

Bulletin

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VINCENTIAN MARIAN YOUTH Let us live our faith with joy!

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS"

...and Mary gave birth to her first-born son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7).



International Volunteer VMY
Responsible for English speaking countries

In most cultures the completion of another year in one's life is an event that creates feelings of joy and happiness and gratitude. When close friends and/or relatives celebrate their birthday we often congratulate them and expresses our good wishes to them with such phrases as Happy birthday! Congratulations! God bless you! May you have a wonderful day! May you celebrate many more birthdays! etc.... It is important to pause and



reflect on the true meaning of expressing good wishes to those individuals who are celebrating a birthday. Do we really mean what we say? Are we simply repeating words and phrases without reflecting on their profound meaning? Are our words of congratulations a true expression of our desire for that person's happiness?

During the month of December we celebrate the birthday of the One to whom we owe everything; the One who being God, became man; the One who is God with us (Matthew 1:23); the One who put aside his divinity and became incarnate in order to save us; the One who was born in very humble surroundings.

During this Christmas season let us be mindful of the fact that each time that we share hugs and kiss and smiles, each time that we say Merry Christmas or other such phrases that express our hope for another person, we are at the same time desiring that Jesus, present in our brothers and sisters, should have a happy birthday. Therefore, when we say these words they should be a heartfelt expression and not simply words that we utter mindlessly. Indeed, they should

not simply be an expression of our desires for this person for one day of the year, but should be an expression of our desire that said persons will experience that happiness during the whole year.

We should attempt to make

our life a sharing of joy that is accomplished not only through words but through action. When we wish Jesus a happy birthday, we must recognize that Jesus will be happy if we love one another as he has loved us, I give you a new commandment: love one another (John 13:34).

Jesus, today I wish you a happy birthday and I want to see you in my brothers and sisters who need me. I want these brothers and sisters to be happy; I want them to be able to experience your joy and I want to experience your joy through them. **Happy Birthday, Jesus!**



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VMY IN THE WORLD



Brazil

From November 15-17 the II National Encounter of former members of the VMY who have transitioned into other branches of the Vincentian Family was held. Thirty former members of the VMY participated in this gathering along with lay advisors, Missionaries of the Congregation and Daughters of Charity. This was a time for renewal in the faith, as well as a time for planning.



Colombia

From November 8-11 the Association gathered in the city of Armenia in order to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the presence of the VMY in the province of Cali. More than 250 young men and women participated in this celebration. For many years the Association has been involved in the evangelization of other young men and women as well as children and families in need. This was a time to give thanks to God for the fruits that have been harvested as a result of this evangelization process, namely, men and women exercising their profession in an honest and sincere manner, good parents and spouses, men and women religious dedicated to God and to the building up of the kingdom of God throughout Colombia.



Ecuador

From November 1-3 the XIX National Encounter was held in the city of Riobamba ... 170 young men and women from throughout the country gathered together under the motto: God is our goal and our point of reference. This was a time for prayer, community building and formation,



United States

Twenty members of the VMY in the western part of the United States made their Marian consecration on November 2nd. We congratulate them for having taken this important step in the midst of our Association, a step which draws these men and women closer to our Mother, Mary.

Mexico

From November 15-17 the National Assembly was held in Teocelo-Veracruz ... 160 representatives from throughout the country participated in this meeting during which they revised their Statutes and elected a new National Council. All of this was coordinated by Diana Velásquez. We ask our Blessed Mother to bless the members of the new council and to strengthen the members of the out-going council to continue their service of love on behalf of their brothers and sisters

Panama

Panama City will be the site of the VI Encounter CENMEX which will take place from December 16-21. Many young men and women from Mexico and Central America will gather together under the motto: It is time to be reborn, time to affirm your steps! We unite with our brothers and sisters in prayer for the success of this event.



Peru

From November 15-17 the XII National Encounter of the VMY in Peru was held 120 young men and women and advisors gathered together under the motto: VMY, Missionaries of love and living in communion with one another. This was a powerful experience, one filled with life and faith in which people were able to share moments of prayer and reconciliation and relaxation.



