

# BULLETIN

International Vincentian Marian Youth



Today is the day!

## INTRODUCTION...

After having celebrated such an important moment as that which occurred during the time of our Third General Assembly (Lisbon, August 2011), we run the risk of viewing the "Ordinary Time" of the Liturgical Year as a time to rest and relax after so many celebrations, so much work, so many expectations and so many dreams. But the truth is quite the opposite. This ordinary time in the life of the Association provides us with an opportunity to accept whole-heartedly and implement the plans that were envisioned during the time of the Assembly. It is for this reason that the International Council has proposed that our motto for this year 2011 be that of the last line of the hymn which was written for our Assembly.

Today is the day for the VMY! Today is the time to respond effectively to the challenge of forming the members and the leaders of the association; today is the time to respond to the challenge of self-financing on every level; today is the time to struggle against the root causes of poverty; today is the time to be rooted in Christ through listening to his Word and participating in the sacramental life of the Church. Recently we published the Annual Letter of the President in which we outlined what we believe is possible if we join together our efforts, our resources, our experiences and creativity and if we open ourselves to that which the other is able to share with us.

Yes, the Final Document of the General Assembly 2010 outlines the mission of the International Team but it also outlines the mission of each National, Regional and Local Council ... the mission of each member. Let us be mindful of the fact that dreams need perseverance and courage if they are to become realities.

Today is also the time for you! Do you experience the urgency to live each day as if it were the last day of your life? Do you experience the urgency to live and love and forgive and serve and become passionate for the kingdom of God? Are you able to reflect upon and discern God's plan for your life and to do so in such a way that you are aware of the seductions of the globalized world and the hesitations that all of this creates in the very depths of your being? Today ... and every day ... the Lord invites you to be joyful; the Lord calls you to an intimate relationship with God; the Lord urges you to make your life more pleasing to God and to your sisters and brothers. And the same Lord again invites you, invites you unceasingly ... the Lord invites you because he loves you and in his eyes you are the most important person.

There is no reason to be afraid. Jesus and Mary are with us! There is nothing that we have dreamed about as either individuals or as a group that cannot become a reality. Yes, we need to do our part so that the seed might produce fruit, but we do not know the when and the how of all of this ...



**Yasmine Cajuste**  
VMY International President

# VMY in the world...

## AMERICA...



**APU:** On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, during the celebration of the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, nine young people were sent out on

Mission to Uruguay and in the latter part of January were sent to the Provincial Mission in Uruguay.



**BRAZIL: - Belo Horizonte:** the VI Encounter of Advisors and Animators will be held on February 26-27.

- **Curitiba** an Assembly will be held on March 19-20, 2011.

**Recife:** -VMY in the area of Natal held their Assembly from January 21-23. The National Advisor and the National Secretary participated in this Assembly and Bruno Rhistchelly was elected as regional president.

-The VMY in Itapemirim celebrated Carnival with a retreat.

-We give thanks to God for the return of the groups from Socorro and Nazaré de Mata and for the creation of a new group in Imbiriberia.



**COSTA RICA:** The National Encounter of JMVCR was held on January 7-9 in the community of Palmares to commemorate the fifteen years of presence in Costa Rica.



**UNITED STATES, MISSOURI:** From January 21 to 25, 115 youth and youth leaders from St. Genevieve, Perryville, and

Farmington Catholic Parishes traveled and participated to the 4th Annual March for Life Pilgrimage in Washington DC, under the theme "A person's a person no matter how small!"



**GUATEMALA:** On January 30<sup>th</sup> the National Council met in the Provincial House of the Daughters of Charity.



held.

**HONDURAS:** From February 18-20 the III National Encounter of Catechists from San Pedro Sula, Puerto Cortés and Tegucigalpa was



**MEXICO:** On February 12<sup>th</sup> the Association initiated their Jubilee Year to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the presence of the Vincentian Marian Youth in the country.



**PANAMA:** The VMY in Panama has a new National Council that was elected during the National Encounter that took place during the month of January. We pray to God for each member of the Council.



**PERU:** During the first week of January the Local Councils gathered together.



**REPÚBLIC DOMINICAN:** In January a National Assembly was held during which a new council was elected.

## WESTERN EUROPE



**ITALY:** On February 12-13 the National Council met. The new Statutes that had been approved by Father General were presented at the meeting. These Statutes officially change the name of the group from *Marian Association* to *Vincentian Marian Youth*.



**FRANCE:** On January 15-16 the Administrative Council and the National Assembly were held during which Marina Malandain was reelected President of the Association.



**PORTUGAL:** In the middle of February the National Council met to reflect on the letter from the President of the Association and the preparations for the National Assembly which is scheduled to be held in April of this year.

