

BULLETIN

April 2013 – year 13 – n° 92

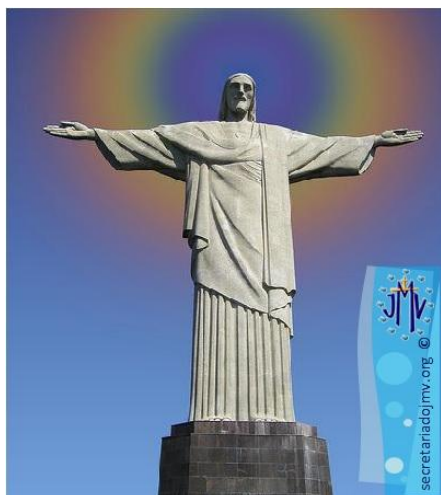
International Vincentian Marian Youth



Annual Motto:

Living our faith with joy!

INTRODUCTION...



**“IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED THEN
EMPTY TOO IS OUR FAITH”
(I CORINTIOS 15,14)**

Sunday of the Resurrection or Easter Sunday is the most important feast for all Catholics because it is through the Resurrection that our faith acquires meaning.

Christ triumphed over death and as a result opened the doors of heaven. During our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday we remember in a special way this event of great joy. We light the paschal candle that represents the light of the Risen Lord and this candle remains lit until the feast of Pentecost.

This Easter, like celebrations of previous years, we have celebrated this event according to our tradition: ... in family, hiding candies in the garden for the younger children to find, writing greeting cards with some special greeting or blessing, decorating the house with balloons and/or placing some greeting over the front doors of our homes...etc.

The resurrection of Jesus is an historical event, the proof of which is seen in the empty tomb and the numerous apparitions of Jesus to his disciples.

When we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ we are also celebrating our own liberation we celebrate the destruction of sin and death.

In the Resurrection we find the key to Christian hope: if Jesus is alive and with us, then what have we to fear and what could possibly disturb us?

Let us, as Christians and as Vincentians, take advantage of this Easter season to consider some act of solidarity on behalf of those most in need or some neighbor or some family member or friend who needs our help. Easter always places us on the road that leads us toward our sisters and brothers ... and yes, it would be good to celebrate these holy days with a gesture of solidarity.

The feast of Easter is so important that a one day celebration of this feast is not enough. Therefore, the church has set aside a time that we call the octave of Easter (eight days) and an Easter season (fifty days) in which we are able to contemplate the Resurrection and continue to celebrate the Lord's resurrection.

What is the Risen Lord trying to tell you this Easter? What is it that you need in your life in order to continue your journey of faith?

The Resurrection is a light for all people and therefore all Christians (and that includes us) ought to radiate this same light to those whom they encounter. In this way all are able to share in the joy of the Resurrection as the result of our testimony, our words and our actions.

***!!!May the Easter Mystery become fully alive in us
and give us great joy as we celebrate these holy days!!!***



Bienvenu
FOUDA A.
VMY INTERNATIONAL
VOLUNTEER,
In Charge of
Francophones Countries.

VMY throughout the World

ASIA AND MIDDLE EAST...

LEBANON:

The group has sent us a list of activities that were carried out during the first quarter. This included a formation plan for those young men and women who are at the first stage and the intermediate stage of the VMY. They are preparing for their National Assembly and the feast of the VMY which will take in June and July respectively (to view photos of their activities, see the Informational Bulletin of January-February).



VIETNAM:

In January 2013 ten new regional advisors were appointed for a term of three years. From February 28th - March 3rd the Advisors met together in Vung-Tau where they reflected on the document concerning the process of formation.

INDONESIA:

The group has sent us a copy of their activities for 2013: weekly service in providing some form of health care; celebrate Christmas and Easter and the Vincentian feast days together; an annual retreat, sale of second-hand clothing, visit the elderly and those who are orphans....

EGIPT:

The international Council will be visiting Egypt during July 2013. We are counting on your prayers so this gathering might be successful and also provide us with new experiences that we can share with all the young men and women in the association.

PHILIPPINES:

The group has sent us a report of their activities for the period 2011-2013. From April 12-14 the National Council met under the motto, Mary, companion in giving witness to the faith, and discussed the campaign of self-financing.



SELF-FINANCING CAMPAIGN

Let us continue with the Self-financing Campaign of the International VMY....

Remember that your contribution is important... We're moving forward one step at a time. And we know that we have a long way to go.

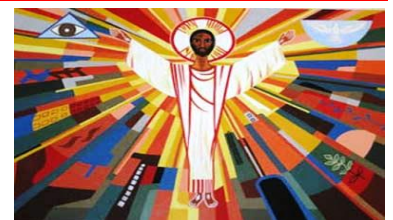
We need to be informed about all the activities that are being carried out in your country in order to achieve the objective of the self-financing campaign and we want you to know that you are not alone in this ministry... This campaign remind us of the night of July 18, 1830 when our mother Mary said to Catherine: "God wants to entrust you with a mission and it will cost to you very much... but you will be given the necessary grace; do not be afraid... have confidence!.

There is no reason to be discouraged because if we work together and trust in our mother Mary, we will achieve our objective. In the meantime we want to thank and congratulate the members of the VMY for all your work and effort. Let us continue to be united in this common project!



CONGRATULATION...

*Happy
Easter !!!*



SPIRITUAL LIFE: THE YEAR OF FAITH

"...how can I convince someone that God is peace and joy and love?"



Pope Benedict XVI has gifted us with a year of grace and invites us to deepen our faith. We are in the midst of the Easter Season which reminds us of God's great love for us ... God, who in the person of Jesus, not only offered up his life for us but also opened the doors of heaven with the promise: I will be with you forever even to the end of the world (Matthew 28:20). Those who trust in these words will have joy forever.

