



Bulletin

International

“VMY, Here I am!”

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Daughters of Charity

“The Magnificat”

The Magnificat is an invitation to live life with an attitude of joy and gratitude for the marvelous works that brought about our salvation.



The Magnificat is a prayer of thanksgiving for the wonderful things that God has done. In the introduction of the Final Document of the IV General Assembly (Salamanca, 2015) it is stated that the members of the Vincentian Marian Youth Association, following the example of Mary, attempt to respond to the call of the Church.

Mary visited Elizabeth and gave thanks to God for all that had happened to her. God holds in high esteem those persons who are humble and calls upon them in order to accomplish his work. Thus, God accalimed Mary and as Pope Francis reminds us, Mary was called to be the vehicle who would reveal God's kindness and generosity to humankind.

Mary and Elizabeth engaged in a dialogue. Elizabeth stated: blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Mary responded by praying what today is known as the Magnificat ... God has looked upon the lowliness of his handmaid.

God did great things for Mary who became the mother of Jesus and Jesus gifted humanity with salvation and in

Jesus men and women have come to know the greatness of God's love.

Do we recognize God as the center of our lives? Are we aware of the manner in which God works through us? Do we recognize our own poverty/smallness? God wants us to be humble and to place our trust in him.

The Magnificat is an invitation to live life with an attitude of joy and gratitude for the marvelous works that brought about our salvation. We should be joyful people because God wants to work through us and also wants to do something wonderful for humankind through us. As members of the VMY, do we believe all of that?

For the Daughters of Charity, the feast of the Incarnation is intimately bound up with their commitment to serve God in the person of those who are poor. They do the will of God when they respond positively to God's call and say, here I am, Lord! In the Liturgy for the feast of the Annunciation (the day on which the Daughters throughout the world renew their commitment) the readings touch upon this theme of acting in accord with

God's will.

The responsorial psalm states: here I am, Lord, I come to do your will ... and the gospel concludes with the words: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word. Is there anything more profound and more perfect for Christians than to act in accord with God's will. VMY, here I am ... are we open to living our lives in accord with God's will. May God fill our hearts with the same joy that Mary experienced.

Throughout her life, Mary lived in accord with God's will ... something that was not easy, especially during the final moments of Jesus' life. She was, however, courageous and did not hesitate to place herself near to Jesus. Therefore, we should imitate Mary and give thanks for all that God has done for us. Do we express our gratitude to God? Do we understand that God is working through us and in us to accomplish much good in the world? Indeed, God is the author of all things and Jesus is our Savior! Will we dare to live our life with the attitudes expressed in Mary's Magnificat.

VMY Throughout The World	Formation	Witness	Content
Africa	Prayer and Youth	VMY Slovenia	International Council and Secretariat
America			
Asia			
Europe			



Africa



Nigeria

Facilitated by the Sister advisor, the unit leaders of VMY Nigeria had their meeting and formation last January 14, 2018, with the objective of planning and organizing the activities of the Association for this year.

America



Haiti

The members held their National Assembly (February 10-13) with the theme: Young people, the hope of the Church as they walk along Mary's path and remain firm in their "yes" to life. Sixty-two members participated in this event, including the former International President, Yasmine Cajuste. During those days, there were various presentations and a new members of National Council was elected.



Peru

Last March 5, the members of the VMY participated in a gathering of the Vincentian Family in Peru where Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM (superior general) and Father Aarón Gutiérrez, CM (assistant general) were present. During the gathering Viviana Hinojosa (vice-president of the VMY) presented Father General with a scarf ... a gift that stirred up feelings of great joy.

Asia



Vietnam

From February 5 until February 14, the International Director of the VMY, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, visited Vietnam. During this time, the National Council of the VMY, together with some of the members, had an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with him.

Europe



France

Last February 23-25, they had their National Encounter in Fain-lès-Moutiers, the place where St. Catherine Labouré was born. The children and youth had a task during these three days: help a sad clown who has lost the meaning of his life. Aside from this, everyone discovered and deepened their knowledge on the life of Saint Catherine Labouré with a puppet show and a visit to the place where the Daughters of Charity live.

The Marian Consecration

Formación



Borut Pohar CM
Advisor, VMY in Slovenia

This year in VMY we finally started the process of Marian Consecration – for the second time. A few years ago, in 2009, they started with this process, but didn't finish it. Why? For different reasons. For some time they had regular monthly meetings, but then they stopped with the process, the main reason might be the lack of motivation.

