



# NUNTIA

## Congregation of the Mission



## Canonical Visitation of the Eastern Province of the United States

The month of April was a time of joy for Father Gregory as he found himself once again with the confreres of his province of origin, the Eastern Province of the United States. During that time he was engaged in a canonical visitation, which began in New York with a meeting with the Visitor, Father Michael Carroll and his council. Later in the same state he participated in the inauguration of Father James Maher as president of Niagara University (the brother of the Director of Communications for the Congregation, Father John Maher).

In North Carolina, Father Gregory visited the city of Greensboro where three confreres are ministering in two parishes, one dedicated Our Lady of Guadalupe where the faithful are Latinos, very pious and share a deep faith. About 50% of the parishioners live with great anxiety and insecurity because they are undocumented. The other parish is Saint Mary's with a multicultural population, the majority of whom are Vietnamese but there are also many Latinos as well as others who have recently immigrated from different countries in Africa, Montagnards, and a group of African-Americans.

In Emmitsburg, Maryland there is the Basilica of Saint Elizabeth Seton, the first saint from the United States and the founder of the community of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph. In this local community the confreres support the pastoral ministry of the Sisters of Charity as chaplains to the Basilica, the school and a nursing home.



In Baltimore the Missionaries minister in two parishes, the Immaculate Conception and Saint Cecilia's. There are two priests and one brother there, the brother is director of a program that provides services for persons who were incarcerated and for persons addicted to drugs/alcohol. This program has helped people recover their mental, physical and spiritual health. A Missionary from the Congo is a member of the local community and this confrere is collaborating with the Eastern Province.

Father Gregorio then spent some time with his family before traveling to the southern part of the country, to Macon, Georgia where he celebrated Holy Week in parish where the Daughters of Charity are ministering and where he collaborated with the pastor, especially ministering to the Latino, the African-American and the North American community (the parish is multi-ethnic). The pastor is a diocesan priest from Nigeria who is on loan to the diocese in Georgia and he is very pleased with the presence of the Daughters and the various branches of the Vincentian Family, for example, DePaul International which with the support of one of the Daughters has established a program to care for people who are homeless. During that week he visited Father Bruce Krause who ministers in the southern part of the country in a parish located in Opelika Alabama where he provides pastoral support to a mixed community where there are many Latino immigrants.

After Holy Week Father Gregory continued the canonical visitation by going to Long Island where he visited two confreres who minister to Latin American immigrants in seven different

parishes; the pastoral ministry is especially focused sacramental preparation, the celebration of the Eucharist and lay formation. While he was there Father Gregory participated in the graduation of more than 200 persons who had participated in various levels at the Charismatic School of Formation for Adults.

He then visited the seminary where he had the opportunity to speak not only with the confreres but also with the sixteen students (fifteen of whom are from Latin America and one from Vietnam).



Fr. Gregory spent two days at St. John's University where he spoke with the confreres and on the last day had the opportunity to meet with students, professors, administrators and other personnel who work at the university ... each one living the Vincentian charism from their respective role at the university. While at the University Father Gregory was able to celebrate the Eucharist in the Saint Thomas More Church during which twelve university students received the sacraments of initiation (five were baptized and then all received the sacrament of Confirmation that was administered by one of the

auxiliary bishops of the diocese). This was a wonderful celebration and it was clear that the bishop follows the thinking of Pope Francis ... he spoke to the congregation in a very simple and approachable manner about the ways in which young people today are invited to live their faith.

In Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, the confreres live in the midst of a very poor area. The parishioners are composed of African-Americans and Latinos. There, Father Gregory participated in a meeting with some one hundred persons and had the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist with the Anglo and the Latino community. He also shared a meal with a family that lives in that community.

