

# BULLETIN

International Vincentian Marian Youth



"Living our faith with joy!"

## ANNUAL MOTTO...



YEAR OF FAITH 2012  
2013

Logo Year of Faith

"Living our faith with joy." Our motto for the year 2013 is an affirmation, not an invitation.

During this Year of Faith let us continue to rediscover that which is fundamental with regard to our faith, namely, a personal encounter with the living Christ, an encounter that transforms and gives meaning to life and also strengthens and encourages us to communicate the Good News to others, especially to those men and women who are most poor.

The faith that we profess is "our" faith, a faith that we accept and live in communion with the universal Church and, more specifically, a faith that we live in communion with the members of the local church community. Let us deepen our faith by spending more time in silence with the Lord, by participating in the sacraments and by listening to and reflecting on the Word of God. If the center of our faith is Jesus Christ, then the Church's tradition enriches and explains the meaning of our faith in the midst of today's world. In this sense the Year of Faith presents us with a wonderful opportunity to come to a fuller knowledge of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and to participate more actively in the life of our parish and our diocese.

Faith on a more personal level can only be fully lived in communion with other believers and thus faith leads us to an intrinsic joy. This joy is the result of being in awe as a result of knowing that we are loved by God and thus urged on to communicate this faith with enthusiasm to a world that hungers and thirsts for God. Our faith is nourished by the conviction that the Lord is present in all the events of our life and all the events of history. Our faith is revealed in our words but above all our faith is revealed in our daily life, in the decisions that we make to build a more just world.

The motto of 2013 initiates our journey, as an Association, toward the General Assembly of 2015. Together with the Church and in communion with the Vincentian Family, let us continue to discern the signs of the time and let us also continue to respond to the challenges of our world as we take on the role of being messengers of the Good News and bearers of hope.

May our Lenten journey lead us to become joyful and holy persons who have been transformed by the Spirit and therefore have also become more authentic witnesses of our faith, more closely related to God and to our brothers and sisters!



Yasmine Cajuste

International President of the VMY

# VMY throughout the world...

## AMERICA...



**Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay:** January 15-28, a popular mission was offered in the parish of Santa Rosa del Lima, Añatuya, Santiago del Estero in which various towns participated: Cejloao, Otumpa and Santa Rosa. Twenty-seven missionaries and seventeen members of the VMY participated through home visitations, catechesis, celebration of the sacraments, motivating the leaders to participate in formation sessions, mission catechesis. Through the instrumentality of these missionaries the seed has been sown and God will now take charge of making these seeds grow.



**HAITI:** February 9-12, the National Council celebrated its eleventh National Assembly in a center administered by the Brothers of Saint Teresa. The gathering took place under the motto, *If you are obedient to the faith, you will be highly blessed!* This was a time of much work and prayer and sharing, especially as we shared our ideas on a presentation, *From Vatican II until the Year of Faith*. There was also much discussion about our Vincentian spirituality.



**CHILE:** January 4-14, twenty-two young men and women and Sister Paola Vera participated in the rural mission in the parish of San Luis de Gonzaga, located in the ninth region of Chile. These were wonderful days during which we were able to visit the families in this area and share with them times of prayer, times of formation and times for the celebration of the sacraments.



**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** On January 4-6, they had a retreat on the topic "Faith set them off," with the presence of 25 young people. It was a blessing!



**GUATEMALA:** The National Council met on January 13<sup>th</sup> and made some important decisions as they planned for their activities during the coming year. Karla López became president as a result of Orlando's (the previous president) entrance into the seminary of the Congregation of the Mission. She will remain in this position until the next National Assembly elects a new council.



**MEXICO:** Giving life to the Vincentian note of our identity, the VMY in Mexico (DF) visited the patients in the hospital for the chronically infirm in Tepexpan ... this was a wonderful experience. January 19-20 the National Council met and there was another council meeting (virtual) on February 19-20. There were visits in to the groups in Coatepec and Acuitzio del Canje.



**PANAMA:** On January 6-20, they had their National Gathering and Mission in Volcan, Chiriqui, with 26 young people and advisors, as well as a guest from Costa Rica. Some of the topics were: Identity, Characteristics of VMY, Marian and Vincentian Spirituality, and a workshop on Mission. May they bear many fruits!



**PUERTO RICO:** The National Council met on January 12<sup>th</sup> in Ponce. They also participated in the meeting of COFAVIP and organized various workshops: the effects of music on young people (January 26<sup>th</sup>) and a workshop on the Year of Faith that was also sponsored by ESFOVI.



**VENEZUELA:** During an Election Assembly the members of the National Council were elected: Eduardo Bogado was elected president. We ask the Lord to give growth to our Association through the instrumentality of the members of this new council.



**BRAZIL:** During the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January, VMY celebrated his XXII Regional Assembly. In these two days were conducted conferences and election of the new board of Natal for the period 2013-2014.





# Formation...

... An on-going journey that leads to growth...



Since the time of our first General Assembly in Rome (2000) the question of formation has been an area of concern for the International Council. I dare to say that this is the area that receives most of our attention: catechesis, conferences, meetings and gatherings, retreats, formation material, etc. Unfortunately this need is not always obvious to the members of our Association.