Puerto Rico

It is incredible to see how we are going in number day by day and this is due to the witness that is being given by the members of the Association. This has occurred on the Island of Santa Cruz where the pastor of Saint Joseph's requested a retreat for the young people in the parish. The pastor was very aware of the work and the ministry of the members of our Association and he has supported them and wants them to make the Vincentian charism present in that part of the country. We unite with them in prayer so that their witness to their faith might continue to produce fruit.



Slovenia

The VMY in Slovenia has elected a new National Council composed of Urška Škrabec; Andrej Mehle y Žan Avbelj. We wish them success in their ministry. They have begun to organize monthly meetings with children in which biblical themes are discussed and reflected upon.



Angola:

All the groups prepared an activity that was in collaboration with the Archdiocese of The Vincentian Conferences and those who are members of the Miraculous Association celebrated together the feast of Saint Vincent. During that celebration the VMY (Boa Nova) explained how the men and women of the Association are living out the Vincentian charism.



Kenya

A new group of the VMY was formed at the University of Maoi in the province of Kitale. These new members request prayers as they embark on this new journey. To Jesus with Mary!

Philippines

As a result of the typhoon that has devastated this country the young men and women of the VMY are supporting and collaborating with the other members of the Vincentian Family and providing assistance in the area of Bohol and Tacloban, areas that were affected by this storm.

SELF-FINANCING PLANS FOR SELF-FINANCING IN THE VMY



When the self-financing campaign for our Association was launched

three years ago, the need for this had been addressed on two separate occasions: the final document of the General Assembly in Paris (2005) and the final document of the General Assembly in Lisbon (2010). Article #5 of the 2010 document states this very well: Solidarity with our Association should lead us to share from the depths of our own poverty. In other words, the love that we have for our Association, despite being an association that is formed primarily of young students, should help us to gather together the funds that we need. A truly crazy idea! How can this be possible since most of us are not working? Here we must place our trust in our society which has become ever more secularized.

Saint Vincent reminds us that our love must be inventive unto infinity. So we can ask: how much do we love our Association? Behind this question we find a very direct implication with regard to our sense of belonging to the Association and our acceptance of the message that was proclaimed at the Rue du Bac in Paris. The very same woman, who asked a similar question at the time of the Annunciation, placed her trust in God and gave to humankind a great gift: she allowed the Word to become flesh. At the same time we must recall the fact that Mary also gifted us with her medal, a medal which makes the impossible become possible. The VMY is part of this Marian heritage and today she invites us to believe in her Son. She asks us to confidently place our needs before Jesus because everything is possible to the one who has faith (Mark 9:23).

Thanks to God some groups have had a wonderful experience in this area of searching for self-financing. Here are some examples: France has opted to sell personalized calendars; the groups in Rwanda-Burundi have begun small projects with the assistance of the International Team and France; the United States continues to sell second hand goods on-line, etc. All of these examples mean that self-financing is not some mere theory ... some groups have already implemented the means that make this theory a reality and they are willing to share with all the groups their experience in this area.

Let us have no doubts about this campaign because we have in our hands two powerful arms: our youth and the maternal protection of our Mother, the Star of the Sea who guides her children to Jesus.

Ghislain Atemezing
Counselor of the VMY for Africa

WITNESS ECCLESIAL NOTE OF THE VMY IN SPAIN

Delegation of the lay apostolate (DAS)

"I believe in the Church, that is one, holy, catholic and apostolic." The primary task of the Church is to proclaim the Good News to all people and to do this from the reality of God who became man through the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. We can experience ourselves as loved by God with such an intense love that we feel impelled to share that same love with our sisters and brothers. Indeed, our hearts of stone have been transformed by this love into hearts of flesh and, as a result, we are able to suffer with those who suffer and able to weep with those who weep.

In light of this reality it is very easy to understand the presence of the VMY in the Delegation of the Lay Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Madrid (or in any other diocese in Spain or in any other diocese in the world). The Delegation is composed of a large number of religious associations and institutions that are ministering in a specific area and that are characterized by a predominant presence of the laity in their organization, government and membership. The auxiliary bishop of Madrid, D. César Franco, advises and guides the apostolic ministry that is developed by the Delegation. Our task, in the first place, is focused on knowing and establishing relationships with different association and institutes that are members of the Delegation. In this way we can then plan formation initiatives, meetings, and common projects, etc. ... all of which are intended to ground us in our responsibility to experience ourselves as evangelizers in the midst of our different situations.