## FORMATION IN THE VMY...

### Dear young women and men and advisors of the VMY:

Some time ago I was asked to write a brief reflection on formation and my immediate reaction was: *No, not me! This is a very complex issue and I have no idea where to begin or where this would go!*

So I invite you to reflect together on this important theme and in order to do this it is pivotal that as advisors and as young women and men each one of us understands the importance of accompanying another on the journey and of allowing ourselves to be accompanied on the journey.

When we speak of formation I often think of the time of preparation for these moments, the coming together as a group, the catechesis, the growth that occurs, the commitment involved in all of this, the consecration to Mary ... so many things!

There should be only one objective in the formation that occurs within the VMY: to build up the kingdom of God on earth and to do this in the midst of young people, individuals who are joyful, the poor, the afflicted, the forgotten ones, and those who feel alone on the journey ... these are the persons whom we, as members of the VMY, are called to serve.

I invite you to reflect on these questions. As an advisor: what do I learn from the young women and men? What do I offer to them? As young women and men: the VMY offers me opportunities for formation, for individual growth and for growth together as a group, what affect does all of this have on my life? Am I committed to this process of formation?

Today is the day! Today is the time to seek perfection and holiness: *Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you* (2 Corinthians 13:11).



**Karmen Kunc**  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCILOR

## PLANT JOY AND HOPE...

This is the first time that the National Council of the VMY in Vietnam has organized a Formation Session for the Lay Advisors. The formation program will continue for three years (2010-2013) and in addition to the three phases of formation, other courses will be offered and individual tasks will be assigned to the participants.

In the first session one hundred one individuals participated and these individuals represented three regions of the country. They came together under the banner: *Plant joy and hope!* As one who participated in this event I want to offer my reflections:

Participating in this time of formation and under such an inspiring banner was both a wonderful opportunity and an honor. We do not see ourselves becoming "leaders" of others but rather as was pointed out by the National Advisor during the formation session "to guide and to accompany means that we put aside our pride and every inclination to impose our way on others." Here we are talking about lifting up the minds and the hearts of those persons whom we accompany so that they might in turn accomplish extraordinary things. This task thus requires humility and the ability to adapt oneself to different situations. When all is said and done we are talking about serving, imitating Jesus who came not to be served but to serve.

Yes, you and I are called to serve, to be agents of peace and we must remember that the Lord places each one of us in the situation where we are meant to be because that is God's will and God's plan.

During this time of formation we experienced the presence of the Spirit of God. Indeed, it is the Spirit who gives us the strength to live and to be witness of God, witnesses, first of all, in our families. This is what we are attempting to do at the present time as we become more aware of our relationships and willing to sacrifice ourselves in order to serve in a better way. With the grace of God we hope to plant hope and joy in our surroundings.

This time of formation has provided us with the opportunity to experience some wonderful moments together and also to come to a better understanding of what the Virgin expects of young people who are living in the world today. We were also able to see the importance of the role of lay advisors in the Association. We also realized that as lay advisors we ought to be God's instruments in our families, with our colleagues in the workplace, with our friends and acquaintances and especially with the members of the Association of the Vincentian Marian Youth.



**VMY in Vietnam**

# Council and Secretariat

INTERNATIONAL

- The Director General confirmed the following **appointments**: Sister Lusineyde de Silva Brito (Advisor, Rio de Janeiro:Brazil), Felix Antonio Medrano (President, Dominican Republic), Ana Lilia Juárez (President, Mexico), Rolando Morales (President, Panama).

- On February 2<sup>nd</sup> the Director General approved the **Statutes** for Italy and Panama.



We thank **Anh Thu Nguyen** for her service to the International Secretariat of the Vincentian Marian Youth. In the same way we also want to thank for her many years of service as a volunteer. **Yasmine**, however, will continue in her role as International President. Again we thank both of these individuals for their valuable contributions to the Association



- We want to thank all the countries that have paid their **annual quota** and we encourage those whose contribution is still outstanding to bring your account up to date for 2011.
- From February 14-16 Father Parvol participated in the **first gathering** of members of the Congregation of the Mission who work with young people throughout Europe. This meeting was held in the Berceau, France.
- From January 6-9 the International Council met in Madrid. We invite all the National Councils to reflect on the **Annual Letter of the President** which offers some important information about the five year plan.

★★★★★

*We hope to see all of you at the International Gathering of Vincentian Youth and at World Youth Day ... both events will be held in Madrid. We remind you to send us your registration forms by March 31st.*



"Vincentian, a life style for today"

**Vincentian Family**  
Young Vincentian Meeting



**Visit us!**

[www.secretariadojmv.org](http://www.secretariadojmv.org)