In Philadelphia the confreres are involved in various ministries ... one confrere is the director of the Miraculous Medal Association; another confrere, together with a Daughter of Charity, ministers at a youth center where young people are given an opportunity to understand on a first-hand basis the value of solidarity with the poor. At that center they serve university students and high school students from every part of the United States and groups have arrived there from as far away as California. Another confrere, together with a Daughter of Charity, ministers at a school that, despite its poverty, has been able to provide a high quality education which is able to be observed in the students as well as in the teachers who are committed to their ministry there.

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In that same house I had the opportunity to speak with Fr. Miles Heinen, Director of the Solidarity Office and with Fr. Martin McGeough, who ministers in the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey, where our confrere, Bishop David O'Connell is bishop. Fr. Martin is director of the prison ministry in that diocese and ministers with a Daughter of Charity. Brother Carmen Ciardullo lives at the same house and is responsible for the digital bulletin of the province, "The Notebook".



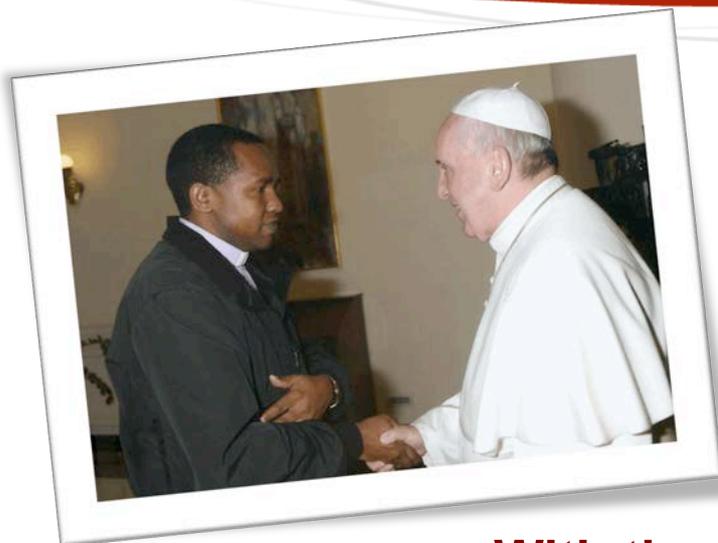
The provincial house is a very large house near the shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. The infirmary of the province is located on that property. There Father General visited the Provincial Econome and during three days had the opportunity to interview all the Missionaries who live in that house, including those Missionaries in the infirmary. In this local community the Vincentian Family has a good relationship with the confreres and supports the various charitable works on behalf of the poor ... people who live in the Germantown area which is a very poor section of the city of Philadelphia. Under the name of the Association for Systemic Change in Germantown, the Vincentian Family has received funding in previous years to finance projects related to systemic change which in turn has allowed this group to provide more effective service to the poor. This project continues to

move forward with the support of some Missionaries, Daughters of Charity, members from the other branches of the Vincentian Family, such as, the St. Vincent de Paul Society. In a meeting with the personnel who are employed at the provincial house (in the infirmary, the kitchen, and maintenance), Father Gregory was able to see that those men and women work together as a team and provide many different services and are happy in the work that they are engaged in. These employees spoke about learning about Vincentian spirituality from the witness of the older confreres. Father Gregory was impressed with the good spirit and the good relationship between employer and employee and was able to see the productivity and the joy with which these men and women carry out their responsibilities. Fr. Gregory affirmed: *There is an environment and an attitude that I would like to see in all the local communities ... good relationship between the various groups of workers and a place where a value is placed upon the work that is accomplished by the employees.*"

The visitation was concluded at the parish of St. Vincent de Paul, Philadelphia where Father Gregory was able to celebrate the Eucharist with the parishioners. He also had the opportunity to participate in another Eucharist with the African-American community with gospel music (Fr. Sylvester Peterka was the homilist ... very dynamic preaching and a Eucharistic celebration that was well-planned).

This visit was a wonderful opportunity to know many persons who minister in movements that inter-related with one another, that promote justice and peace and the rights of people who are most poor as well as the rights of the elderly, young people and immigrants. Fr. Gregory had the opportunity to interview, via Skype, Father Aidan Rooney who is ministering in El Alto, Bolivia and Father Thomas McKenna who is Director of the Daughters of Charity of the Province of Saint Louise (headquarters are located in Saint Louis, Missouri).