During our 2010 General Assembly we spoke about the danger of secularization which is influencing nations and also governments and families and young people and as result our families and young men and women are more fragile. During these days and at this time in which we live the world often seems to be filled with darkness and depression and there seems to be a spiritual tepidness, a roaming about without direction. There appears to be an emphasis on power and pleasure. At the same time people try to convince us that eternal happiness and joy are not real, that God does not exist and that we have no need for God. Thus I become more and more aware of the fact that faith is indeed a gift, a grace and a privilege and that people without this gift are truly impoverished.

Our mission as young men and women who are members of this Association is to follow: to move forward with a smile and joy and to walk in the light. We are children of God! I dare to say that we often forget about this reality ... but we must be careful. The motto of World Youth Day reminds us of Jesus' words: Go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). Thus we are challenged to bring the light of Christ to those people who do not know God, especially those people who are poor. I have often asked myself how can I convince someone that God is peace and joy and love? I discover that the answer is found in the reality that I am willing to live **WITH JOY**.

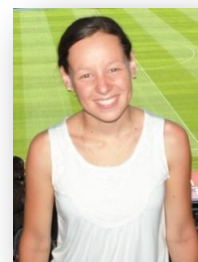
Pope Francis has said that Christians should never be pessimistic. But do we know why this is so? We should never be pessimistic because suffering is never the final answer. Jesus is Risen! Jesus lives! Jesus is always with us! We are never alone! As members of the Vincentian Marian Youth Association we ought to follow Mary as the most wonderful model of faith. We must remember that when she became pregnant and when the members of the Jewish community became aware of that fact, they could have killed her ... and yet Mary stated: I am the handmaid of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your will (Luke 1:38). Mary wants to teach us that when God desires something of us, God will do everything so that his will is accomplished. Let us then trust as Mary did: if God is all-powerful, why should we fear? Why should we weep? Let us trust in God because God is always with us!

I want to encourage the National Councils to deepen their faith and to encourage the members of the various groups to do likewise. Jesus should be our model. We must also be careful not to fall into some form of activism (to do so is to become like so many other associations in this world). In order to develop our spiritual life it would be well to be mindful of the objectives that are referred to in the final document of the 2010 General Assembly: prayer, Marian consecration, the Word of God, the sacramental life, membership in a parish. In light of those elements we could reflect on the following questions: is my spiritual life something that is given to me or is it a privilege? How does the development of a spiritual life assist me as I continue to move forward day after day?

Why do I find it difficult to trust in God?

Let us live our faith with joy!, with all the richness that life contains and with courage. Because joy and love can conquer everything!

**Karmen Kunc,
International
Counsilor**



WITNESS: Missions in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay



From January 15th – 28th, in the Parish of Santa Rosa de Quimilí (Diocese of Añatuya – Santiago del Estero, Argentina) the provincial popular mission of the VMY in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay was carried forth (this was the fourth consecutive year for this activity). During the year 2010, the pre-mission was accomplished and then with the Pastor and the VMY there was a commitment to mission this area during the next three years. The following communities received the mission: Cejolao, Otumpa and Santa Rosa. In this last mission 27 missionaries participated: 2 priests of the Congregation of the Mission, 4 Vincentian seminarians, 2 Daughters of Charity, 2 Daughters of Charity from Zagreb and 17 young men and women from the VMY.

In each one of the communities, the homes of the people were visited. These were also catechetical instruction for the boys and girls, for the teenagers and for adults. There were Marian celebrations, processions, Eucharistic celebrations, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Infirm.

This was the last year of the mission in these communities and so there were distinct special celebrations, for example, in Otumpa and Santa Rosa a statue of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal was erected in several places and this act was accompanied by the devout participation of the faithful in these communities. In Cejolao, where there was no chapel, a place of prayer was built for the members of the community: a cross was erected there and some benches were made and set up so that people could pray and reflect.

During these years the leaders of the community (catechists) were encouraged in their formation and their mission. During the year the pastor and the catechists prepared some children for their First Communion.

The VMY has concluded this stage in its history and now, with the help of the Lord, is in the process of discerning a new place to begin the mission. We ask you to pray for us!

Provincial Executive
JMV APU

Internacional Council and Secretariat

INTERNACIONAL...

- ✚ The Director General confirmed the following appointments: **Wagner Marques** (President, Brazil), **P. Chrisandus Amble** (Advisor, Kenya) **Sister Maria Eliza Barranco** (Advisor, Philippines) and **Father Maunel Fernando Soares** (Advisor, Portugal).
- ✚ The International Team participated in the Easter Celebration with young people in Castellnovo (Pamplona) and we are grateful for the opportunity to share in this wonderful and yet intense experience.
- ✚ The International Team is preparing for the II African Encounter which will take place in Cameroon, July 3-7, 2013. We ask the Lord of the Harvest to enable the representatives from all of the different countries to be present at this important gathering
- ✚ The Vincentian Youth Gathering and Word Youth Day are less than 100 days away. Therefore there is a need to prepare our luggage. What will you bring with you? Prepare yourself with the catechetical material that is available at:
<http://www.famvin2013.com/famvin2013/catequeses.php?l=3>
<http://www.rio2013.com/pt/prepare-se>
- ✚ The International Council and Secretariat give a warm welcome to **Karina Mena Rocio de Jesus Silva** (VMY Ecuador) and **Yancarlos Carrasco de los Santos** (VMY Dominican Republic), new volunteers Spanish-speaking and English-speaking, respectively. We are counting on your prayers so their mission might be a source of blessing to them and to our beloved Association.



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