



International Bulletin

Do unto us!

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Do unto us!

¿ Do we have the courage to say to the angel, as Mary did: "Behold the servants of the Lord; let it be done"? Don't answer now; each one has to answer in his or her heart. These are questions which we can answer only in silence

(Pope Francis, Address at the time of the Opening of World Youth in Panama, January 24, 2019).



Yancarlos Carrasco

Internacional President VMY

A few days ago, we participated in the celebration of the World Youth Day in Panama. The country, Panama, was encompassed in a festive environment, a Marian environment, a joyful environment. Pope Francis often uses timely expressions that touch the hearts of young people. In accord with the theme of last year (Here I am!) and also in accord with the words of Our Blessed Mother, the Holy Father invited young people throughout the world to reflect in silence on Mary's response to the angel (Let it be done in me according to your word!)

As members of a Marian Association and fully aware of the fact that Mary is the perfect servant of the Lord, we want to imitate Mary's commitment and openness. Like Mary, we want to be filled with grace and thus, receive from her hands the many graces that she offers her children. Therefore, the Pope's call to reflection has to a twofold objective.

Let it be done in us is a call that is extended to every member of the VMY to live in accord with God's will. We use the plural form because this living in accord with God's will is done together with other people who are part of our "community". At the same time, this call is also personal and must grow and mature in accepting hearts that are willing to accept the will of God. If we are acting in a correct manner and thus imitating Mary, then these various "let it be done in me" become one great, "let it be done in us"

Those words, let it be done, are not some magical words that point out the path that we must follow ... rather they are words that help us to discover the will of God in our lives, a will that is expressed in God's Word that is often contrary to our own thoughts and plans.

These words should guide us as in the same way that they guided the early Christian community (a community in which Mary herself was present [Acts 1:14]) ... those words should strengthen us to share our faith and our service, always willing to do what God desires.

It is important to highlight the fact that when we say "let it be done in us according to your word" we ourselves have to be nourished by that word, a word that is found in the Bible and in the events of our everyday life. Therefore, God's word has to be our guide and I would encourage all of us to set aside some time each day in order to read and reflect on that word.

This theme will accompany us as we begin our preparations for our General Assembly which will be held in 2020. From the silence of our heart, we ask our Heavenly Father and our Blessed Mother to strengthen us so that we can prepare ourselves to take the steps that our Association must take. Indeed, may each one of us be willing to say over and over again: let it be done in me according to your word. Then as a group and a community may we say: here we are, your servants, let it be done in us according to your word ... Don't answer now; each one has to answer in his or her heart. These are questions which we can answer only in silence.

Vmy throughout the world

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With Mary, let us go forth to the peripheries!

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VMY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

AFRICA

Ivory Coast

On January 27, a national meeting was held. The theme of that gathering was: "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). This gathering provided the participants with a time for prayer (the Rosary was prayed and there was a celebration of the Eucharist), and a time for formation. During the celebration of the Eucharist some of the members made their Marian consecration and new members were formally admitted into the Association. The members continue to work together so that the Association might become more widespread throughout the country.

Brazil

Missionary Vacation in Brazil

July 22-27, 2019 the members of the VMY in Brazil will host the first ever Missionary Vacations in the cities of Baião (Amazon Province), Curitiba (Province of Curitiba) and Jandaira (Province of Recife). The Missionary Vacations are open to all those individuals who wish to participate ... remember, however, that there are a limited number of openings. All, as missionary-disciples will be able to give witness to their love for Christ ... so register now!

Chile

From January 16-20, the VMY held its first session in the School for Leadership which focuses on developing leadership among young men and women. This formation is quite original and also very attractive to the participants ... it enables young men and women to deepen their leadership qualities and also deepen their understanding of Vincentian spirituality. During the session the participants dialogued about the situation of the 33 miners who were trapped beneath the ground (the participants were impacted by the depths of the faith of these men). During the rescue efforts, the spiritual dimension of these people was revealed ... as was the unity of the people of the nation who continued to pray for the safety of these men. The formation process will be continued for two more summers.

AMERICA

ASIA

Lebanon

On December 18 and in preparation for the Nativity, the members participated in a gathering and a formation session. Also, on January 19, the leaders of the various groups participated in a formation session. The members also traveled to Panama where they participated in the celebration of World Youth Day.

Taiwan

A group of young men and women traveled to Panama in order to participate in the activities of the Vincentian Youth Gathering and World Youth Day ... they represented the VMY from the Asian continent. This was the first time after quite some time, that the young men and women participated in an international gathering and despite the difficulty with regard to language, they were able to share their experiences with the other young men and women who had gathered together in that country. The group was accompanied by Father Pawel Wierzbicki (a missionary in Taiwan).



EUROPE

Eastern Europe:

Young men and women from two Slavic countries participated in the Vincentian Youth Gathering and in World Youth Day ... the participants included two young people from Slovakia who were accompanied by Father Pavol (the previous advisor) and two young people from Poland who were accompanied by their advisor and by a Daughter of Charity who is also a member of the National Council.



With Mary, let us go forth to the peripheries!

When Mary became aware of her cousin Elizabeth's pregnancy, she realized that her cousin needed help. She did not have to think about what she had to do for any length of time: *Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah* (Luke 1:39-40). Mary was also pregnant and travel at that time, when there were no busses or trains, it had to be difficult and ever more difficult for a pregnant woman. Nevertheless, Mary was only concerned about serving and assisting her cousin who was in need.



