



International Bulletin



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Do unto us!

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If I read the Gospel and meditate on it, I discover the vitality it has. If I contemplate it with love, I will be able to give it with love so that I will evangelize the young people. Having a spiritual companion so that our encounter with Jesus Christ is a living experience is important, as Father Tomaž told us in his letter of Lent to the entire Vincentian Family.

God directs our life, and to be faithful to Him, we have to know the Gospel through reading and prayer. We will create a culture that humanizes the world, the culture of love. Is there anything more valuable? He has given us his Mother.

In the VMY, we have a grand devotion to Mary. She always said "YES". Each one of us is able to say "Yes" to God like Mary. We are willing to live as obedient sons and daughters to his call, wherever he wants to send us. We have reflected many times because we read the Gospel and review our life in the light of His Word, what does it mean for you to live this "yes"? As Mary was always ready to serve, *"how ready am I to help those who need me?"*

The Virgin said to Saint Catherine: "Come to the foot of this altar and you will receive the favors of the Lord". The VMY goes with faith to ask the Virgin the grace that we need so that Jesus Christ is the center of our life and that we can radiate it to everyone who is by our side.

We do the **Marian Consecration**. What is it, if not to respond affirmatively to what God asks of us? Mary, a faithful follower of her Son, has full confidence in him from the beginning of his public life. In Cana of Galilee when Jesus performs the miracle, Mary says: "Do whatever He tells you" (John 2, 5).

"We have been entrusted with a treasure which makes us more human"

Mary is a faithful follower of Jesus, and she accompanied him to the end. At Calvary, Mary was there. Jesus had the great detail of giving her to us as the Mother of Humanity when he says to John: "Here is your mother" (Jn 19, 25-27).

Mary is present in the Church since its beginning at the Pentecost (Acts 1, 14); she is the mother of the Church and our mother. As Pope Francis says: "Walk with us, fight with us and pour out the closeness of God's love" (Nº 286 Evangelii Gaudium). Before all this, what is my attitude? Do I stay still and do nothing or am I willing to do what Jesus asks of me?

With Mary we know how we have to work for the poor, above all for those who have nothing. She returns dignity to those who have lost everything.

May Mary intercede before her Son so that God's plan can be realized in the world, which is none other than the Evangelization.

Sr. Bernardita Ortín Garcia, DC
VMY International Sister Advisor



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Africa

JMV VMY Toliara, a diocese in Madagascar is working on the expansion of the VMY in its diocese and also in the national level, encouraging the youth who are interested in our Association, while continuing guiding the existing groups.



Madagascar

Philippines

The Association of the Children of Mary Immaculate- The Vincentian Marian Youth Philippines held their 34th National Convention last May 17-19, 2019 at CICM Mission Center, Talisay City, Negros Occidental with the theme "CoM-VMY in Mission: Beloved, Gifted, Empowered". The National Council of CoM-VMY Phils elected the new set of National Officers. They are: Erl Julen Tulod (President), Kristie Impe (Vice President), Claire Medina (Secretary), Geneveve Sy (Treasurer), and Sherlene Tulda (Auditor). Fr. Rolando "Choy" Limjoco, CM and Sister Ma. Elisa Barranco, DC will help in the direction of the Association as the Priest and Sister Advisors.



Asia

America

The Provincial Committee of VMY Cali met last May 17-19 in Manizales to review and evaluate each region and the movement of the groups in each locality. It was a brotherly encounter with all the energy and enthusiasm from those who are leading each region.



Colombia

Ecuador

Last May 24-26, the 3rd National Encounter for Coordinators, Sub-coordinators, Animators, Advisors and Consecrated was held. There were 70 participants who joined from the local and zonal level, participating with joy and enthusiasm.



El Salvador

Last May 18-19, 2019, VMY El Salvador had their National Assembly where they elected the members of the new National Council. On May 18, they tackled the history of the VMY in El Salvador and the National Statutes, where they take into account the responsibilities in the Association.



Venezuela

On the days of June 7-9, VMY Sanare and Barquisimeto met with the intention of strengthening friendships and to motivate the newly-received youth to the Association, so that they will continue the journey of Jesus through Mary's way at the VMY.



France

The Annual Encounter of VMY France was held last May 3-5 at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Paris. They organized a Marian Vigil for the children and youth and then participated in the Sunday Mass at the Chapel of Rue du Bac.



Europa

Ukraine:

Last May 25-26, 2019, the VMY members joined the Vincentian Family of Ukraine to the National Pilgrimage Anniversary of the beatification of Sr. Marta Wiecka. This was held in her tomb in the town of Sniatyn with over 600 pilgrims from all over the country. The celebration was graced by the presence of the Superior General of the Vincentian Family, Father Tomaž Mavrič.



The Marian Virtues as a path for a VMY member: Humility and Collaboration

FORMATION

As a member of the Vincentian Marian Youth, to imitate Mary has been and will always be one of the most difficult responsibilities we have. There are ten evangelical virtues of Mary and six that we adopt in the Vincentian Marian Youth. Today, I would like to focus on one of them: HUMILITY. And from there, we will try to see how we can achieve collaboration-of working together, as members of the Association inspired by this virtue.

This year, our slogan in itself is inspired by the humility of Mary when she accepted the message of the angel during the annunciation. Without any sense of doubt and fear she answered: *"I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me according to your word."* (Lk 1:38) In her song of praise, the Magnificat, she expressed her whole-hearted humility. *For He has looked with favor on the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed* (Luke 1:48). She overcame any uncertainty and humbly claimed that the Lord saw her and that she was blessed by God.



