

# BULLETIN

International Vincentian Marian Youth



Today is the day!

## INTRODUCTION...



The month of October is dedicated to the missions. Though we still hear echoes of the words of Pope Benedict XVI, nevertheless now is the time to put those words into practice. Through the lively encounter with Christ in the Eucharist and through our relationships with other young men and women we are aware of the Church's mission. Because we are active members in this Church we experience ourselves as missionaries, that is, men and women who proclaim the Word and as a result of this we want to live the Gospel in a renewed manner.

On October 23, the universal Church celebrated Mission Sunday. This year's theme was: *as the Father has sent me, so I send you!* (John 20:21).

The Church lives the mission of Christ and sends forth all those who are active members so that they might live this saving mission. We are sent into the midst of those who have no knowledge of the Gospel, those who have not had the opportunity to know the Gospel.

As a result of this encounter with Christ, we live out our faith and we reveal to the world that there is a great value in being a Christian, that there is a great value in following Jesus Christ. We are missionaries and we are called to continue to live out the missionary element of our Association.

***Our witness as young women and men of the Vincentian Marian Youth Association is to live the gospel in such a way that we become agents of change in the world. Yes, we are called to fill the world with love.***

We are grounded in faith: do we dare live the gospel in a more radical manner? We are many people, but we also need many more people. Become a part of this chain. This is your opportunity!

We become united with Mary, the first Christian, who lived her life in conformity with the will of God in a way that no other person has. Thus she was deemed worthy to become the Mother of the Redeemer. Like Mary and with Mary we ask ourselves: Do we do the will of God? How do we live in conformity with the will of God? At times this is not easy and yet the life of a Christian is the best adventure that one could live; it is an adventure in love and challenges us to look for that which is best.

As Benedict XVI reminded us in Madrid: *"the most holy Virgin Mary said 'Yes' to the will of God and teaches us a unique example of fidelity to her divine son, whom she followed to his death upon the Cross."*

**Sister Bernardita García, DC**  
Adviser of the International Secretariat



## THE AMERICAS...



### BRAZIL:

- **Fortaleza:** the regional gathering of the Association in Fortaleza was held on September 10-11, 2011 and a mission and games were part of this coming together. On September 17 there was a regional gathering in Serra and a time of leisure was encouraged in the Church del Céu.
- **Curitiba:** On August 27<sup>th</sup> eight youth from the group Toledo-Paraná professed their Marian consecration.
- **Recife:** We extend our greetings to the group in Itapetim on their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There the IV Regional Natal Meeting took place in Campina Grande from September 30 to October 3, 2011.
- **Amazonia:** The province is preparing to receive the delegates of the 2012 National Assembly and they are animating and revitalizing the groups there.
- **Rio de Janeiro:** a formation retreat for the Serrano Region was offered on July 18-19, 2011. A new regional leadership team was elected and five young persons professed their Marian consecration.
- **Belo Horizonte:** On July 18<sup>th</sup> a regional meeting was held in which 45 members from three different groups participated. On July 31<sup>st</sup> the Province formed another group in Contagem, Minas Gerais and the group is called the Vincentian Marian Youth of our Lady of Fatima.

### UNITED STATES:



- The Vincentian Marian Youth group from the parish of Saint Anthony was nominated and received the award for outstanding philanthropic youth group in Alaska.
- A new group with ten members has been created in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

### PERU:

- During the month of October a mission was given in the southern part of the country. There was great joy among the members who were involved in this process of evangelization.

### COSTA RICA:

- On September 19<sup>th</sup> the members of the Vincentian Marian Youth Association, together with the other branches of the Vincentian Family, celebrated 150 years of the Vincentian presence in this country.



## VENEZUELA:

During the National Assembly which was held on October 21-23 under the motto: Now is the time, the National Statutes were revised.

### MEXICO:

The VMY Association is celebrating their jubilee year (150 years). In November a National Assembly will be held and Yasmine and Agrelys will participate in this gathering.

### CENTRAL AMERICA

Constant torrential rains have caused the flooding of rivers and the death of many people in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama. The Daughters of Charity in these countries and VMY members are helping these people as much as possible, even welcoming entire families.



## WESTERN EUROPE...

### PORTUGAL:

- In Filgueiras, under the motto: Rooted in Christ, Firm in the Faith, the XXVII National Gathering of the VMY Association took place on June 10, 11, 12, 2011. About 100 persons participated. On October 5th the VII National Gathering of the Vincentian Family will take place.

### SPAIN:

- As scheduled, during the course of 2010-2011 three missionaries of the VMY group were sent 4 to Mozambique, 3 to Bolivia, and 5 to Cuba.
- During the month of October and throughout the nine provinces in Spain the National Council is promoting the document: "Process of Maturing in the Faith".
- The motto during 2011-2012 is: Let us shout out the great TRUTH!

### ITALY

The National Council met on September 3 and 4 in Naples, where they evaluated the past year and planned the upcoming one, which will have as its motto: "We share the dream of dedication to the mission." Among other things, they have decided to have as a national symbol a scarf embossed with the image of Medal Miraculous.



### FRANCE:



- The General Assembly of the VMY in France was held in Paris on October 22-23, 2011.

# VYG + WYD Madrid 2011

## A VERY SPECIAL FAMILY...



**Ghislain Atezing**  
International Councillor

When we are asked: who is your family?, a very truthful and simple answer is given as we respond and mention our biological family, that is, our parents, brothers and sisters and other close relatives. The notion of family and who is a member of my family varies from culture to culture. In Africa, for example, the family is a very broad concept and includes the members of one's tribe or ethnic group. This broader concept can be applied to community of faith, to those persons with whom we share a common spiritual heritage, a heritage that has been gifted to us through our Founders: Saint Vincent, Saint Louise and Saint Catherine. This concept is compatible with Jesus' response in the gospel when he is told that the members of his "biological" family are looking for him (Luke 8:20-21). We are very familiar with his response and it is in light of Jesus' words that we can say that all those persons who share the Vincentian spirituality are members of one family and as such are also co-responsible to one another to provide the abundance of life.

