

BULLETIN

International Vincentian Marian Youth



ANUAL TOPIC

Like Mary, give something more!

INTRODUCTION...



There is no doubt that praying the Rosary is very rooted in the Church's tradition.

The saints, as well as the magisterium of the Church, highlight both the intercessory power of this prayer as well as the graces that are received as a result of praying the Rosary. They underline the fact that the Rosary, in its simplicity and profoundness, is a prayer meant to produce fruits of holiness in all those who pray this prayer regularly.

We should clarify here the fact that even though the Rosary has a Marian character, yet in reality it is a Christ-centered prayer. This reality led Pope Paul VI to state that the Rosary is "a compendium of the whole gospel"... therefore, **with Mary, we must learn to contemplate the beauty of Jesus' face and to experience the depth of his love.**

And you, with what eyes do you contemplate the mysteries of the Rosary?

No one has dedicated themselves to the contemplation of the face of Christ like Mary. Perhaps the most important motive to return to the practice of praying the Rosary is the fact that it is an incredible means that encourages the laity to engage in the commitment of contemplating the face of Christ.

The incomparable model of Christian contemplation is the Virgin Mary.

From the time of Jesus' conception until the time of his Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, Mary maintained the firm gaze of her immaculate heart focused on her divine Son: a gaze of adoration and awe (Luke 2:7); a questioning gaze (Luke 2:42); a penetrating gaze (John 2:5); a painful gaze beneath the cross (John 19:26-27). On Easter morning she had a radiant gaze; and finally we see her burning gaze on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:14). These five gazes of Mary, Marian gazes filled with faith and love ... this gazes which remind us of the five mysteries of the Rosary, become the gazes of every Christian and every ecclesial community when they pray the Rosary.

For us, the sons and daughters of Mary, this month has a very special dimension because it reaffirms our perspective with regard to our founder, Mary, and like her, our gaze is also directed toward Jesus. Pope John Paul II, the Marian Pope, encouraged us to pray the holy Rosary as a way of contemplating the face of Christ.

Like every authentic prayer, the Rosary does not alienate us from the reality but rather it helps us to live in the midst of our reality, interiorly united to Christ and able to witness to God's love. The Rosary is also a prayer that, by its nature, is oriented toward peace. Thus we are called to direct our gaze toward Christ, the Prince of Peace.

"Blessed Virgin Mary, you who have placed in our hands the sacred Rosary, teach us to pray this prayer and convert us so that we might act with creativity and effectiveness and thus become channels of the New Evangelization."

Bienvenu Fouda Abouna
VMY International Volunteer



AMERICA...



Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay:

This year the VMY is celebrating the 25th anniversary of their presence in these countries. On June 23-24 there was a meeting of the groups in the Catechetical School where 50 young men and women and 9 advisors came together. On October 5-7 there will be an official celebration of the 25th anniversary. *The members of this group also participated in the Latin American Missionary Encounter.*

COSTA RICA:

The members of the National Council visited the local groups of the VMY. The last group to be visited was that of Valle la Estrella where a Marian theme was discussed. This dialogue was followed by the celebration of the Eucharist during which some members professed their Marian Consecration. *Three members of the group participated in the Latin American Missionary Encounter.*

VENEZUELA:

The members of the VMY, together with the Vincentian Missionaries, organized from 31 August to 9 September popular missions in Tabor. Many young men and women from the VMY and MISEVI participated in these missions. This was a time of joy for the young men and women and a time of blessing for the members of the different communities that were evangelized. *The VMY from this country was represented at the Latin American Missionary Encounter.*



BOLIVIA:

At the present time there are two groups in Trinidad, two in La Paz, two in Santa Cruz, two in Cochabamba and two in El Alto. Because of the need in these groups the lay advisors are preparing a leadership formation program. *The members of these groups participated in the Latin American Missionary Encounter.*

COLOMBIA:

In May the groups in Colombia gathered together for their Provincial Assembly which was held in Bogata. Francy Aya Rodriguez was elected president. She and five other young people are now the provincial leaders. Yeraldine Castañeda is the new president in Cali. *The groups were represented in the Latin American Missionary Encounter.*

WESTERN EUROPE...

PORTUGAL:

Members of the VMY held their National Assembly on April 21, and Yasmine Cajuste was able to participate in this assembly via teleconference. August 22-27 the members participated in their National Assembly whose theme was: Vincentian, a lifestyle for today. The International Assembly was represented at this Assembly by Bienvenu Fouda. During the month of May the self-financing campaign was initiated with the sale of the Mission Rosary. Members participated in the Vincentian mission in Mozambique by sending holy cards. The group has a new web page that can be found at: <http://jmvpt.org/>



SPAIN:

The National Assembly was held on April 14-15. Every month members participated in a missionary formation program and at the end of this program several youth people from the Association were sent forth on mission. On May 26th there was a youth gathering around the theme: Shout out the great truth! During the past summer there were several gatherings: the National Encounter and the school of Benagalbón (Málaga), summer school (La Linea de la Concepción), the self-financing campaign was initiated with the sale of cups, clothing, etc. *One of our members participated in the Latin America Missionary Encounter.*

ITALIA:

The next gathering of the European and Near Eastern groups of the VMY will be held in Naples on November 22-25. The National Council participated in the preparations for the youth festival that was organized for the young men and women of the Vincentian Family and was held on August 9-12.