As Father Maloney stated: if we want our groups of the VMY to be agents of renewal within the Christian community and if we want our members to be the evangelizers and the servants of the poor during this new millennium *then there is no more important challenge than that of reaching out to young men and women and offering them a solid formation* (Opening the door to the Third Millennium)

Formation is an **on-going journey that leads to growth**, a journey that young man and women have begun before becoming members of the VMY (this journey was begun in the family, school, parish) ... the objective of this formation is **to make Christ the center of our life**, and to maintain this focus until we achieve the state of perfection and attain the fullness of maturity in Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

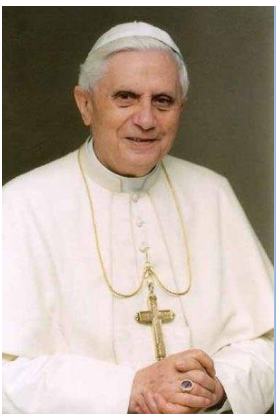
During General Assembly (2010) the International Council committed itself to writing and publishing some basic material that would serve as a guide for the national councils as they themselves became involved in the process of drawing up and/or reviewing their own formation programs. What has been presented is simply an outline and we must be mindful of the fact that our Association is present in many different countries and our members have different cultural backgrounds. We do not want to impose our ideas but simply offer a tool that can be adapted to the needs of the young men and women who live in the midst of very different situations.

We hope that this simple document will be useful. Those who have not yet seen this document can find it on our web page <http://www.secretariadojmv.org/jmv/wp-content/uploads/Procesos-Formativos-JMV-ENG.pdf> and it is important that we all ask the following questions: what kind of formation are we offering the young men and women? Am I seriously committed to my personal formation?

Do I encourage others to engage in this process of formation?  
Lastly I remind you that we cannot love what we do not know.  
Let us learn how to know our Association and love it as the divine gift that it is.



*Argelys Vega*  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCILLOR



...My heart is filled with thanksgiving to God who ever watches over his Church... During this *Year of Faith*, we have been called to renew our joyful trust in the Lord... He supports us and loves us, and so everyone feels the joy of being Christians... and I ask each of you to pray for me... (BENEDICT XVI, Last general audience).

**Lent**

**IS A PRIVILEGED TIME TO PUT ASIDE THE OLD PERSON THAT IS WITHIN US.**

# Testimony: VMY Portugal

## VMY Formation Processes...

We are involved in the process of on-going formation throughout our life. Such simple things as climbing, walking, running, speaking, reading, writing (among others) are part of this formation process.

Despite the fact that our members reside in the midst of different realities, such a process is indispensable in the VMY. Our history is unique and therefore our formation process in the various countries should have some common elements.

At the present time in Portugal there is a very attractive formation process in place, one that is in accord with the document that has been published by the International Council. The formation is divided into four stages and it should be noted that the process covers a period of twenty-five years. Many young men and women have been told that they have not yet completed this process. For a year and a half the National Council has worked on the renewal of this program of formation. All that has been stated and planned during this first phase of renewal is in accord with the formation process that has been published by the International Council. This model came at an important time for the VMY in Portugal and has served as a guide for the work that we have developed.

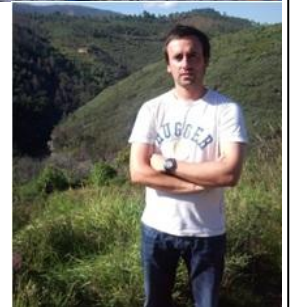
The process of formation proposed by the International Council is developed in a broad perspective that takes into consideration the person, the reality of the person and the person's self-knowledge. It is fundamental that every person become aware of who he/she is and aware of his/her surroundings. A deeper understanding of God-become-man is critical because this represents our essence, namely, that we come to know God in a deeper and more intimate manner since it is this that enables us to identify ourselves as Christian. It is equally important that we come to recognize that we are also related to God through the Blessed Virgin, Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Louise de Marillac, Saint Catherine Laboure and so many others of our Vincentian sisters and brothers.

All of this is most important for us and enables us to understand that we are the Church and that the Church is present in us and that the Church's fruit depends on us.

Only with this knowledge, with the study of Scripture and making the Scriptures come alive in our daily life ... only in this way do we become one in Christ. As members of the VMY we are located in different parts of the world and speak different languages but we all speak the language of love ... the love of Christ and the Blessed Virgin and Saint Vincent de Paul.



**Carlos Moutas,**  
*Member of the  
National  
Formation  
Team  
VMY Portugal.*



## Concil and Secretariat

### INTERNATIONAL...

- ✚ The Director General confirmed the following appointments: **Sister Maria da Graça Pires, DC** (Advisor, Portugal); **Marie Pulcherie Ngo Oum** (President, Cameroon), **Élie Ndaruvukanye** (President, Central Africa, Rwanda-Burundi), **Vanessa Aprilia Thomas** (President, Indonesia), **Fr. Franco Antonio Benavides Ramos, CM** (Advisor in Ecuador) and **Anna Lisa Martello** (President, Italy); **Fr. Mario Benito Hernández, CM** (Advisor, El Salvador); **Fr. Flavio José Pereira, CM** (Advisor, Nicaragua), **Sister Theresita Kusumawati, DC** (Advisor, Indonesia); **Eduardo Bogado** (President, Venezuela).
- ✚ Also **Sister Romana Dvoráková, DC** was named by her Visitatrix as the regional coordinator of the VMY in the Czech Republic.
- ✚ On January 17-19 the meeting of the International Council took place in Madrid ... Fr. Gregory was present at this meeting. We are grateful for the fact that all of you accompanied us with your prayers. These were days of intense work but also a joyful time as we worked together on behalf of all the members of the Association.
- ✚ During the month of February the annual letter of the President was published. In that letter the decisions of the Council were presented as well as the reasoning behind selecting "let us live our faith with joy" as our motto ... <http://www.secretariadojmv.org/jmv/wp-content/uploads/Carta-Anual-Presidenta-ENG.pdf>
- ✚ We want to thank our councilor from America, Argelys Vega, for her time and her assistance at the Secretariat in Madrid during the past three months (November, 2012 – January, 2013).
- ✚ In the coming months we hope to have in place two new volunteers. We ask for your prayers for the successful outcome of all the processes that are necessary in order to make this a reality and thus better able to serve the Association.



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