



CONGREGAZIONE DELLA MISSIONE CURIA GENERALIZIA

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SUPERIOR GENERAL

January 25, 2014

Dear Visitors,

Many blessings as we celebrate the birthday of the Company.

I am writing to each of the Conferences of Visitors today to announce a new type of workshop that the General Curia of the Congregation of the Mission has decided to sponsor. I trust that provinces, or groups of provinces, might want to offer such a workshop to their own members and to participants from other branches of the Vincentian Family.

Two events made me think of launching this initiative. One was a Grant-Writing Workshop which was hosted by the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity and offered to the Vincentian Family in Ethiopia. Fifty people attended and found it quite helpful for their development efforts. The second event took place last August in Paris, where I participated personally in a Symposium on Wise Asset Management, sponsored by DePaul University and the Franz Foundation. Many of our Provincial Treasurers and other members of the various branches of the Vincentian Family took part in it. Afterwards, I spoke with my Council and we decided to offer the new type of workshop described below, which, if you wish, could take place in particular provinces or in groups of nearby provinces. I hope that such workshops will help us use our material goods better in the service of those most in need. In the end, as St. Vincent reminds us, the resources that the Lord has entrusted to us “*are the patrimony of Jesus Christ, the sweat of poor people*” (Coste XI, 190).

These new workshops, which will last for four days, will focus on three topics: Wise Asset Management, Strategic Planning, and Grant-Writing. The topics will be integrated with one another rather than treated separately. An interactive methodology will be used, engaging the participants in planning and writing. We feel that, by using materials that the participants themselves write, cultural differences will best be taken into account.

THE TEAM

The team giving the workshops will be Fr. Joseph Agostino, CM, Sr. Marge Clifford, DC, and Fr. Robert Maloney, CM.

THE AUDIENCE

While the workshops are being sponsored by the Congregation of the Mission, we want them to be open to participants from all the branches of the Vincentian Family. We hope that these workshops will be a further way for the Vincentian family to collaborate, so that, working together, we will walk side by side with those we serve as they seek to emerge from poverty.

In order to foster a participative, interactive style, we think that there should be 50-100 participants. The local leaders of the Family could decide if others from outside the Family should be invited too. That might depend on how many participants from the Family itself wish to participate.

THE TIMING

The team is willing to offer these workshops twice a year in different countries. It is ready to begin in the fall of 2014.

THE FINANCING

The General Curia will cover the expenses of the team's travel to your country. The host country is asked to provide room and board for the three team members. The team will not expect anything further, like stipends.

Beyond that, the workshops should be self-financing; that is, the Vincentian Family leaders in the host country will determine how to finance them (as provinces finance retreats or assemblies, or as the Vincentian Family finances national and regional gatherings).

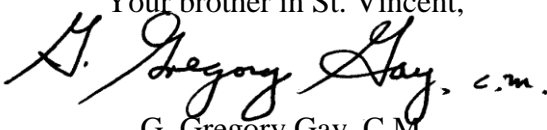
THE LANGUAGE

After a pilot session in English, the workshops will be offered in various languages, with the help of translators.

NEXT STEP

Since the team is willing to begin next fall, I encourage the Visitors of interested provinces or groups of provinces to contact me, by email, **before March 25**. Then, with the team, I can begin to schedule workshops promptly.

I hope that these workshops will be useful to the confreres and to members of all the branches of the Vincentian Family.

Your brother in St. Vincent,

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.
Superior General