## With the Pope Francis

We are able to report that on April 17th our confreres, Leopoldo Alex Myamba from Tanzania and José Iván Hueichán from Chile (both of whom serve in the General Curia) were able to participate in the Eucharist that was presided by Pope Francis in the Chapel at St. Marth'a House.

## The Day of the Four Popes

As stated by many members of the media throughout the world, May 27<sup>th</sup> was viewed as the day of the four Popes, two of whom were canonized (John XXIII and John Paul II) another was the principal celebrant at this ceremony (Pope Francis) and the other was a concelebrant (Benedict XVI). Those who experienced this celebration saw that John XXIII remained in the shadows of John Paul II. No one, however, was able to deny the tremendous contribution that John XXIII made to the Church when he convoked the Second Vatican Council. He also made significant contributions to world peace during the years of his pontificate. We also know that the twenty-seven years of John Paul II as Pope were witnessed by many generations of pilgrims who came to Rome. Others, from a distance, witnessed this ecclesial event and disagreed with the canonization of John Paul II and in fact many members of the media made known their disagreement. From here and from there one was able to hear voices of support and voices that disagreed with this event. But this event had been programmed and the day finally arrived. From a few days before the event until at least a week later Rome was filled with pilgrims who had traveled there from all parts of the world (especially Poland). These pilgrims walked through St. Peter's Basilica with pride in the fact that their fellow countryman was about to be canonized.

Here at the General Curia we lived this event in different ways: Bishop Rolando C. Santos, Bishop of Alotau-Sideia (Papua, New Guinea) concelebrated the canonization Mass; two confreres from the Province of Madrid (Jesus M. González Anton and Roberto Calero) celebrated the canonization of the person who had imposed hands on them at the time of their ordination; Father Thomas Lunot, a member of the General Curia, together with a group of young French men and women, prepared music and the logistics for one of the vigil celebrations in a street not far from St. Peter's Square; Fr. Emmanuel Typamm from Cameroon lived those moments with people "from the periphery" and Brother Ivan Hueichán from Chile and Fr. Jorge Luis Rodríguez (a member of the General Curia) were able to enter St. Peter's Square.

In this edition of Nuntia we include three testimonies from individuals who participated in these events.

## Papua New Guinea

### Contribution to the Missionary Vocation

Most Rev. Rolando C. Santos, CM  
Diocese of Alotau-Sideia



I was one of those who was blessed with the wonderful experience of being present for the canonization of the two Popes, John XXIII and John Paul II. The Mass was celebrated on April 27, 2014 by Pope Francis and concelebrated by Pope Benedict XVI in Saint Peter's Square. There were more than a thousand bishops present and more than six thousand priests and religious as well as more than one million men and women from around the world.

Everyone came to witness one of the greatest events in the modern history of the Church and also came to give thanks to God for the two new saints whose memory is still fresh in the hearts and minds of so many faithful.

I came to know John XXIII when I entered Saint Vincent's Seminary in Valenzuela, Bulacán, the Philippines (1961). At that time I was twelve years old. The Vincentian priests at the seminary (priests from Spain) explained to us the significance of the Ecumenical Council that the Pope had convoked for October 11, 1962. Unfortunately, the Pope died eight months later, but we, however, had the pleasure of listening to his *Diary of a Soul*, which was read to us during meals.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, as we awaited the beginning of the Mass, I went to pray in front of the tomb of John XXIII which is located inside St. Peter's Basilica. John XXIII was the Pope who opened the windows of the church to the modern world thus allowing it to breathe in fresh air and enter a process of *aggiornamento*. This Pope wanted the Church to enter into dialogue with the modern world while remaining faithful to the Spirit and sacred tradition. At the tomb of Saint John XXIII I prayed for the gift of true discernment for the church and I also prayed for the strength to remain faithful to the teachings of Christ. This gift of discernment is ever more necessary in a world that is more and more secular, in a world where the Spirit is still present. I prayed in a special way for the theologians. There is always the temptation to change and adapt the Church's teachings so that they harmonize with the opinions of our post-modern era, thus making Christ's teachings "more acceptable" and "more current". What is most needed today is faithfulness to the Gospel and faithfulness to the Church, the body of Christ. May Saint John XXIII intercede on behalf of the Church so that we might have both our feet firmly planted on the earth and our eyes focused on Christ and the Gospel.

