Christ. In this way they will foster an even greater growth and development of the

Association which is present in twenty countries. We give thanks to all the National Council in Africa who, together with the International Team, have helped in the organization of this event. In just a few more days we will begin this meeting which will take place from July 3rd-7th in Yaoundé (Cameroon).

VMY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD: AFRICA

“VMY: WITH THE POWER OF HOPE, DISCIPLES AND WITNESSES OF CHRIST.”



VMY Nigeria

Angola



A few days ago Sister Judite and Sister Rosario visited the Secretariat and spoke about their work with five groups in the cities of Lobito and Luanda. As part of their apostolate the young men and women of the Association visit the prison, a ministry which has an important social impact on the larger community. To continue to encourage the young men and women of this country the Sisters brought back with them different formation materials.

Tanzania



In the beginning of May, Fr. Gregory visited this country and spent some time with a group of twenty-five young men and women who had been formed by the Daughters of Charity. There are three groups of the VMY in the different parishes and the members want to begin preparation for their Marian consecration.

Equatorial Guinea



The VMY is present in three cities (Bata, Mokon and Micomeseng) and can rely on the support of the Daughters of Charity who serve as advisors. The majority of the groups are composed of children and teenagers who reach to and minister to the elderly. They collaborate with the Daughters in each place where they have a local community house. On June 8th, the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the young people participated in a procession.

Rwanda-Burundi



As a result of the self financing campaign the young men and women have developed various projects: making uniforms for children and handkerchiefs for women ... these items are then sold to poor families in the area. The group also makes typical dresses which are rented for

Mozambique



The young men and women participated in an “Easter of Solidarity”, reaching out to those people in various parts of the country that had been afflicted by floods which destroyed many homes and resulted in many deaths. With the objective of providing immediate assistance to the victims of this disaster, the young people collected money, clothing, food and shoes and then distributed these provisions. The groups in area of the floods had to cease their activities for awhile but are now slowly recovering. The groups will soon publish the first edition of their informational bulletin and are preparing for their National Assembly.

special occasions; they also raise sheep and pigs and farm some lands that are available to them. These projects provide the group with funds that enable them to contribute to the campaign and that also enable them to provide for the needs of the people.



SERVICE AND MISSION IN THE VMY

The misión as International Director and Subdirector of VMY

It is impossible to describe in a few words the impact that the time spent here in Madrid has had on my life. I am a Vincentian Missionary who comes from a small country in Eastern Europe called Slovakia. Very often people ask me to explain what I do here in Madrid and on those occasions the same word always comes to my mind ... mission. What else would one expect from a Missionary ... and so I have attempted to engage in the service that has been asked of me and I have tried to do this as a mission.

For me, to be a Missionary or to be on a mission ... these words do not refer to some place or some specific time period. Rather they mean that one is passionate about seeking new ways to touch the hearts of people, and in this specific case, to touch the hearts of young men and women. In this way one is able to proclaim the Good News to people which hopefully will encourage them to **search** for new horizons in their own life.

My mission in Madrid has not been easy but I have learned much. I have had unforgettable moments as a result of the various visits to your countries during which time I was able to share with you in moments of formation and celebration. Each meeting in which I participated and each contact that I had with you has made this an unforgettable experience.

There is an aspect of this mission that never fails to surprise me, namely, the manner in which the

young men and women who have been at my side ... the manner in which they think. Each and every individual has supported me in some way and this includes supporting me and giving me the courage to leave everything in order to come here to serve the Association. I can only say thank you for this experience that you have shared with me; thank you to the Sisters and the international delegates who have passed through the doors of the Secretariat.

*“WHAT ELSE WOULD
ONE EXPECT FROM A
MISSIONARY?... I HAVE
TRIED TO DO THIS AS
A MISSION”*

This has been a wonderful experience and has helped me to see that the future belongs to the laity ... but these laymen and women need to be accompanied.

I also want to thank our Blessed Mother, who founded this Association, for allowing me to live this experience together with so many young men and women, so many other confreres and Daughters of Charity ... so many people who have shown such great love for our Association.

Thank you and may the Vincentian-Marian charism of the VMY become ever more present in our world! Thank you, young men and women, I am proud of the many things that you have shared with me.

THANK YOU!

Fr. Pavol Noga, CM
Sub-director of the
International VMY



WITNESS: VMY Syria

*“Christians are leaving our country, for
fear... we continue to stay here, strong
willed and with faith in God.”*

VMY Syria

It seems like only yesterday when we started VMY in Syria. Over 35 years ago, we initiated a path of true faith, spiritual life under the guidance of the Virgin Mary and Saint Vincent. It has been 35 years of sharing, meeting the needs of the poor and sick people from different religions in love. All this led

all the members to grow spiritually. Even though we're going through this tough situation of war in our beloved Syria, it doesn't hinder us from keeping up with the same mission. Our motto "Sharing the Peace of God", helps us remember that Jesus is the source of real peace.