To be able to represent the VMY in the Delegation of the Lay Apostolate means many things, but above all else it reinforces my feeling of belonging to the ecclesial community. It provides us with an opportunity to meet with many other brothers and sisters who, from the perspective of their proper charism, live out their call from God to be witnesses in the midst of the world. They give this witness to God with all their limitations and are united

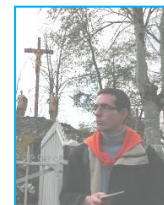
through prayer and love which they want to share with others. My participation in this group makes me feel co-responsible for this process of evangelization and therefore committed to a process of collaboration with those persons who have dedicated their whole life to God so that the liberating message of the Good News might be communicated to all people. At the same time I have become aware of the fact that in many situations, priests and men and women religious are unable to do this because of the prejudices that their option stirs up in many people. My faith is strengthened and enriched with the witness of life than many other people give and who, together with me, desire to walk with the Lord. All of this leads me to commit myself personally and as a member of the VMY to engage in ministry and to understand that as a layperson I am co-responsible with consecrated persons for maintaining the boat of Peter afloat and guiding it to the shores of new horizons where people, without being aware of it, are hungry and thirsty for God and for God's liberating message.

Let us take advantage of this time of our youth to discover Jesus Christ, to discover the One who is the way and the truth and the life.

Youth is a privileged time for seeking and encountering truth. As Plato said: "Seek truth while you are young, for if you do not, it will later escape your grasp" (Parmenides, 135d) ... I urge you, then, never to lose that sense of enthusiasm and concern for truth (Pope Benedict XVI, Meeting with young university professors in Madrid, August 19, 2011).

With a new perspective everything will change.

Javier Cremades on behalf of VMY in Spain



Everything is possible to the one who has faith

"Youth is a privileged time for seeking and encountering truth"

Benedict XVI



- Father Irving Gabriel Amaro Ramayo, CM, a member of the Province of Mexico, has been appointed to the position of International Sub-Director of the VMY.
- Father Irving Amaro, CM was born in Mexico in 1969 and entered the Congregation in 1986 and was ordained a priest on January 25, 1997. He was involved in parish ministry and also in formation in the seminary of the Congregation of the Mission. He has participated in the activities of various branches of the Vincentian Family in Mexico, especially with the members of the VMY and the AIC. In addition, Fr. Irving will coordinate the work of the International Secretariat of the VMY which is located in Madrid.
- Father Gregory Gay has pointed out the following: "I am very thankful to Father Irving for his generosity in accepting the appointment. I believe that his experience in Mexico, ministering with the young men and women in the VMY is a great advantage in this ministry as International Sub-Director of the VMY."

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AND SECRETARIAT

- The Director General of the VMY, Fr. Gregory Gay CM, has confirmed the following appointments: **Sister Yaritza Jiménez, DC** (Advisor, Dominican Republic), **Sister Lorraine Djongoue Toko, DC** (Advisor, Cameroon), **José Daniel Cruz Urbina** (President of the VMY in Nicaragua).
- From November 1 – 3, Fr. Irving Amaro, CM, International Subdirector of the VMY, was invited to participate in the European Meeting of MISEVI which was held in Slovakia.
- November 15, 16, 17, the members of the International Secretariat, together with several young men and women from the VMY in Spain (individuals who want to live a missionary experience that is characteristic of our Association) participated in the School of Missionary formation in Madrid.
- A novena in honor of the Blessed Mother was preached at the Basilica of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Madrid. The team at the International Secretariat participated in this event.
- On November 29-30, the team at the International Secretariat gathered together at the beginning of Advent in order to prepare themselves to live with faith and love the birth of our Redeemer.



Christmas is a time when people tend to become generous in sharing with others and are also hopeful in being able to continue to move forward in their journey through life.

May your Christmas and the New Year be filled with blessings!

VISIT-US

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