After having prayed at the tomb of John XXIII, I went to pray at the tomb of John Paul II ... the Pope who I was most accustomed to. He was Pope during twenty-seven years of my priesthood, from 1978 until 2005 when he died. His writings helped me to understand my priestly ministry, especially my ministry and its relationship with the laity, young people, the family, the ministry of the Church, the needs of missionaries and the new evangelization in the Third Millennium.

I saw Pope John Paul II when he came to the Philippines for the first time in 1981 and again in 1995 during the celebration of World Youth Day which took place in Manila. On that occasion some seven million people, (the largest gathering of people in a single place) gathered together in Luneta Park. That same year, after the celebration of World Youth Day, I joined together with a group of fifty priests from Manila and we journeyed to the Holy Land and then to Rome to thank the Holy Father for his visit to the Philippines. At that time we were celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diocese of Manila. We had the opportunity to celebrate Mass with the Holy Father in his private chapel in Castel Gandolfo. After Mass the Holy Father greeted each one of us and also gave each of us a rosary. I had the unforgettable experience of shaking his hand and having an individual photograph taken with His Holiness. It was then that I realized I was in the presence of a holy man, a priest who had a great love for priests.

Saint John Paul II had a profound impression on me, especially through the various encyclicals that he wrote. The encyclical that has had the greatest impact on me has been the encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, which was written in 1990. I was then the Director of the Daughters of Charity in the Philippines and one of my tasks was to explain to the Daughters the papal encyclicals. It was in the Diocese of Udon Thani, Thailand where my missionary vocation came to see the light of day. I challenged the Sisters to be firm in their missionary vocation and to not be afraid to proclaim Christ and the gospel. At the same time I felt there was something lacking in me, namely, it was my own commitment with the “*mission ad gentes*”. In 1999, the former Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, Father Robert Maloney, wrote to the Provincial in the Philippines and asked for volunteers to help staff the major seminary in Bomana, Papua New Guinea. At that time I was a member of the Provincial Council and when I saw that volunteers were being sought, I offered to go there. Unfortunately, my offer was rejected. I resigned myself to that reality and believed that this was all part of God’s plan for me. Five months later, however, while I was giving a retreat to the Daughters in Thailand, I received a letter from the Superior General asking me if I was still willing to go to Papua New Guinea. Without much hesitation, I said “yes” on that very same day. John Paul II and his call for a new evangelization during the new millennium, has strengthened my Vincentian vocation to be a missionary *ad gentes*. I arrived in Papua New on February 1, 2001 and at the present time am the bishop of the Diocese of Alotau-Sideia.

I can honestly say that I have never been happier in my life. I say this not because of the fact that I am a bishop, but rather because of the opportunity that I have to be able to evangelize more people who find themselves in the midst of so many various situations. There is nothing better than being a missionary, than being able to proclaim the gospel. I live this joy as a Vincentian, as a disciple and as an instrument of Christ and an instrument of the gospel. I am indebted to John Paul II who told us that evangelization is the primary mission of the Church and to evangelize as Christ did one must be holy.

I give thanks to Saint John Paul II and Saint John XXIII for their teachings and for the example of their life. Now that they are saints, may they continue to evangelize us and to help us to walk in the way of Christ and of Mary, his mother, the perfect disciple of Christ and the star of evangelization in the Third Millennium.

