

# INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN



## Vincentian Marian Youth

**VMY, rooted in Christ, sowers of hope!**



Through our baptism we have been incorporated into the Church; the Church is the sacrament and sign of the Kingdom (LG 1), which acts in the world to give the testimony of the perfect life in God (today and in the future). Through this baptism, and as St. Paul, we live, but Christ is who lives in us (cf. Gal 2: 12-20). As Vincentian, as Christian, we have to take Him to our environment and make him life in the world. So, the hope will be planted, the light will always shine in the dark, death will never be the last word. We will win because Christ won. It is the conviction that should encourage us, Vincentian youth, as *"witnesses of hope."*

### INTRODUCTION...

In the spirit of the Jubilee year, the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of our Founders goes into our charisma in depth: to serve Christ in the poor people.

The word *"poor"* gives and commits us to a wide range of mission that invites us to open ourselves to the signs of poverty in our neighborhood, our country and opens our eyes to the dimensions of thirst all over the world. We can fulfill the Lord's commandment: *"Love one another as I have loved you"*, only when we are sensitive to the cries of the poor.

San Vicente asks us to *"seek God first ... because if we do things for God; Will He make ours"*? (André Dodin, *Saint Vincent de Paul and Charity, Seuil, 1960, p. 22*). If we were not rooted in Him, it would be almost impossible to work in the field of God. And that is exactly the theme of our General Assembly next August: *"VMY, rooted in Christ, sowers of hope."*

VMY! Take Mary as an example of hope. She was present at the foot of the cross. She was a woman of Hope. And the answer to her hope is the resurrection of Jesus. We believe in God who is always faithful to those who believe in Him and trust Him.

**Voahanginirina François**  
INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCILOR OF VMY





## AFRICA

### Argeria



On March 24, VMY had the National Elective Assembly. The new National Council is presided by Deus Bigirimana.

### Cameroon



Among the latest activities of the Association are: National Council Meeting and Formation Session of the Western Region (28 to 31 March, Foumban). Almost all regions participated; there were approximately 70 participants and a dozen Advisers. Shortly before GA2010, they are planning to organize their Assembly and National Camp in Messa-Mvelé, from 15 to 22 July.

### Ivory Coast

On 10 April, the VMY celebrated their National Assembly, under the theme *"Working together for VMY, committed to follow Christ."* They revised the National Statutes and elected their new National Council presided by Zambé Berenger, former National Secretary.

On May 9, 35 members of the VMY Yopougon made their Marian Consecration. The same day, VMY in the parish of Saint Mark held an Open Day to raise awareness of the Association in the area.



### Ethiopia



Association celebrated Easter by providing with food to poor widows and needy children. The members of VMY Association of Nekemte

organized some fund rising programs in Nekemte Kidanemhired Parish to help to the poorest people and families.

### Mozambique

National Assembly was organized from April 16 to 19, in Matola – It was at the House of Mary Immaculate - Daughters of Charity, where they have chosen their new National Council presided by Raul Anselmo Matsombe. The Association is situated in 5 provinces. The latest activities include: Easter Solidarity, Football Party in honor of Mothers, Evening Dance, Markets, etc.



### Madagascar



From 6 to 9 April, VMY Tolagnaro organized a Meeting of Formation with participants from different groups of the diocese.

### Democratic Republic of Congo

- March 26 and 27, VMY from Impfondo and Epena gathered for formation on AIDS in Epena.
- In this country, VMY has 11 groups and 569 members.
- Some members of VMY Bolobo made their Marian Consecration after an intense time of formation. Other new members were received into the Association after a year of formation. Other members renewed their promise. It was a day of joy for the VMY Bolobo Center.



# X International Youth Forum

Rocca Di Papa, Italy, March 24-28, 2010



The Forum took place in Rocca di Papa, near Rome, from March 24 to 28. In these four days participants attempted to deepen the theme of Christian love in its various aspects: anthropological, philosophical and theological. In the same organization of the days, the theme was dealt gradually. For example, the first day we spoke about human love as a choice of vocation for each of us, believer or not. The second day, after accepting the importance of love as individual choice, we tried to handle the theme of a key way of the Christian commitment, on the third day; we analyzed the dangers derived of the waste from the sexual revolution. On the fourth day, we talked about Christian marriage and sexuality related to this sacrament.

In general, almost all the speeches of the speakers were referred to the Magisterium, especially the Encyclical of Benedict XVI, "*Deus Caritas es*", to the Apostolic Exhortation "*Familiaris Consortio*" of John Paul II in 1981, and other references to council documents such as "*Gaudium et Spes*".

Due to lack of space it was not possible to present all the themes of each conference, but it is appropriate to highlight that the speakers chose to follow the same scheme for each talk, from the analysis of love in its psychological and practical aspect, finishing with the same under a light theme of pastoral theology.

