

# VINCENTIAN MARIAN YOUTH

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN



**VMY, be all that you can be!**

## Service And Mission

Summer has arrived. It is a privileged moment for everybody, especially for us, the young, not only because it is a time to rest or relax, but also because it is a time of meetings, camps, retreats and other activities. Moreover, 2009 marks the beginning of the countdown towards our General Assembly. During 2009, we can reflect and check the experiences lived in the last five years, respect to the commitments of the GA, 2005 we can also make some plans for the new Assembly that is nearly to take place. Our objective is to revive our Marian and Vincentian spirit and above all, to continue being witnesses in today's world. May the Holy Spirit fill us with His light so that, we are able to do more things and BE ALL THAT WE CAN BE helped by the spirit of St. Vincent!

At our International Secretariat, Ghislain (Cameroon) and Emmy (Mexico) are nearly to finish their three years of dedication to the International Association. New volunteers will assume the challenge to continue building the international structure from this missionary experience at the service of the member countries.

In 2010 we will also need committed members that present their candidatures to compose the new International Council. WHO WILL BE READY TO DO IT? We are sure of your prayers for everything to be done according to the will of God. Finally, next September 27, 2009, we will inaugurate the Jubilee Year for the 350th anniversary of the death of St. Vincent and St. Louise, under the motto "CHARITY AND MISSION". The Church and the Vincentian family count on the dynamism of our youth to live this event with creativity and enthusiasm. What initiatives are going to help us to live this jubilee thoroughly?

We want this questions join you during this summer, by the time we wish you a happy preparation of the events that are coming soon. May Mary, our Mother, help us discern the will of God in every single activity and may we do whatever He tells us.



**Voahanginirina François de Paul**  
International Councillor



# VMY

# around the world

## AFRICA



**Burkina Faso** The VMY members are enthusiastically preparing the summer camp. It will take place in August, 2009.



**Chad** The first steps to create the Association in Chad are being taken, actually, the monitors met on February 7 and March 15. We welcome them to our VMY Family!



**Ivory Coast** The latest activities of VMY include: The National Encounter in Abidjan (February 1), formation on Marian Consecration (May 1) and Marian Consecration (May 10). They are preparing their National Elective Assembly (August, 2009)



**Mauritius Island** We are so glad for having resumed contact with VMY Mauritius Island. In this country, the Association is present in 6 secondary schools. VMY members are very active; they participate in the local church activities, in camps and retreats. In May, they had a National Day, with 140 members. In this event, groups shared their local experiences.

**Kenya** Vincentian Marian Youth was started Kitale diocese, on November 1st 2008. Apart from getting formation, VMY members carry out home visitation. People were surprised that there are still young people who are willing to serve the poor!



**Nigeria** VMY has a new National Advisor, Sr. Benedicta Osih. Let us pray for her new apostolate. We also want to express our gratitude to Sr. Emilia Asuquo for the great task she did as VMY National Advisor in the last years.



**Madagascar** Among the activities of the Association we can underline the following: VMY Manakara celebrated its 25th anniversary (December, 2008); The National Council met on January 9 and in April, they celebrated the WYD at a diocesan level.

**Burundi** Siguen trabajando los 2 grupos de Ruzo (Diócesis de Muyinga) y Rwisabi (Diócesis de Ngozi)



**Eritrea** Members of VMY gladly participated in the Feast of Mariam Daarit in the shrine located in Keren, May 29, 2009.



**Cameroon** Some of the latest activities of the Association were: A Leaders Formation Session in Yaunde (December 17-30); participation in several activities on the occasion of the visit of the Pope Benedict XVI (March 17-20); Visit of the Advisors to the groups in Duala, Buea and Limbe (April 25 and 26). They are also preparing some summer activities such as: VF Meeting in July and National Camp from July 29 to August 5.

**Central African Republic** On May 3, VMY had a meeting to elect the diocesan people-in-charge of Bangui. On June 3, the VF met at the Cathedral of the Immaculate, also in Bangui. The main purpose of this meeting was to interchange experiences and to prepare the meeting in Cameroon. The visitor of the Province of Paris, Fr. Elie Delplace, CM. and the Superior Regional of Cameroon, Fr. Guillaume Leukeumo, CM. were present.



**Rwanda** There are two groups in the secondary schools of Kabagayi diocese. Some priests of the CM are the Advisors. Other two groups of the Nyundo diocese are guided by the Daughters of Charity. They are located in Mukungo y Musango. Fr. Osorio said: "These groups grow in Ecclesial, Marian and Vincentian spirit". Mukungo has 8 VMY groups; there are 220 members in total and they are accompanied by four Daughters of Charity. On February 22, for the first time after the creation of the group, in 1999, 26 young made the promise to follow Jesus through Mary. And other 2 VMY members are going to participate in the VF Formation Session in Cameroon.