Patricia Roppa
International Volunteer

Our International Councilor stated in the December Bulletin: we ought to help other people, even when we, ourselves, are in need of help. Following Mary's teaching, we ought to go in haste to the assistance of those who are in need, even when that means we have to leave our comfort zone and go to the peripheries.

We are convinced that we are all called to go out and to share with all people the joy of the gospel. This same joy was experienced by the child that Elizabeth was carrying in her womb, that is, this child heard Mary's greeting, and then leaped for joy in Elizabeth's womb. This same joy should characterize us as young men and women who are members of the Church. When we experience the joy of the Good News, we begin to understand that that joy must be shared and proclaimed to other ... thus, there is a need to have others rejoice in the same Good News.

As members of the Vincentian Marian Youth we are, by nature, Vincentian missionaries. We cannot become closed in upon ourselves but rather should always attempt to reach out beyond our own individual boundaries. We have to open our eyes to the reality that surrounds us and see that there is much to be done. We cannot be indifferent when there are so many people who are in need.

Each day we live out our mission as we assist others and as we serve our God. Let us go forth to those places where God sends us and let us joyfully engage in each task that is entrusted to us ... no matter how small that task might be. As Pope Francis states in his Apostolic Exhortation: we are members of this Church that goes forth to the peripheries. May we be able to say: Let it be done in me according to your word and let us, like Mary, go forth to the peripheries. As Vincent de Paul stated: there is no better way to assure our happiness than to live and die in service of those who are poor.

JMU Chile

Witness



Daniela Francisca
Quinchaman Andrade
President of the VMY
in Chile

At one time Blessed Father Giorgio Frassati stated: Learn to be stronger physically and spiritually. If you do so, you will be true apostles of the faith of Jesus Christ.

Today, as I recall my sixteen years as a member of the Association, I can still remember the first mission in which I, together with other young men and women from the VMY, participated. I was fourteen years old and that experience was a milestone in my faith development and enabled me to make a commitment of service as a member of the Vincentia Marian Youth.

I remember that I was one of the youngest people in the meeting and being there I felt even smaller. Nevertheless, I knew something about prayer and was able to find different biblical passages ... I also knew something about the essential elements of the Association. During those meetings one should be open to all the challenges that will be presented. My personal challenges were multiple. For example, I often found it difficult to reach out to people I did not know. Even though I was with three other young people who were members of my community in Punta Arenas and the remainder of the young people I had just recently come to know, still I found myself hesitant to speak. Nevertheless, these same young men and women and one of the Sisters who shared their experiences with me, made me feel as though I was able to go out and evangelize in the manner of a young Vincentian woman.

The community where we gave this mission is located in the southern part of Chile, a community called Quilquihuencho (its name is derived from the Mapuche Language). In this area there are many Jehovah Witnesses and members of other evangelical sects. This was not seen as an obstacle and we began to knock on the doors of the residents of that community. Some people opened their door while others did not ... in fact, on the first occasion that I went out to visit the homes of the people of this area, only two people opened their doors: one person opened the door and said this was not a good time to engage in a conversation and the other person opened the door and invited us to come us and there we engaged in a dialogue.

I remember that one of the young people told me: *perhaps someone closed the door on us, but maybe in the next house we will be received ... don't become discouraged because now we are like the Apostles who were also rejected ... we have to continue our journey* (and let me say here, that we had to travel a long distance in order to arrive at the next house). Those words of my companion had a great impact on me and to this day I continue to reflect on them. At that time, I came to understand that many people are called but only a few hear the call. I also learned that when confronted with some difficulty, I should not retreat but rather move forward ... move forward and remember that God is always in the midst of every event (God is our center and the foundation of our faith).

At the present time, I can say that the missionary experience in Quilquihuencho was a very significant event in my life. Since then I have participated in numerous other popular missions and in each of these new experiences I have had the opportunity to grow and to learn something new.

Let us then never lose sight of the fact that as young marian vincetians we ought to continue to grow both at the time when we are involved in service on behalf of those who are most in need and so often excluded from full participation in society and we ought to grow when we take the time to engage in dialogue with our God ... and both of those moments are related to one another.



International Council and Secretariat

- The Director General of the VMY, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, has confirmed and published the following appointments: **Sister Kethlie Louis** (Advisor in Haiti); **Father Denis Ugwu, C.M.** (Advisor in Nigeria); **Daniela Francisca Quinchaman** (President - Chile), **María Belén Aguilar Carrera** (Coordinator - Ecuador), **Vanessa Paola Callo Espinoza** (Coordinator - Perú).

We want to thank all those member countries who responded to our request for an English- speaking

- During the time of January 18-21, Father Irving Amaro (International Sub-Director), Sister Bernardita García Ortín (International Delegate) and Yancarlos Carrasco (International President) participated in the Vincentian Youth Gather that was held in Panama and also participated in the activities of World Youth Day (January 22-27).



- The volunteers at the Secretariat participated in two gatherings: VFCAP (a workshop on team ministry) which was sponsored by the Vincentian Family from January 25-27 and the VI Formation Gathering that was organized by EMVE and that was held in Sevilla (February 1-3, 2019).

Others

- World Meeting of the Indigenous Youth 2019. It was held in the community of Soloy belonging to the Comarca Ngäbe Buglé, Panama from January 17 to 21, 2019, and was attended by 40 indigenous peoples from 12 countries with the objective of meeting Christ and dealing with common issues that are affecting the youth of the indigenous peoples of each country



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