## Madrid Province

### Thank you for your commitment to service in the church

Jesús M. González Antón, C.M.

The sky over the Eternal City threatened rain. Soon after the beginning of the celebration we opened our umbrellas because some drops of rain began to fall but the rain continued for a very brief time. Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II interceded on our behalf so that the rains would protect us from the heat of the April sun.

Father Roberto and I were able to participate in the canonization of the two Popes of the twentieth century. A motive for our presence in Rome at that time resulted from the fact that in Valencia, John Paul II ordained four Missionaries, together with more than one hundred deacons, during his first trip to Spain in 1982. The Missionaries were: Javier Álvarez, Miguel Jesús Gutiérrez, Roberto Calero and myself, the one who is writing these words. Thirty-one years have passed and yet so many memories continue to pass through my mind. I remember John Paul II placing his hands on my head and his embrace as he extended to me greetings of peace. A large number of people participated in that event but that was nothing compared to the amount of people who participated in the canonization of these two Popes, all kinds of records were set and there were more than six thousand priests in St. Peter’s Square.

It was a great privilege for us to have been ordained by this sainted Pope and to be able to unite ourselves in an act of thanksgiving to God for the life of these two Popes who committed their lives to the Church and to the world. It was wonderful to be able to be present and once again receive the inheritance and the example of their life. We are living out our priesthood during a most wonderful period of history, one filled with challenges for the Church, a time that John XXIII made possible when he was docile to the Spirit and convoked the Second Vatican Council.

We rejoice in experiencing ourselves as members of the universal Church, a sign of unity and communion in the midst of the diversity of races, cultures and languages a true Pentecost. The embrace that Pope Francis extended to Pope Benedict XVI was an expression of all those realities and we responded to that gesture with a great ovation.

This celebration took place without pomp and fanfare rather there was an environment of simplicity, beauty and solemnity an environment that Pope Francis has made us accustomed to. And as Pope Francis placed his papacy under the patronage of those two saints so also I placed the Congregation of the Mission and the plan for reconfiguration of the three Spanish Provinces, as well as my vocation and mission and the vocation and the mission of my confrere, I placed all of these under the patronage of the two new saints. Thank you!

## Cameroon

### The Mass of the canonization as lived in a “Restaurant-Church”

P. Emmanuel Typamm, C.M.  
Paris Province

It was 11:30pm, Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, when I decided to go Saint Peter’s Square in order to gather together with the thousands of pilgrims who were awaiting the start of the canonization ceremonies for the two popes. Fear made me wonder about my safety as a black man alone in the streets of Rome. Yes, in the beginning I was afraid to go there, but at the same time I wanted to participate in the vigil ceremonies for the canonization of Blessed John XXIII and Blessed John Paul II. I had to go and I had to take advantage of the fact that I was in Rome, but before I left the house I prayed to Saint Vincent and to the two future saints. After praying I received my first surprise. While I was waiting at the bus stop to go the Vatican I met a confrere who was returning to the Curia; he encouraged me and my fear disappeared. I decided to remain on the “Via de Conciliazione” instead of going to St. Peter’s Square. I wanted to have the experience of “the pilgrims on the periphery”, those who did not have access to St. Peter’s Square.

The night air was very refreshing and I approached a group of French and Polish people (students, young men and women, families). I felt as though I had been adopted by them and no longer felt alone ... rather I felt as though I had been accepted and embraced. Together with these pilgrims on the periphery, in the cold of the night, we were able to exchange commentaries. At the same time we prayed together and awaited the hour for the Canonization Mass. Many of the pilgrims who were there had participated in the beatification of John Paul II. As the hours passed we began to lose the comfort of space that we had earlier enjoyed as the result of being among the first persons to arrive there. Other pilgrims began to arrive throughout the night and the early hours of the morning ... whenever we moved to go to the bathroom upon our return there was less room.

