

# INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

## VINCENTIAN MARIAN YOUTH



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



Once again, I address, at this time of the year to you; to all the Vincentians, especially to the VMY members, to congratulate you on the occasion of the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul. This year, my congratulation is special, because the celebration of the 350 anniversary of St. Vincent and St. Louis is beginning.

Normally, when we talk about death, it is a source of sadness, of sorrow; however, in this case, it is a source of joy because with their life, St. Vincent and St. Louise knew how to transmit some values, a spirituality and a charisma that year after year and century after century, have grown and have been observed. Therefore, the fact of celebrating their death is to celebrate their life, and what is more, to celebrate life from two different perspectives: The "life" of many young people, men and women that have followed the example of St. Vincent and St. Louise, of getting close to the most needy and announcing the Love of God. And the "life" that many people have recovered in numerous situations, when they have found a Vincentian on their way and he/she has helped them to regain the hope and to believe that a better world is possible, in spite of this society where the feelings seem to disappear and everything seems to have no value or importance.

All of us have the challenge of keeping on announcing the legacy our founders gave us. We should not forget that "the poor are our lords and masters", that all the actions we do for them, must be through an "affective and effective love" and that "charity is creative until the infinite". How many times have we listened or read these phrases? All of them are valid to VMY today. Is our Association ready to live according these principles? Are we able to be close to those who need our help freely, without expecting anything in return? Are we aware that being with the poor brings us nearer to God? Are we also aware that we have the responsibility to fight against their poverty?

St. Vincent also invited to pray, because "there is not life or action without Christ" and is only Christ who can give us enough strength to keep on going when we are in trouble. We should be proud and grateful for being who we are and for having the chance to live according the gospel, following the steps of St. Vincent and St. Louise.

**May we have a great year! CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



**M<sup>a</sup> JESÚS GARCÍA**  
International Councillor



**We are working on our new WEBSITE.**

**Thank you for your patience!**



# VMY worldwide...

## AMERICA



### Argentina/Paraguay/Uruguay (APU)

July, 18th – Catechetical School, which has been functioning uninterrupted for 12 years. September, 11-14 - the Province of Argentina celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Vincentians and Daughters of Charity in Rio de la Plata. Fr. Gregory Gay was present at the celebration. Father Gay also visited Uruguay and Paraguay on his trip.

### Colombia - Bogotá

Sunday, July 26th, Sister Margarita Kelly passed away in the city of Bogotá. Sister Margaret was a great advisor who dedicated a large part of her missionary life to the formation of VMY communities.



### Bolivia

July, 10-12: The 5<sup>th</sup> National Assembly took place. 54 participants – from the 4 departments participated, as well as the VMY Latin American Councillor, Dorys Castillo, who directed the assembly with important and interesting themes. Dorys' husband Miguel Velasquez accompanied her.

The new National Council was elected with Pamela Antezana Pacheco as president.

September, 6-13: There was a formation gathering of Advisors.



### Brazil

July 20-21 - the **National Council** met in Rio de Janeiro to evaluate its work and plan for 2009-2010.

October 11-12 - in **Belo Horizonte**, VMY organized a Provincial Gathering.

**Province of Curitiba:** In August, VMY Almirante Tamandaré organized a mass and "family dinner" with the youth and their parents. July 18th – the region of Serrano, Araras had the "Catherine Labouré Clothing Drive". The clothes collected will be sent to the poor of the local parish.

**Province of Fortaleza:** September 13<sup>th</sup> - A Vincentian clothing drive took place in the Serra Region. The poor in a local park where also visited. In July, Serra had its Regional Gathering during which a new coordinating group was organized.

**Province of Recife:** August 29-30 the Regional Assembly of Recife took place during which a new Council was elected with Debora Mirela as president.

October 10-12 – the Provincial Assembly of Recife took place.



### The United States: Central West Province

I - June 26th – The Annual Gathering took place to evaluate the year and establish lines of action for the future;

II - August 9th – Marian Consecrations;

III - September 19th – Participation in the "March for Life"

IV - September 26th – To celebrate the Feast of St. Vincent, VMY organized a "Mission box experience", during which each youth shared experience of the homeless poor. The funds raised will be used for VMY activities.



### Panama

September 5<sup>th</sup> – Meeting of the National Council

October 9 – 11 – Group

Leader workshop at the CM Retreat house in Santa Clara

The youth participated in regional formation gatherings during mid-year break.



### Costa Rica

July 12<sup>th</sup> - leaders and coordinators of El Valle de la Estrella (Province of Limon) met to plan the Gathering of National Councils CENMEX 2009.



### Ecuador

October 31 to November 2, the 15<sup>th</sup> National Gathering of VMY Ecuador took place for the first time in the city of Loja (Southern part of the country)

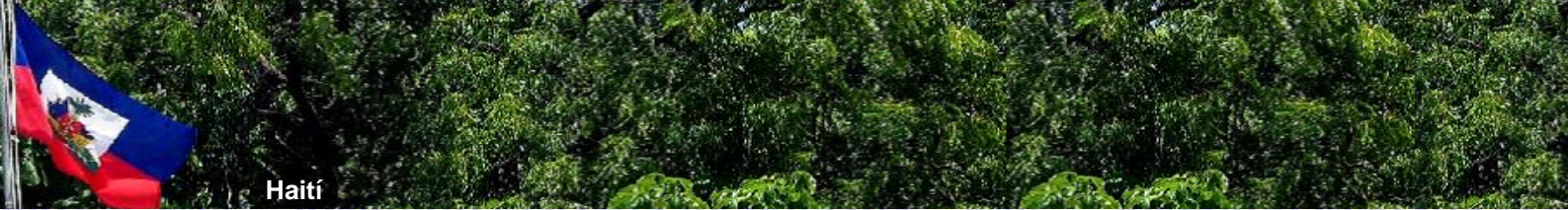


### Honduras

August 8<sup>th</sup> – National Council meeting  
August 28-30 – 2<sup>nd</sup> gathering of

Catechists with the theme:  
"Catechist...be all you can be!"