Marie Claire Solon Balo
Volunteer, International Secretariat

How was Mary able to say yes? How was she able to completely let God take over her life without any fear or doubt? Her humility meant opening herself; by emptying herself for God, by forgetting herself and allowing God to do His will through her. Mary showed us that by having less of ourselves, we let God to be more in our lives.

The moment Mary showed her humility by saying yes to the will of God, she practically became a collaborator to that will of God. She became the bearer of Jesus, our savior. And because of this, her life was not easy. But in spite of the questions, difficulties and sufferings, she continued to be humble and continued trusting God with all her heart. This is the essence of collaboration, to trust God, to trust your faith. And you cannot trust without being humble, without letting someone lead your life just like how Mary let God lead hers.

As members of this big Association, how can we be inspired by the humility of Mary? How can we sharpen our commitment to collaborate in our local groups with Mary's example? We start by saying yes just like how she said yes. But we can only say yes if we empty ourselves just like what Mary did. This is easy to say but difficult to do, especially in our world of "me, me, and me". Now, we think that the fuller of ourselves we are, the better we feel. We forget that what is important is how present is God in our lives.

With this, we can try to emulate then her humility; humility in terms of our relationship with other members, humility in listening to our advisors, humility in doing our roles whether as members or as officers. And with this, we create an environment of collaboration which is basically what we need as members of the Vincentian Marian Youth. Through this, with an open heart, we can confidently say "Do unto us".

Witness

VMY Indonesia



Fransiskus Regis Juanli Agustinus
VMY Indonesia

Answering the call: Do unto me according to your will.

Even though my family embraced Buddhism, my parents entrusted me with a Catholic education. When I went to Cipanas, I had a private tutor who came from a devout Catholic family. From there I learned more about the Catholic Spirituality and became an acolyte in our parish. I was the first one who converted to Catholicism followed by my five brothers and mother. My father had his baptism when he turned 73 years old.

It seems that God deliberately set my birth date of September 27, coinciding with the Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul, so that I would have the same heart as the protector of Missionary Work, the founder of the Congregation of the Mission. St. Vincent said that the Poor are our Lords and Masters. This sentence always encourages my spirit of service.

Since I became a student in Atma Jaya Medical in 1999, I often went to the Cilincing area, a neighborhood in the northern part of Jakarta. In the Cilincing Holy Cross Parish, there is a community of Sisters named the Daughters of Charity. They work under the auspices of the Union of Apostolic Life, founded by St. Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac. I was invited by my classmates to help with the health services at the clinic of the Daughters of Charity. There were a lot of poor people living in the area. The standard of living and the quality of their health were quite alarming. At first, I only served as a medical student, wanting to gain more knowledge. But with time and often serving there, I witnessed how unfortunate the poor people were. This really touched my conscience so it was hard to forget them just like that.

After graduating and growing up in the scope of Catholic education, my character was formed into a Catholic youth.

I was not satisfied to live life only in the school building, so I started organizing activities for the Vincentian Marian Youth where I became a member and the National President, and where I continue to serve up to this day. Just like how my classmate convinced me to serve in the clinics of the Daughters of Charity, I am now the one convincing and bringing the young members of the Association to serve our brothers, the poor. Even though I am now working as a Financial Advisor at a leading insurance company, I am still actively serving at the DC Clinic at Cilincing and at the community in Sathora Medical Center to contribute my knowledge in the medical field. This medical assistance is becoming an official apostolate work of the members of the VMY in our country.

There are times I feel tired going to Cilincing every Friday. Sometimes I still have to stop first at Papanggo (the other serve community of the DC sisters and it was under the Tanjung Priok toll bridge). But once there, my enthusiasm that was almost extinguished immediately is ignited again as if it had been recharged. I realized that I will continue to serve until the end as long as God wants, and as long as I am still strong.

Aside from my regular work and my accompaniment to the VMY members of Indonesia, especially with our continuous service to the clinics of the Daughters of Charity, I am also now working with Systemic Change committee in Asia, another inspiring project of the Vincentian Family. And I still pray that I continue answering the call and letting God do unto me according to His will.

Oh Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Amen.



International Council and Secretariat

- The VMY General Director, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM has confirmed and released the following appointments: **Deacon Antonio Hiciano Jiménez, C.M** (National Advisor – Dominican Republic); **Fr. Álvaro Nicolas Tamblay Godoy, C.M** (National Priest Advisor- Chile); **Br. Stuardo Alberto Marroquin CM.** (Nacional Advisor- Guatemala); **Fr. José Ramón Mendoza** (National Priest Advisor – El Salvador); **Sr. Marisa Pitrella, D.C.** (National Sister Advisor - Italy); **Sr. Raquel Argel Argel, D.C.** (National Sister Advisor – Chile). **Boniface Cellini Mendou Zeubou** (President- Cameroon); **Alessandro Guariniello** (Leader - Italy)
- Fr. Irving Amaro (VMY Sub-Director) and Eddy López (Spanish-speaking volunteer) represented the International Secretariat in the Missionary Formation #iJornada19 held in Palma de Mallorca last June 8 (Saturday).
- We are preparing for the 5th General Assembly with the hymn and logo contest. Those countries interested to join must submit their entries to the International Secretariat on or before December 15, 2019. We will be waiting for them. For more information, please contact your National Council.



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