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After our committee meeting, we decided that for security reasons, all the members will gather together for our weekly meetings and just in our convent. Not to mention that some of the meetings were already cancelled due to the same problem.

We have around 100 members now, much less than what it used to be. It is saddening to mention this; Christians are leaving our country, for fear of what's happening and the uncertainty of their future. We continue to stay here, strong willed and with faith in God, working hard to preach the essence of Christianity, the meaning of sacrifice and Jesus' crucifixion as we did during Lent. All these are things we discuss with all members, different issues of interest whether social, educational and religious. We try to motivate them in their daily lives and to live them as Jesus taught us to.

I would like to mention that we have adults helping us accomplish our mission, through different community service projects; helping people who were affected directly by the war (needing shelter, food, medicine...) by gathering donations and never forgetting to morally support them. On April 6 we had our last project which was a Blood Drive.

As Christians we believe that when our souls return to God, we will find light and peace in fullness, in this belief we said farewell to Sister Dalal Zaarour, who passed away on March 15. A exemplary life of giving from the heart and living for and with VMY for 35 years, since she was the one who founded it in Syria.

We will not stop carrying out the mission we dearly believe in. Whatever the circumstances may be, all we ask of you is that you pray for us and for our beloved country; that we may continue to hold on to the cross with the belief that the Resurrection awaits us.

Through Jesus and Mary



VMY SYRIA

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AND SECRETARIAT

- The Director General of the VMY, Fr. Gregory Gay confirmed and communicated the following appointments: **Fernando Rodolfo Rojas Placencia** (President VMY Ecuador), **Sister Francely Elisabeth Pérez Cosajay, DC** (Advisor El Salvador), **Sister María Elizabeth Hernández Torres, DC** (Advisor Costa Rica), **Sister Tatiana Lucia Solano Coto, DC** (Advisor Panamá), **Fr. Secundino Ríos, CM** (Advisor Panamá), **Fr. Alexis Mutabazi, CM** (Advisor Ruanda – Burundi), (Advisor Vietnam), **Sor Meaza Tecle, DC** (Advisor Eritrea), **Vanesa Estefanía Arrionda Mastandea** (President de VMY APU),), **Fr. Bimol Joseph Singh, C.M.** (Advisor India), **Fr. Peter Šaradín C.M.** (Advisor Slovakia).
- The International Secretariat participated in the National Youth Encounter and Convocation that was held on May 25th in Madrid. We thank the VMY in Spain for their availability and commitment which was expressed in their hard work and good organization. The theme of this gathering was "DREAM, so that you might have life".
- The International Council met **via Skype** on the 10th of June; they dealt with various themes in relation to the General Assembly of 2015 and the present situation of the Association.



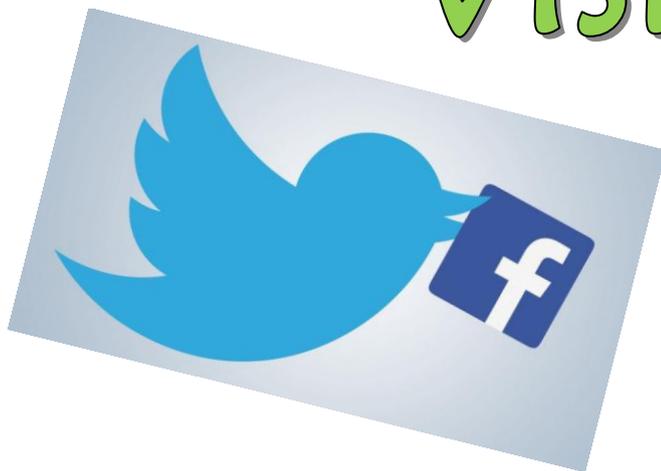
DREAM, SO THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE LIFE
VMY SPAIN

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- The International Team is in the final stages of preparing for the II African Encounter. Yasmine Cajuste and Ghislain Ateazing represented the International Council and Bienvenu Fouda Abouna represented the International Secretariat. We remember these members of our Association and the participants in this gathering in our prayers. We pray that this may be a fruitful time and enable our Association to take the next steps that will lead to a greater development of the VMY on the African continent.
- The countdown has begun for the celebration of the Vincentian Youth Gathering and World Youth Day ... both events will be held in Rio. Are your bags packed? Are you prepared to live this encounter with Jesus? What will you bring with you to share with others? What do you hope to receive from others?.
- This summer Fr. Pavol Noga will conclude the time of his service as Director of the International Secretariat and Sub-director General. The International Team wants to express its gratitude to Father for his dedication and collaboration during these pasts five years of service to the International Secretariat. He has been more than a Director ... he has been a friend whose heart has been open to all those who are part of this Association. At the same time, as a good missionary, he has known how to accompany the young men and women of this Association. May God bless you in your new mission! .

The Secretariat hopes that all the activities that are done in the coming months might give the members much joy and be an opportunity for an experience of profound faith.

Visit us!



www.secretariadojmv.org

VMY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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