Ghislain, a previous volunteer for the International Secretariat, accompanied the National Council with several formation activities and shared his experience as a volunteer for three years as part of the International Team.



## Haití

- I - April 4-12 – Popular Mission in Thomazeau; May and September – Local council meetings; May 30<sup>th</sup> – Marian Consecration
- II August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Vincentian Family meeting about the micro-finance project; new National Council meetings; September 12<sup>th</sup> – Vincentian Family National Gathering; The theme of VMY Haiti 2009-2010 is “Like Saint Vincent and Saint Louise, we work in Service of Christ”.
- III - September 27<sup>th</sup> – The Vincentian Family initiated the Jubilee year by celebrating the Eucharist in the Puerto Principe Cathedral.



## Puerto Rico

- July 18th – A reunion was organized for those who have participated in VMY and for some reason or another are not participating, to encourage them to expand VMY in their communities.
- September 4-7 – There was National Gathering with the theme, “VMY, be all you can be!”
- Minelly Acevedo is the new National President of the Association.



## The Dominican Republic

- During the month of August, the first National Mission Camp took place in a very poor community in the eastern part of the country. 60 VMY youth participated. October 4th – The National Council met to plan 2010.

September 4-7 – There was National Gathering with the theme, “VMY, be all you can be!”

Minelly Acevedo is the new National President of the Association.



# Western Europe



## France

- I - Among the most recent activities: Regional Formation gatherings (February-March); Regional Gatherings (April); National Team meetings, Animator’s session to prepare the next pastoral course (May 29 – June 1).
- II - The theme elected for 2009-2010 is “With Mary and the example of St. Vincent, we live the Word of God”.

***“We thank the Association in France for supporting several project of VMY in Latin America and Africa.”***



## Italy

- I - During the summer, VMY Italy participated in the “Service Camp” with the rest of the Vincentian Family in Abruzzo, where an earthquake took place on April, 6<sup>th</sup>. The camp lasted from June 27-September 16.
  - II - July, 17-19 – VMY Italy organized a national gathering of animators to prepare the next pastoral year. Various regions organized summer camps during the month of August.
  - III - VMY Italy has a new National President, Giuseppe Maienza. His election took place during the Council Meeting on September, 5-6.
- Welcome to this service!***



## Portugal

- I - August, 27-31 – The National Gathering took place as they celebrated 25 years of VMY in Portugal with the theme “We celebrate the Jubilee with St. Paul”. 180 VMY youth participated, as well as several advisors. Maria Jesus Garcia, International Councilor, and several previous members of VMY were also present.
- II - September 9<sup>th</sup> – the 5<sup>th</sup> National Gathering of the Vincentian Family took place under the theme, “Announce Jesus in a Changing World”.



## Spain

- July 14-18 there was a gathering in Benagalbón.
- July 19-26 there was a formation gathering for advisors in Benagalbón.



# Living the General Assembly

# Testimony



Charity - Mission  
VINCENT  
DE PAUL  
LOUISE DE  
MARILLAC  
350<sup>th</sup> anniversary



## VINCENTIAN FAMILY GATHERING IN BRAZIL

From July 10 through 14, the Vincentian Family in Brazil met in Brasilia, Federal District. The reason for the meeting could not be any other than "Systemic Change", the theme of the International Vincentian Family (FAMVIN), guiding its work during the past three years. To assist with the reflections, members of the International Team for Systemic Change – Fr. Manuel Ginete, CM (Rome), responsible for the Vincentian Family; Fr. Pedro Opeka, CM (Madagascar); Patricia Nava (AIC Mexico) – as well as Uca Gonzalez (AIC Spain) were present. 120 people participated from 13 branches of the Vincentian Family, including VMY. Some examples of projects and strategies that change unjust systems that suffocate the poor more and more were explained. It was great to see that in the Vincentian Family of Brazil and VMY already have initiatives grounded in Systemic Change. At the closing of the gathering, each participant was given a USB memory with a variety of materials to share that serve as a base for the branches of the VF with the goal to develop systemic change projects. We think of the gathering as a "Seed of Hope" that was planted in the Vincentian Family, this fertile ground, so that each of us as members of various branches – especially VMY – with all of our zeal, creativity and transformative power, can cultivate it.

**RAFAEL FELIPE CRUZ**  
VMY Provincial President – Belo Horizonte  
Member of the VF and VMY Council of Brazil



I - Fr. Pavol and our former volunteer, Emma, participated this summer in the National Gathering of VMY Slovakia, together with three members of VMY Spain and representatives of other European countries. Fr. Pavol also participated in the National Gathering of VMY Spain in Benagalbon.

II - In July, Argelys participated in the School of Formation in Benagalbon and then volunteered at the summer camp at the "With You" Center in Linea de la Concepción.

III - The 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of VMY will be in Lisbon, Portugal, on August 1-6, 2010, under the theme, "JMV, Rooted in Christ, Sowers of Hope". It will be preceded by the celebration of the African Gathering of National Councils that will take place in the same location on July 29-31. We count on your collaboration and prayers for these events.

IV - Since September, three new volunteers joined the International Secretariat Team: **Cleber Teodosio** (Brazil), **Katarina Mazúrová** (Slovakia) and **Anh Nguyen** (Vietnam). The International Secretariat welcomes them!

INTERNATIONAL  
SECRETARIAT and COUNCIL

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