**Democratic Republic of Congo** The young of VMY Kinshasa met on March 16 to prepare the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the creation of the group. This celebration will take place in October, 2009.



# LET'S LIVE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## From Appearance to Passion (St. Vincent and St. Paul)

According to the last studies on St. Paul, some theologians say that his physical appearance was a true thorn and illness to him: "but though my illness was a trial to you, you did not show any distaste or revulsion. . ." (Gal 4, 14) and although he was aware of his weaknesses and thorns, they did not stop him from having a passion and commitment for Christ in his apostolic tasks.

Studies on St. Vincent state that he also suffered for his corporal defeats; he was a lame person (maybe since he was born, maybe after his famous captivity in Tunisia), however, we know his passion for the poor, his braveness before difficult situations and circumstances and his strength to act and change the face and image of the poor, seeing in them the face of Christ... we know that this man has changed the face of the Church...

Today, we are also invited to have a passion for Christ, to fall in love with Him. He has to be the foundation of our life, especially when we carry out the activities of our VMY communities, in spite of our own thorns and "limps". Do we dare to name the present thorns and limps that limit the progress of our group and community?

Christ was the foundation of St. Paul and St. Vincent; each had his own deep experiences with Him. Nowadays, we are invited to take our commitment with the Association in our countries seriously, either as advisors, or as people-in-charge of our centres or groups; but if we do not lead our members to a deep experience with Christ and a clear consecration to our Mother, everything is left up in the air; and all our activities could become a work for the kingdom of God, but without taking in account the will of God. Today, the apathy is widespread in our society, our church and maybe in our VMY or VF communities! The passion for Christ characterized St. Paul; the passion for the poor, our Lords and Masters was the distinctive sign of St. Vincent. Neither of them gave up... In this time of crisis, pandemic, atheism and global consumerism, we, as VMY members are called, more than ever, to rediscover the passion for Christ and for the others... the passion that is able to do everything...



Fr. Pavol Noga, CM  
VMY Sub-Director  
General

May we have passion and fall in love with what we really are... VMY, be all that you can be!!

# TESTIMONY

## *"Serving the poor is serving God"*

The "fraternal soup pot" (la marmite de soupe fraternelle), was born in the summer 2007, when we, 25 members of a VMY group of central Vietnam noticed the hunger and loneliness that some brothers and sisters of the zone suffered.

Every Sunday, from 5 am, 8 members start the preparation of the soup with enthusiasm and good humour. Thus, elder and sick people could have their warm soup in time. After that, we distribute the soup in some houses. Finally we do the washing-up.

At the beginning, the money to finance this activity was from the parochial collect and private donations; some members got a job (as building workers, collecting rubbish or

fishing) to be able to buy some rice for the soup.

Some months later we organized it better. Now, the group rents a small land to cultivate the rice by itself. There was a time when the "fraternal soup pot" was distributed twice a week.

This simple service to our brothers and sisters has helped us to grow in unity, cordiality, responsibility and fraternity. Through the service to the less privileged, we could offer our Christian testimony and above all, we could fill life of people, who is abandoned to their fate, with joy. We would like to be able to continue with this experience and spread it in other parishes. Our light is called to bright around us for the Glory of God and the good of the weak.

We count on your prayers!

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AND SECRETARIAT

Recently, our Director General confirmed the following appointments: Sr. Diala Kassably (Lebanon), Sr. Antonia Gonzalez (Dominican Republic), Sr. Vilma Sullayme (Bolivia), Sr. Iris Montes Luna (Peru), Sr. Isabel M<sup>a</sup> Higuera (Spain), Fr. Salvatore Fari (Italy), Sr. Luzimar Santos (Brazil, Rio de Janeiro), Sr. Astrid Gomez Peralta (Colombia-Bogota), Fr. Decilus Valcin (Haiti), Deacon Juan Luis Diaz Bonilla (Dominican Republic), Fr. Anulfo del Rosario Sosa (Puerto Rico), Sr. Benedicta Osih (Nigeria), Sr. Lettemedhin Abraha (Eritrea), Fr. Rhodel Nacional (Philippines), Sr. Edith Moran (El Salvador) Sr. Norma Lozano (Guatemala) Sr. Sabina Guastadisegni (Italy) Jose Wilson (VMY President of Cali - Colombia) Marie Darline Jean (VMY President of Haiti) Stefan Strieška (VMY President of Slovakia).

With nostalgia and gratitude we say goodbye to 2 members of our International Secretariat; Emma Velazquez (Mexico) and Ghislain Atemezing (Cameroon) who are nearly to finish their service in the International team... Dear Ghis, dear Emmy, may God bless your generosity for these 3 years you have dedicated to the Association!

On July 2-5 the meeting of the VMY International Council is going to take place in Madrid. We entrust it to your prayers.