For some years on, there was no other attempt to start the process of the consecration again. But last year, when we celebrated the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the apparitions of Our Lady to the three shepherd children of Fatima, we started to think about it again. Different movement in Slovenia revived their piety to Mary and thought about the Our Lady's request for consecration to her Immaculate Heart, a consecration which, among other things, calls for the devotion of the Five First Saturdays, which includes the Rosary, meditation and Communions of reparation – all done in reparation to her Immaculate Heart. In VMY Slovenia we too decided to revive our Marian dimension. For example, when we had summer retreat at seaside for children in summertime, we prayed a rosary every day after lunch. It was just optional but many children and animators decided to join the prayer. In Slovenia we have a problem and that is, that people, especially the young don't pray much. That's why we decided not to push too hard. It was a small but important step. And the second step we made was in Autumn

when we started with the Marian Consecration. We tried to encourage our members to join the process. In general they approved the initiative, but many didn't join the group because of lack of time or because they thought they were not prepared for such a big step. But we were surprised that some parents expressed interest to join the process of consecration. So we decided to make a mixed group with the young and some of their parents. We decided to make Consecration to Jesus through Mary by St. Louis de Montfort, because it is quite popular in Slovenia and because there are books available in Slovenian language. I think the decision to include parents in the process of the consecration was the right one.

Since Autumn we have been having regular meetings and the group is stable since parents are more willing to attend the meetings regularly. Every time we have different catechesis, but we always let every member to speak about their monthly spiritual experience and progress. Because of the presence of the parents, it is much easier because they have less fear to speak about personal things and have more experience in spiritual life. Our plan is to finish our preparation in two years. But I hope, we can gradually convince other members and parents of VMY to join the group and make it the hearth or the most inner nucleus of our spiritual program. We have a lot of work to do to promote regular prayers and devotiona to Mary among our youth, and the process of Marian Consecration is the pillar of this endeavour.



Don't allow this opportunity to pass by you!

We are looking for available and cheerful young people!



To whomever I send you, you shall go (Jeremiah 1:7)

We invite those young members of the Association who wish to be a part of the International Secretariat.

We need two young people who will help us maintain our communication with the Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries. We hope that many who want to live this experience of service.

You have until May 30 to apply.



WE ARE WAITING FOR YOU!



André Peixoto

Volunteer for Portuguese Speaking

As Christians, we are aware of the importance of prayer in our life. Prayer is our direct contact with God and with simplicity we are able to communicate with Him. We do not need some extraordinary formula in order to engage in prayer: in praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think they will be heard because of their many words (Matthew 6:7). We simply need to open our hearts and pray to God as if we were conversing with a friend ... yes, God is our friend.

As young Catholic men and women, we are strengthened in prayer (whether we give thanks to God for some favor that has been granted or whether we are asking for help in some matter). There is no excuse for not taking time to prayer ... We can pray during the

time we are traveling (by train or bus or car) from one place to another ... we can pray while walking on the street.

I have already stated that we do not need some extraordinary formula. Jesus, in a very practical and valuable manner taught us how to pray. Jesus said: this is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name ... (Matthew 6:9-13). As small children we learned that prayer and during every celebration of the Eucharist we also pray those words ... there are times however, when we do not trust in the power of our Father.

As young men and women we have concerns and questions. Furthermore, there are times when we feel the need for counsel, guidance and support from

someone who understands us, one who enables us to move forward and to confront the daily challenges of life ... it is in this prayer that we find the strength that enables us to move forward.

In our group, let us reflect on the following questions: how would we describe the prayer life of our group? Do we begin our meetings with prayer? Do we pray to fulfill some ritual? Vincent de Paul stated: give me a man/woman of prayer and that person will be able to do anything (CCD:XI:76). Let us, then, trust in the power of prayer; let us take time to pray so that God might mold us according to the divine will.

International Council and Secretariat



- The Director General of the VMY, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič CM, confirmed the following appointments: **Mamisoa Vonjinaiko**, (President of Madagascar), **N'dajai Lassana**, (President of Algeria) **P. Henri Muvucha Matsinga, CM** (Advisor for Ruanda-Burundi), **Daniel Samaniego Valle, CM** (Advisor for Ecuador), **P. Jean Sfer, CM** (Advisor for Egypt).
- March 24-April 1, the team at the International Secretariat participated in the popular missions that took place in Valencia (Favara, Fortaleny and Llauri). This event was organized by the Vincentian Missionary Team for Evangelization (EMVE).
- The Portuguese speaking volunteer, André Peixoto, as a representative of the International Secretariat, participated in the National Assembly in Portugal (April 8),

