



International Bulletin



“Do unto us!”

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“Witnessing with Hope”



In the midst of a world that has become more volatile, complex and ambiguous, people need to be courageous in order to commit themselves to their personal development and to the social transformation of the world. Yes, every transformation must begin with oneself. This has always been our greatest challenge as individuals. As a result of present-day individualism, we are easily become caught up in superficiality and various forms of social work that provide us momentary satisfaction and relieve our conscience. At the same time, however, there are some 1,300 million poor men and women who are crying out for a spark of hope.

The present inequalities (not only financial) provide the poor and the marginalized with fewer and fewer opportunities to find release from the chains of poverty and that reality demands that we, as human beings, as Christians, as members of the Vincentian Family and members of the Vincentian Marian Youth, become missionaries of hope and with our lives give witness to the transformative power of the Holy Spirit who impels us to proclaim the Good New of the Risen Jesus.

In the General Audience of October 14, 2017, Pope Francis stated: How beautiful it is to think of ourselves as proclaimers of the Resurrection of Jesus, not only in words, but also in our conduct and testimony of life ... Jesus wants witnesses: people who spread hope, with their way of welcoming, smiling and loving; above all loving because the power of the Resurrection makes Christians capable of loving even when love seems to have lost its motivation.

Throughout my journey in the VMY I have seen this light of hope reflected in the lives of many young men and women and advisors from so many different countries. That light of hope gives life to our Association and today, is leading us to another General Assembly. Yes, this is the time when we are called to give witness with hope, called to give witness to the many wonderful things that the Lord has for us, called to give witness to the fact we are to become more committed to young people, to the world, to the church ... but most of all, more committed to those who are poor and marginalized.



Rafael Cruz
VMY International Councilor

VMY throughout the world

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The young men and women of the VMY initiated a new pastoral year (2019-2020) by participating in a diocesan gathering that took place in Assumption parish (administered by the members of the Congregation of the Mission). The Association is engaged in a mission to expand to other places/ dioceses where there is no presence of the VMY. On September 21, the members went to the capital to encourage young men and women who belong to no church affiliated organization.



Madagascar

Our volunteer, Yvette, took vacation in her homeland, Madagascar. She used that time to visit the members of the Association and encouraged them to participate in the National Assembly. Father Irving Amaro, CM (Subdirector of the Association and Director of the Secretariat) accompanied Yvette. The young men and women were very happy and proud of those visits. Many members of the Association traveled to the capital in order to participate in the Eucharist that was celebrated by Pope Francis during his visit to that country. Once again, the young men and women felt encouraged and hopeful for the future.



Asia

Vietnam

On September 29th, about 150 members of the VMY, together with other members from the various branches of the Vincentian Family, gathered at the Provincial House of the Daughters of Charity in order to celebrate the feast of Saint Vincent de Paul. All the participants were reminded about the call of the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, to collaborate in the "13-Houses Campaign".

America

APU

Under the theme: The time is now! an extraordinary Assembly of the VMY was held in Añatuya, Argentina on July 19-21. Representatives from Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, as well as members of the Congregation of the Mission and regional advisors participated in this event.



Brazil

From July 22 until July 27, the VMY in Brazil, together with members of other branches of the Vincentian Family, participated in the first nationwide mission. This mission was carried out simultaneously in Baião, Curitiba and Jandaíra.



Guatemala

On September 7th, the National Formation Commission in Guatemala met for the purpose of providing continuity to the development and the updating of the formation process in the VMY. The group was visited by Father Gregory Gay, CM (former Director General of the VMY)



Europe

The XXXV National Meeting of the Association in Portugal was held in Felgueiras from July 21-25, 2019. Some 200 young men and women from various groups throughout the country came together under the theme: Animated by the Spirit, Accomplish the mission!

Portugal



20 Years of the International Secretariat of the VMY

God has blessed us by allowing us to be part of the VMY and it is difficult to describe the joy of being able to serve God in this manner. When we discover the great treasure that is ours by being united with Mary, our Blessed Mother, then our “yes”, like that of our Mother (cf. Luke 1:38), becomes a constant and is expressed in all our difference experiences of service as well as in all the multiple activities of our daily life. That “yes” produced a great fruit, namely, the establishment of the International Secretariat of the Vincentian Marian Youth on January 12, 1999. Father Robert Maloney, CM (Director General at that time) promoted this initiative which began to function in Madrid, Spain on September 1, 1999.



Eddy López
VMY International Volunteer
Spanish-speaking Countries

The International Secretariat of the VMY is the Executive Branch of the International Council and the General Assembly. Its mission is to animate the members of the Association and to maintain contact with the member nations. This group is composed of the Director of the Secretariat, a Daughter of Charity as the International Delegate, four volunteers who offer their services to the Association for a period of three years (the members of this group; are chosen by the International Council and appointed by the Director General).