In the morning, about one hour before the beginning of the Mass, I had the idea of walking among the other pilgrims who had gathered on the Via de la Conciliazione. I began to walk among the people and then I received another surprise. The great crowd of pilgrims that had gathered in the streets prevented me from moving forward to St. Peter’s Square. I also realized that there were no screens set up in these side streets. Yet despite the absence of a television screen that would allow people to follow the celebration, I found many people were rejoicing in the simple fact of being where they were. These were responsible Christians who knew why they had gathered together in this manner.



The crowd became more compact and it became impossible to return to the place that I had previously decided to watch the canonization with some people whom I knew. Moving a few block beyond St. Peter's Square I decided to join another group of pilgrims on the periphery, a group of people who were going to watch the ceremony on a television in a restaurant located on the Plaza Risorgimento. It was interesting to see how in a brief period of time this restaurant was transformed into a Church. A few minutes later some other pilgrims joined us and together we all watched the Mass of the four popes.

Everyone participated in this celebration devoutly. Some police from Rome were not pleased with this improvised group of faithful. More concerned about security measures than the participation of the faithful in the Mass, the police attempted to turn off the television and thus dislodge the pilgrims. But as only the people on the periphery know how to do, they protested and shouted, SHAME ON YOU!!! ABUSE OF POWER!!! The police had no other alternative than to leave the restaurant. Without a doubt it was the two Saints, the Sainted Popes, who intervened on our behalf. There was also no doubt that the devotion of the people disarmed the police and made them feel impotent. The pilgrims on the periphery had won once again. We remained in this restaurant-church for the entire ceremony and it was there that we spiritually received communion with all those who were in Saint Peter's Square. We received the blessing of the Pope with all the faithful who had gathered in front of the television screens in their home. Everything is grace ... I do not lament the fact that this was my experience during the vigil nor do I regret being with this group of Christians on the periphery with whom I shared the historical event of the canonization of the two popes.



Spain

## On-going formation in Avila

Brother Jaume Ruiz Castro, C.M.  
Barcelona Province

From April 28-30 an on-going formation session took place at the Vincentian Formation Center in Avila, the theme of which was reconfiguration. Twenty-one Missionaries from the three provinces participated in this event that was marked by the death of Father Enrique Rodríguez Paniagua from the

province of Salamanca. Some of the confreres did not participate in this formation session in order to be present at the funeral rites.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Trinitarian, Juan Pablo García, professor at the Pontifical University in Salamanca, spoke about belonging to the Church and highlighted the fact that since the beginning of the Church there was always the idea of a Church that was faithful to Christ, in the style of the Good Samaritan. This Samaritan Church that, according to Saint Augustine, was guided by the principle of mercy is the image that has inspired the papacy of Francis and at the same time is the image that incarnates the charism of the Congregation of the Mission.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Father Giuseppe Turati, Secretary General of the Curia, focused on the theme of reconfiguration and emphasized the presence of the Universal Church in the heart of the Congregation of the Mission, that is, a church that is faithful to Christ, evangelizer of the poor and a church that is clothed in the spirit Christ, thus making us "another Christ" who continue the mission that Christ began and do this in light of our charism. On April 30<sup>th</sup> Father Giuseppe spoke about belonging to the Congregation from the perspective of our vow of stability.

## Peru

### Creating a mess

F. Arturo Aguirre Rojas, C.M.

Creating a mess is the message that Pope Francis addressed to the young people who had gathered together in Brazil last year in order to celebrate World Youth Day. That message has had an impact on all those persons who participated in that wonderful faith event. During my years as a Vincentian Missionary I have worked in youth

vocational ministry in my province and also served as advisor to the Vincentian Marian Youth Association on a national level and on a continental level. These are experiences that have marked my priesthood and my missionary life. I have been blessed in that I have been able to share these experiences with young men and women who are filled with the Spirit of God, who want to share the gospel and who want to grow and live in accord with our Vincentian spirituality.