FRANCE:

The theme for the groups during 2012-2013 is: Christian, place you heart and your hands at the service of the world! Activities for the coming year were planned and the first gathering of those responsible for the different groups will take place from October 27 to October 29. Bienvenu Fouda, a volunteer at the International Secretariat, shared his reflections on service and volunteering in the quarterly bulletin #21 of "JMag".

Vincentian Family...

THE POWER OF SILENCE ...



One of the challenges for young people today is silence. In the Vincentian Family and in the VMY we have an extraordinary example of how to live and practice silence --- Saint Catherine Laboure. Silence is different than being quiet (for example, being quiet because we are angry ... at such times being quiet is a time when in reality we are actually saying more). Silence is a state of interior peace, humble listening, love, forgiveness, patience. It is the attitude of those who are alive with God, those who are aware of the fact that God lives in them and therefore are willing to live in God. This was the experience of Saint Catherine, our model of silence. Her experience is or can be our experience.

In the life of Saint Catherine we immediately discover that her silence was the fruit of her humility and at the same time protected her great humility. She never spoke in order to attract attention to herself or because she wanted to be admired by others. She also never spoke about the extraordinary graces that she had received from the Lord.

Silence enables us to listen. Thus silence prepares us to hear and listen to God and also to hear and listen to our brothers and sisters in need. We can be sure that the two hours that Saint Catherine spent in conversation with Mary prepared her for that important ministry of listening. It was at that time that she learned the value of silence, the value of listening, the value of the word in living a life of holiness and above all else it was at that time that she learned the value of humility and charity toward the neighbor, especially toward the elderly whom she cared for. All of this can only be explained by a life that was profoundly rooted in God.

Silence prepares one to speak at the proper time and in an appropriate manner. Thoughts that are pondered in silence give depth and greater value to the spoken word. Saint Catherine was very aware of Saint Vincent's teaching on this matter: *silence draws down many graces and blessings, both on Communities and on individuals, especially since keeping silence is nothing other than listening to God* (CCD:XI:84).

You and I, are we afraid of silence? Perhaps not, but each one of us must be aware of the many different noises that vie for our attention: internet, mobile phones, music, television, radio, ... the accelerated rhythm of our life (studies, work, meetings, time with family and friends) gives even greater importance to the invitation that Jesus extended to his disciples, the invitation to go to a quiet place to rest and to find oneself and to find God.

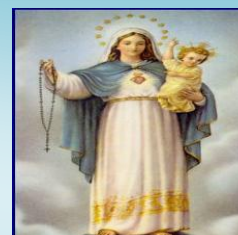
Silence helps us to hear better. In other words, silence helps us to be more considerate of others and enables us to live those moments of encounter with God in a deeper and more authentic manner. The calm and silent life of Saint Catherine is a school of respect: respect for creation, for the dignity of the human person, for the mystery of life. It is urgent that we learn how to be silent and to listen.

Listen to your heart and your conscience in order to understand and give meaning to your life. Listen to the cries of the poor in order to love them more deeply; listen also to the voice of God, the voices that invite you to share your gifts, to give yourself to others and to do all of this in the same way that Saint Catherine lived her life.

Ahn Thu Nguyen Thi
International Councillor.



*Happy and Godly
Month of the Rosary!!!*



International Gatherings...

THE EMIL ENCOUNTER...



VII Latin American Missionary Encounter Of VMY Quito (Ecuador) 2012

On July 15th the VII Latin America Missionary Encounter of the VMY was initiated in Quito, Ecuador where 105 persons participated: young men and women, Missionaries and Daughters from Latin America. The group was accompanied by Father Ignacio Fernández de Mendoza, Visitor of the Congregation of the Mission in Ecuador, Sister Piedad Rojas, Visatrix of the Daughters of Charity and members of the International Team: Sister Bernardita and Argelys Vega (American Councilor).

The delegates were presented and Father Ignacio de Mendoza, Visitor of the Congregation of the Mission in Ecuador, presided at the Eucharist which was concelebrated by the priests who were present for this Assembly. This was followed by a presentation of typical dances from various countries and music. Juan Morales offered a reflection in music as he sang about the presence of God and Mary in our lives.

This week of formation began with a retreat day which was based on the Word of God and the life of Saint Vincent de Paul. During this time of "desert" there was time for prayer, for heart to heart conversation, and the celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Father Juventino Castellero, CM, presented a theme entitled: "By strengthening our humanity we lovingly accept the grace of God." There were several group dynamics that helped the participants move forward in this process. This session was concluded with a reflection: "We are created in the image and likeness of God, therefore let us present all that we are to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; let us give thanks and praise our God!"

In the afternoon the participants reflected on the Apostolic Letter "Porta Fidei", thus being reminded about the approach of the celebration of the Year of Faith. This time was concluded with a reflection "The disciple-missionary according to Aparecida. Christians ought to nourish their faith with the Word of God and the celebration of the Eucharist!"