The general purpose of the Secretariat is to promote the spiritual and apostolic vitality of the Association, thus uniting the member nations of the VMY. Furthermore, the Secretariat publishes the International Bulletin, maintains the webpage (www.secretariadojmv.org), sends out greetings on feast days of the Vincentian Family, translates various documents, and above all, maintains communication with those countries where the Association is present or where the Association is in the process of being established. We are thankful to all those countries that remain in communication with us and we invite you to continue to send us news so that we can echo the good that you are doing on

behalf of other young men and women and on behalf of those persons who are poor and marginalized (“our lords and masters” ... as Vincent de Paul has told us).

These past 20 years have been a time of mission, commitment, service, faith and friendship ... a time of hope and dreams, of learning, of forming human relationships in our work and an international community in both our work and spiritual and social development. People from many parts of the world have contributed to the lived experiences of the Secretariat: the Americas: Colombia, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Mexico, Haiti, Venezuela, the United States, Ecuador, Panama, Nicaragua, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Guatemala; Africa: Cameroon, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt; Asia: Lebanon, the Philippines, Vietnam; Europe: Spain, Slovakia, Italy, Portugal, France, the United Kingdom, Poland. All those countries have been represented and have been part of the International Team of the VMY.

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Christus Vivit*, states: *Christian service represents a unique opportunity for growth and openness to God's gifts of faith and charity.* We believe that our international service and our day to day activities gives life to others.

Witness

“Not to us, o Lord, but to Thy Name give Glory”

(P. Salm 115:1)

VMY Vietnam

Hola! Hello! Xin Chào!



Joseph Công Thành

VMY International Volunteer
English-speaking Countries

My name is Joseph Nguyễn Công Thành, I'm from Vietnam and I am a new volunteer representative for Vincentian Marian Youth association in English-speaking countries serving in the International Secretariat. I arrived in Madrid, Spain on last September 20th with a warm welcome of all brothers and sisters in the international team. After some certain time to adapt the new mission here, it is time for me to send my official greetings to you and to get started to share with you in our VMY journey in this new mission.

Thanks be to God and Our Lady. It has been a beautiful and meaningful stage of life to me as growing in the association since 2001 and I am more joyful now as receiving a new mission, to work as a volunteer at the VMY International Secretariat, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

I always consider this experience as a special call of Our Lord for me through the intercession of Our Lady to offer our service to the association like other brothers and sisters do here in the international team. I, however, assure you that we would not be able to accomplish this mission without the assistance of the Holy Spirit, your collaboration at work and your prayers.

I do believe that God has a plan and a call for each of us, no matter where we are, what we do; we are called to share only a goal that is to love God and to love others. This is truly an effective way of evangelization since Jesus had said: "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

It is so beautiful to know that we are called to live and share that goal in such a beautiful association of VMY, in which we have Our Lady to protect and accompany us, and even more, we become members of a Vincentian Family. We are not and never shall be alone on our trip. Let us take these things as encouragements to move forward, to keep trying to make the Glory of God shine with our efforts and responsibilities of an "unprofitable servant" and finally let us all say together "Not to us, O Lord, but to Thy Name give glory" (Psalm 115:1).

Thank you and hope to see you soon!

To Jesus with Mary



International Council and Secretariat

The Director General of the VMY, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM, has confirmed and published the following appointments: **Fr. Ernesto Alfredo Zunguze, CM** (National Advisor: Mozambique); **Fr. Norberto Abrego, CM** (National Advisor: Panama); **Janet del Carmen Rodriguez Esteban** (President: Puerto Rico); **Lucía Rivero Cayota** (President: Argentina/Paraguay/Uruguay); **Josué Alejandro Quijano Durón** (President: Honduras); **Marie Sfeir** (President: Lebanon).

On September 26, we received official news about the new international delegate and so we welcome Sister Amadita Pinzón, DC from the Central American Province.

Fr. Irving Amaro, CM (International Subdirector) participated in the graduation of the first group from the School of Advisors of the VMY in Latin America. Lay advisors from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama completed a three-year formation process.

We thank VMY Noblejas for all dedication, love and effort in organizing the Eucharist on occasion of the 20th Anniversary of VMY International Secretariat.



ANNOUNCEMENT

We are beginning our search for a new French-speaking volunteer who will serve the Association at the International Secretariat. Contact your national council in order to be informed about the requisites:

- We need a young person to help maintain communication with the French-speaking members.
- All applications for this position should be forwarded to the Secretariat by January 10, 2020.

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