This year I was sent to direct a popular mission in the southern part of the country: Pisco, an area that was devastated by the earthquake that occurred in 2007 and where the communities are slowly beginning the process of rebuilding. Fresh air led me along the path. It was with love that I received the news of my appointment to begin this new popular mission and here I saw an opportunity to make real the words of Pope Francis. It was in this manner, in communication with the National Council of the Vincentian Marian Youth Association in Peru, that it was possible to have a popular mission in this area of the valley of Pisco, an area that is part of the parish of Saint Clement.

The moment that I arrived there I began to enter into the reality of the people of that area and the members of the parish council became enthused about the mission and with one voice shouted: YES, YES, WE WANT A POPULAR MISSION HERE!!!



This area is composed of three districts (Independencia, Humay and Huáncano) and is composed of 93 towns or villages. A vast mission, indeed, for one Vincentian Missionary who is responsible for this pastoral area. As I began to become aware of the reality of this area, I also remembered the other confreres who had ministered in this area. They had also said “yes” and this encouraged me in my ministry. After selecting the four mission centers where the missionaries would arrive and spend the night, sharing their life and their faith with the people, we began the pre-mission. In many different ways we communicated to people the fact that God would be moving among them through means of the popular mission. In each community I convoked the laity and met with them so that they would take an active role in the development of the mission. They responded in a positive manner and many of them formed teams which provided lodging for the young missionaries of the Vincentian Marian Youth Association. Once again I marveled at the way in which the Lord was acting and how everything was falling into place so that the mission might proceed forward.

And so the day arrived, April 16<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday of Holy Week, and the community gathered together in the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the missionary center in the district of Independencia. There was great joy among the people who were led in music by a group of the Saint Louise de Marillac School, a group that was under the direction of Sister Alicia, a Daughter of Charity.

At the beginning the image of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal was enthroned and the missionaries who had arrived from the capital were received with great rejoicing ... these missionaries were joined by others from Pisco. The mission was begun and in the morning the homes in all the different communities were being visited by the missionaries. These young men and women shared their faith and spoke about the person of Jesus Christ. In the afternoon the children and young adults were gathered together and these meetings were concluded with the liturgical celebrations that were proper to the Easter Triduum. Long walks under a hot sun, faith, joy, dreams and much hope ... all of these were part of our daily reality. Despite their tiredness the joy of Jesus was revealed on the faces of the young missionaries. They were happy to have this opportunity to share the gospel of the Lord. Yes, each community had its proper reality but the people in all the different communities shared something in common, namely, the desire to know Jesus on a deeper level and the missionaries at the end of the process felt that they themselves had been evangelized by the simple faith of the people who live in these various towns and communities.

The closing of the mission took place on Easter Sunday in the district of Humay, in the church of Saint Peter the Apostle, the place where one will find the remains of the Servant of God, Luisa de la Torre, who is in the process of being beatified ... the people of this area have a great devotion to this woman. It was there that we, together with the members of the communities that had participated in the popular mission, gave thanks to God for the great love that had been manifested during the time of the mission. At the end of the Mass the image of the Child Jesus in the midst of the learned elders in the Temple (an image which Luisa de la Torre had great devotion to) was enshrined and the image of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal was blessed. The popular mission has allowed us to live Holy Week in a very intense manner, with great faith and devotion.

The communities are aware of the fact that the mission continues through the post-mission activities and this is now the responsibility of all those persons who remain in that area. There is much enthusiasm to continue the mission and to continue with the various youth groups and adult groups that were formed during the mission ... there is a group of the Miraculous Medal Association and a group of the Vincentian Marian Youth Association. God has continued to bless this work and God has also given us the necessary strength that enables us to grow in our faith and our love of God. We have also been able to form lively communities whose members are willing to become protagonists of their own history. A word of gratitude to the Vincentian Marian Youth Association in Peru for their enthusiasm and faith and love! Thank you for bringing hope to this wonderful group