July 18th was dedicated to the Virgin Mary ... from the proclamation of the Magnificat to the Marian Consecration ... the celebration included the retelling of the story of the appearances of the Virgin to Saint Catherine Laboure, praying the Rosary and concluded with the Eucharist during which we celebrated the anniversary of the apparitions.

July 19th was dedicated to different workshops: the young men and women participated in two of these workshops and the advisors participated in one. In the afternoon Father José Louis Paucar spoke to us about the reality of Imantag, the place where we will be giving a popular mission.

During the last day of our formation the participants spoke about the reality of the VMY in Latin America, revised their lines of action and the next steps and spoke about the challenges that they will have to confront in the coming years. After a dialogue with the National Councilors, a new team was elected which will be responsible for organizing the next Encounter. The coordinator of this new team is Giuliana Velita. Let us give thanks to God for the team that has concluded their time of service and let us welcome this new team.

International Team.



Missionary Witness:

To have participated in the Latin America Missionary Encounter of the VMY in Ecuador has been a great gift and I am unable to find adequate words that express the joy that I experienced during those three weeks of sharing.

The formation week was wonderful but even more wonderful were the following days during which time we were evangelizing the indigenous people in the area of Cotacachi in Imantag, more specifically in the community of Morlán where I had the pleasure of sharing, with five other friends-missionaries, the warmth, humility and generosity of so many people. These people wanted to celebrate God's love and wanted to share their faith, their life, and their daily struggles. They not only opened the doors of their homes but also opened the doors of their hearts.

We traveled up and down those beautiful mountains but there was nothing that could discourage us from knowing and sharing with each one of the families with whom we were living.

The family that received with me so much kindness resides in Morlán. Thanks to them, their simplicity, their struggle and their example ... thanks to the whole community I experienced even more deeply the call to continue to make my life a life of mission in which the image of God is more transparent. From the conviction of my faith I continue to be a witness of hope.

Thank you to the VMY in Spain.

Testimony: VMY Ecuador

VI LATIN AMERICAN ENCOUNTER – BRAZIL ...



A certain anxiety is created as one travels to a foreign country for the first time but there is always someone from the Vincentian Family who (without having known this individual before) extends a welcome and receives said individual. The welcome is always extended with open arms and words such as "Brothers in Saint Vincent Welcome!" This greeting would be exchanged regardless of the place where one were to travel. Under the motto, ***Centered on Christ, let us live the charism!*** We initiated, on April 17, 2012, a wonderful Vincentian gathering in Aparecida – Sao Paulo (Brazil). There was great joy because members from the different branches of the Vincentian Family throughout Latin American came together.

Even though we had never met before we could feel that our shared charism united us and enabled us to speak to one another and to laugh with one another ... it was as though we were long time friends. As we shared our dreams and hopes and ministry there was no doubt that we were able to experience the presence of our Founders, Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac.

This coming together was developed with very clear objectives to deepen our identity, to strengthen the bonds among us, and to share our various experiences. Together we shared moments of prayer, the Eucharist, workshops, different presentations, plenary sessions, dance and music and song ... all of which encouraged and strengthened us in our conviction that we had been chosen by God to continue the mission of proclaiming the Good News ... and engaging in this mission in a special way with those persons who are poor. At the same time we were further convinced of the need to utilize the process of systemic change in order to create alternatives for unjust structures and situations.

By sharing our joys and experiences and plans we were able to return to our homes with a deeper and more firm commitment knowing that in other places in Latin America there are people on fire with the love of Jesus Christ, people, who with a Vincentian lifestyle, minister among the poorest of the poor.

Juan Pablo Jácome
Ecuador



Council and Secretariat...

INTERNATIONAL...

- ✚ The Director General confirmed the following appointments: **Sister Jeanette Rizk (Advisor, Lebanon); Sister Agnieszka Duty (Advisor Polonia)**. We have also received information about the appointment of **Francy Yulie Rodríguez** (President, Colombia - Bogota) and **Sister Jadwiga Szok** as coordinator of the VMY in Belorussia, the Ukraine and Russia, where the VMY is beginning its activities.
- ✚ We have received information about **the Episcopal approval of the VMY in Madagascar and Thailand** and we hope that this will assist the development of the Association in those countries. At the same time we invite other countries to obtain this same recognition from the Episcopal conferences of your country.
- ✚ From August 23 – September 9, **the International President visited the groups in Rwanda and Burundi** and participated in the first electoral National Assembly in Central Africa.
- ✚ **The International Council celebrated its virtual meeting on September 30.** We pray that the decisions that were made during this meeting will prove to be beneficial to every level of the VMY.
- ✚ The International Council and Secretariat **welcome the new Portuguese speaking volunteer, Rita Alexandra Lopes Bemposta (Portugal)**. We are counting on your prayers so that her mission may be a blessing for her and for the International Secretariat.
- ✚ The international team is **preparing the 3rd European Gathering. It will take place in Naples (Italy), on November 22-25, 2012.** Let us pray that this meeting help VMY in Europe better live out its mission.



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