One year after celebrating the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of our St. Vincent and St. Louise it is time to gather up the fruits of that celebration. During the past three months I have been reading news about the distinct branches of the Vincentian Family in order to put a name on the fruit that has been harvested. So many different blessings! One of the fruits that we, Vincentian young men and women, have seen is without a doubt the Vincentian Youth Gathering and the celebration of WYD... which took place from August 12-21 in Madrid, Spain. Under the motto: *Vincentian, a lifestyle for today!* more than 1,600 young people of 57 different nationalities came together with a strong desire to share their faith, to deepen their roots in the Vincentian charism and to live together as Vincentians. We were touched by this sharing of life together: the workshops, celebrations of the Eucharist, visits to different Vincentian works and ministries, folklore celebrations, etc. We were especially impressed by the celebration in which the face of Saint Vincent was revealed to us. Our Director General described our feelings very well in his letter in which he expressed his gratitude: *the faces of the young men and women were illuminated and filled with joy ... we felt extremely proud to share such an important charism with the world and with the Church.* Yes this face of Saint Vincent does not allow us to be indifferent for we are called again to serve the poor and to do this as we follow the example of Mary, our Mother and the founder of our Association.

Today we have many challenges to confront, for example, to work together in a way that will allow us to fulfill the Millennium Goals outlined by the United Nation in 2000 (it was hoped that these goals would be achieved by the year 2015). Four years removed from this date we can ask: how have we contributed to the eradication of extreme hunger and poverty; how have we promoted universal primary education and gender equality and the empowerment of women; how have we helped to reduce child mortality and improve mental health and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and how have we helped to ensure environmental sustainability and the creation of a worldwide association for development? Thanks be to God that each the different branches of the Vincentian Family is involved in projects that deal with the distinct objectives of the Millennium Plan. Collaboration among the different branches of the Family can help overcome many difficulties while at the same time we must remember that we have a powerful tool at our disposal which helps us in our work, that is, the tool of systemic change. We give thanks to God for the fact that we are members of this family and as Father Gregory reminded us: *each branch has its specific gifts and together we are a powerful transforming force in society that continues to generate life where it is most needed.*

*If you have thought about living an adventure in a different country, of participating in a youth mission, of knowing more people and inviting them to participate in the Church of Christ ... then if you have an excellent grasp of English this is your opportunity ... **Become a member of the International Secretariat of the Vincentian Marian Youth!** Contact us at: [paulusjmv@gmail.com](mailto:paulusjmv@gmail.com)*





# Testimony - VMY in the Philippines

## ENGAGING IN SYSTEMIC CHANGE ON THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL IN THE PHILIPPINES...



In November 2009 ten representatives of the different branches of the Vincentian Family of the Philippines participated in a Continental Meeting of the Vincentian Family in Asia and Oceania. This meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand. When this group returned to the Philippines we met to discuss how we might best respond to this new call. Among the individuals most enthusiastic and dedicated to promoting the process of systemic change in this country are the students, administration and staff at Adamson University. This University is a Catholic and Vincentian institution of higher education and is administered by the Congregation of the Mission. Under the leadership of Father Gregorio L. Bañaga, Jr., CM, President of the University, the dissemination and the practice of the theory of systemic change has become a priority at the University.

Two offices directly under the President, the Office of Vincentian Identity and Mission (OVIM) and the Office of Vincentian Services for an Integrated Community (ICES) have as their task the promotion of this initiative.

Some of the activities that have been accomplished since January 2010 are the following: seminars and workshops on the theory and practice of systemic change for different groups of people, Vincent de Paul National Awards, the inclusion in the curriculum of a course on Vincentian Heritage which is offered to the undergraduate and graduate students, Vincentian formation offered to the staff at the university, formulation of plans with members of the communities that have been adopted by the University.

Besides the formation that is provided we high highlight here some specific projects of systemic change in our country: **SV Sudz** – production of a soup for laundry usage, **Padyak** – distribution of tricycles, **Bigasan** – centers for the retail sale of rice which is meant to assist those people who live along the railroad line and who have been relocated far from the metropolitan area of Manila..



**Pamela B. Mantuhac**

Director of the Office of Vincentian Identity and Mission  
(Former Volunteer of the VMY International Secretariat)

## Council and Secretariat

### INTERNATIONAL...

- The Director General confirmed the following appointments: **Father Miguel Oscar Muñoz Ruiz, CM**, (Advisor, Spain), **Sister Jeanne D'Arc Nyirabigirimana, DC**, (Advisor, Burundi and Rwanda), **Luis Le Tuan Phoc Tam**, (President, Vietnam).
- The following **National Statutes** were approved: **Rwanda and Burundi** (July, 2011), **Brazil** (October, 2011).
- Father General has written a letter expressing his **gratitude** to the Vincentian Family for their work and participation in the **Vincentian Youth Gathering** that was held in Madrid (August 2011). This letter can be read on our web page.
- In the celebration of World Youth Day **the International Secretariat of the Vincentian Marian Youth held an open door meeting** for the Vincentian Family and this provided the members with an opportunity to better understand the work of the Secretariat.
- During October/November 2011 Argelys Vega (Councilor) will visit the groups in **Central America** (Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala) and **Mexico**. Yasmine Cajuste (President) will also travel to Mexico where there will be a celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the VMY in that country.



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