## Colombia

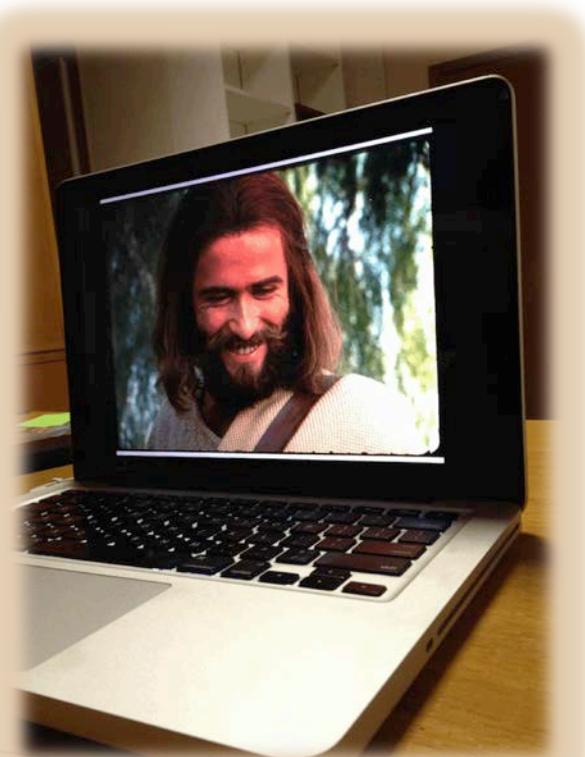
### On line with Jesus...

#### A virtual spiritual retreat

F. José Antonio González, C.M.

From April 7-12 some 120 persons participated in the experience of a virtual spiritual retreat that was organized by the Major Seminary, Villa Paúl. We know that a retreat is a moment in time in which people are provided with an opportunity to deepen their experience of God and confront their life of faith with the message of Jesus. But to take part in a virtual retreat ... what does that mean? Is it possible that such a retreat could produce some fruit, especially some spiritual fruit?

Traditionally during a retreat we put aside our work and other scheduled commitments in order to become involved in the retreat. In a virtual retreat we were mindful of the fact that there are many people who would like to make a retreat but find it impossible to dedicate one week to such an event.



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Therefore the virtual retreat makes use of the internet and is used to help people make a “pause” in their everyday life while providing them with an opportunity to have a profound encounter with God ... these individuals do not have to separate themselves from their work and family responsibilities.

We utilized “Facebook” and the e-mail accounts of each person. These served as an open window that allowed people to breathe in the Spirit of Christ that would allow them to strengthen and nourish their hearts with the Word of God and to do this while they continued to be engaged in their daily responsibilities.

We requested the following conditions in order to participate in this retreat:

- That it be a time of joy and responsibility --- people were invited to live those days as a time of joy since they were attempting to bring Jesus into their daily life and therefore attempting to have Jesus enlighten their daily work.
- People were invited to look for some period of silence and meditation, providing themselves with two different moments during the day for meditation and reflection on the readings and prayers that were suggested. They were asked to chose some place in their home or in their workplace that would provide them with this opportunity for meditation and reflection
- The participants were then invited to seek out a time for celebration, that is, they were invited to conclude the

## Nominaciones / Confirmaciones

MÓL SANTOS Geraldo Eustáquio	Nombramiento: 10/04/2014 Inicio mandato: 05/05/2014	Visitador Río de Janeiro
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**Ordinaciones**

CEPEDA MONTALVA Carlos Maximiliano	Sac	Chi	09/04/2014
ESTHEPPAN Thomas	Sac	InM	24/04/2014
DASAN Tharthees	Sac	InM	29/04/2014

## Necrologium

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
THEIKANATH James	Sac	29/03/2014	InS	72	49
BARBOSA FERREIRA Geraldo	Sac	03/04/2014	Flu	68	41
SZUMILO Julian	Sac	07/04/2014	Nan	90	70
UNGARINI Giovanni	Sac	26/04/2014	Rom	89	72
RODRÍGUEZ PANIAGUA Enrique	Sac	28/04/2014	Sal	91	75

Translated: Charles T. Plock, CM