Monsignor Laffitte in his lecture dealt with the theme of the sexual revolution, from its source, to its effects on the world today. The testimony of a couple who lives along their beautiful experience of marriage in a Christian way, especially in the theological and ecclesial aspect, was the contrast to the current loss of intimacy that is necessary for the growth of the couple. Also the same sacramental value of marriage often becomes meaningless. To solve these problems, it is necessary to give the correct meaning of the sacrament on pastoral and social level.

The family has to assume a social role of fundamental importance. The council documents declare that the family received the mission from God to be the principle and foundation of society (Apostolicam actuositatem). This is the reason why the preparation for the sacrament of marriage has to be deepened and valued throughout the journey of commitment, without being reduced only for the wedding day.

Finally, on the day of the Annunciation of the Lord, also the homily of Cardinal Rilko followed the same approach. Cardinal connected the 'Here I am' of Mary with the availability with which each of us would have to respond to the gratuitous love of God, because we were not created to be alone, but for communion with others. The man of faith is called to donate, because Christian love has to reflect the love of Christ to his Church, which is completely free and self-giving love.



**Daniele Ciurleo**  
JMV ITALY

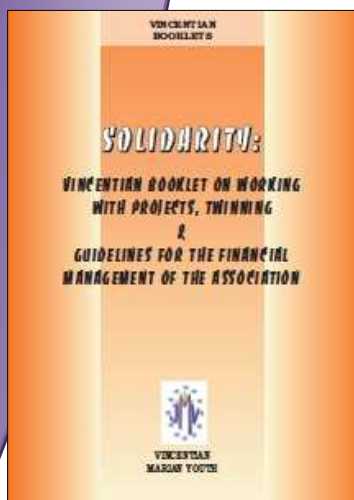
## FELICITACIONES...



*July 18 is the Anniversary of the Association; we invite you to be united in prayer for the VMY in the World during this day.*



# New Vincentian Booklet



The VMY International Council, in response to one of the challenges made during the Second General Assembly, Paris 2005, wanted to offer to the VMY National Councils a new Vincentian Booklet named "*Solidarity*" with materials that will help us promote our responsibility and solidarity within the Association, it is divided into three parts for better understanding.

Remember that we are an International Association and, as Vincentians, we are called to work the way that St. Vincent did ... an organized way; so, to achieve our further objective we should always be thinking of the best way to serve the poor.

From my own experience, I can say that many times we put all our efforts in a project but in the end the results are not what we expected. "*Working with Projects*" tries to guide us in developing projects that assist in formation, service and mission of the Association at all levels.

We are aware of our internationality but we do not always know what that means. The document of "*Twinning*" invites us to promote twinning between the countries, searching for a mutual enrichment in the sharing of experience, formation materials and encourage mutual solidarity and support between countries.

And what to say about the headaches of the National Councils caused by the question of economic management... "*Guidelines for the financial management*" is a brief and practical document that strives to facilitate the management of this theme, while promoting transparency in the handling of funds of the Association.

Indeed, we hope that the material in this Booklet is implemented in countries so we can achieve a more organized response to an invitation of Saint Vincent de Paul to serve more effectively to our Lords and Masters, the poor people.



Argelys Vega  
VOLUNTEER

## INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT AND COUNCIL...

♪ - During the last months, VMY General Director has confirmed the following positions: **Cristian Omar Henríquez** (President of VMY Honduras), **Raúl Anselmo Matsombe** (Presidente of VMY Mozambique), **Sr. Elsa Fátima Uassiquete, DC** (National Sister Advisor of VMY Mozambique), **Sr. Frédérique Decomble DC**, (National Sister Advisor of VMY France). *Thank you very much for accepting this mission and may our Blessed Mother help you in it.*

♪ - From May 5 to 9, the **International Council** held its **last Meeting** to evaluate its activity in the last five years, during these days they also had a retreat led by our General Director, in the city of Santiago de Compostela, Spain. We thank them for all the work they have done during these five years.

♪ - On May 22 and 23, the International Secretariat had the **retreat of Pentecost in Avila - Spain.**

♪ - On May 29, the International Secretariat participated in the **Youth Convocation Meeting** organized by VMY Spain.

♪ - On June 18, **Fr. Pavol celebrated ten years of his priest ordination. Congratulations!**

♪ - July 18 is the **Anniversary of the Association**; we invite you to be united in prayer for the VMY in the World during this day.

♪ - Portugal will host two important meetings of VMY. Firstly, **The First African Encounter** from July 28 to 31, and **The Third General Assembly of VMY** from 1 to 6 August. We ask all of you to continue being united with us in your prayers.

