



Bulletin

INTERNATIONAL



Walk with us as we deepen our faith

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SENT...!

"...and sent them two by two..." (Lk. 10,1)

Cheminé avec nous pour avancer dans la foi

RENCONTRE INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILLERS DES JMV - PARIS 2014

Camina con nosotros para avanzar en la fe
Walk with us as we deepen our faith
Caminha conosco para crescer na fé

ENCUENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE ASESORES DE JMV • INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE ADVISORS OF THE VMY • ENCONTRO INTERNACIONAL DE ASESORES DA JMV

In life it is not advisable to walk alone. Jesus emphasized this with his disciples whom he entrusted with a mission and sent forth two by two (Luke 10:2). As we approach the time during which all the Advisors of the VMY will gather together in Paris, we have a wonderful opportunity to share our life, our faith, and our ministry. This will present us with an opportunity to open our minds and our hearts to realities and experiences that are different from our own.

Paraphrasing Socrates we can say that it is a serious matter to entrust our soul to another; to walk beside another, to help another in the process of discernment and to express our solidarity to others as we walk with them. That is the objective of our gathering in July, namely, to share with one another in order to strengthen our ministry of accompanying the young men and women who are members of the VMY (regardless of where they are from). Indeed, our focus is on the young men and women. Many of us

will gather together in Paris and language could be a barrier, but we are invited to tear down those mental barriers so that we can establish new relationships as we reflect on new ways to accomplish our ministry.

It is in this way that we can share our dreams and hopes and desires. An important dimension of our gathering together is an openness and a willingness to enter into dialogue which will ultimately enrich all the participants of the gathering. We should also be mindful of those who, for different reasons, are unable to participate in this meeting. We have already shared with them the various formation materials so that they can carry out their ministry more effectively as they accompany the young men and women in the process of maturing in life and in the faith. It is through this process that the young men and women are able to become protagonists of their own lives and thus create a better world, a world with more hope.



Fr. Irving AMARO
INTERNATIONAL SUBDIRECTOR VMY





Brazil

The Fifth Assembly of the VMY was held in the city of Ribeirão do Pinhal – Curitiba (the southern region of Brazil). More than one hundred young men and women participated --- young people from Campo Mourão, Pato Branco, Laranjeiras do Sul, Toledo, Foz do Iguaçu, Curitiba, Janiópolis and Cruzeiro do Oeste. The theme of the gathering was: the cross of Christ in the Vincentian Mission and this theme was based on the passage from the book of Isaiah (6:8): Here I am Lord, send me! During the meeting we reflected on the Vincentian Mission and the profile of a Vincentian young person.

Without a doubt our mission is one of serving Christ in those who are poor. Today the idea of “poor” takes on other dimensions and we are invited to seek out those persons who are poor in our community: the poor in spirit, those persons who are unable to dream, those who poor because they are unloved, the materially poor. As the young man Thiago Innácio said, our mission is be a sign of the Risen Christ in the life of those persons who are near to us. During the meeting a new provincial council was elected and they will lead the VMY until April 2017.



Chile

In the afternoon hours of April 12th there was a fire in the city of Valparaiso in the fifth region of the country. It has been viewed as the largest fire in the history of Chile, destroying 2,900 houses that left 12,500 homeless; fifteen people were killed and more than five hundred injured. The National Advisor, Sister Paola Vera, with a small group of Sisters, lives in that area and they minister in a school that is located there. The school was insured but many students were left homeless. The VMY moved into action and initiated a nationwide collection which will be used to buy construction materials in order to rebuild the houses that were destroyed. We ask you to continue to pray for us so that these relief efforts might prove to be successful.



Colombia

The First Assembly of the VMY took place in Armenia-Quindio from May 30th – June 2. The theme of this meeting was VMY, Colombia, one heart! We reflected on the characteristics of our Association and on the theme of the gathering. In the midst of an environment of prayer and community we responded by accepting responsibility for our commitment as young men and women. We congratulate Maria Camila Cardona who is now responsible for the VMY in Colombia.



Ecuador

During the month of May the first meeting of the Animators and Coordinators of the VMY was held in Penipe, Riobamba. More than fifty-three young people participated from various groups, for example, Loja, Riobamba, Latacunga, Tena, Puyo, Pillaro, Esmeralda, San Lorenzo, El Triunfo, Machala, Sto. Domingo, Tosagua, Chone, Quito and Catacocha. This was a time to share experiences and reflect together on the role of the Animator and the Coordinator. The meeting was concluded with the participants making a stronger commitment.



Haiti

The National Assembly was held on May 17th with the participation of Yasmine, the International President of the VMY. During our time together we handed over our contribution to the Self-Financing Campaign. We proposed selling some VMY formation materials as an activity to collect more funds for the Campaign.



Nicaragua

On June 1st in the city of Diría, the VMY helped their XXII National Encounter. Since this was held on the eve of the feast of Pentecost we reflected on the theme: the Holy Spirit makes us witnesses and servants of Jesus Christ. This was a time for prayer and reflection and building community.

Puerto Rico

May was an important month for the members of the Association in this country. The outgoing president, Joalies Rosa made her Marian consecration and she had encouraged seven other young persons to make their Marian Promise together with her (the seven are now preparing for their Marian Consecration. At the same time this was a period of transition as Carla Negrón assumed the role of National President ... we thank both persons for the commitments that they have accepted.



Dominican Republic

During the month of May we held our traditional Marian Encounter which was done by zones (Santo Domingo and the North). More than 200 young men and women participated. The focus of these meetings was the Marian Promise and we took advantage of this time together to celebrate the sacraments.



Venezuela

During the month of April we began the Emmaus School of Formation in the western part of the country. The objective of this school is to form and prepare animators and advisors for the various groups. It is an attempt to respond to the need for ever more effective Vincentian youth ministry. On this first level of formation there were numerous young men and women from the VMY in the country and the formation team is also composed of several members from our Association.



WITNESS

VMY ECUADOR

My name is Lizbeth Isabel Pulgarin Ryes. I am nineteen years old and a member of the VMY in Machala, Ecuador. From the time that I first participated in a popular mission during Holy Week, I realized that I wanted to participate in more of these missions. Now I have participated in three missions and each one was both a unique and a wonderful experience. There are always expectations, some of which are fulfilled and others are not ... but the same motivation continues, namely, to help other come to a deeper knowledge of God and to serve each person who is met on the journey through life.



In the place where the mission was given there was a group of families who are members of an evangelical sect, but including these persons in the mission motivated them to open the doors of their homes to us. We were able to visit them in their homes and there we blessed their homes and prayed together with them. We dialogued together about their work and their difficulties and the wonderful things that they had experienced.

We felt that we were blessed as we were able to bring together more families. In fact there was a great satisfaction in seeing several of these families from another sect participate in every activity of the mission, including the Easter Triduum. At the same time it was also very impressive to see the manner in which children, young adults, and adults came together to offer an artistic presentation on Good Friday.

After having spent a week with these persons it was very difficult to leave them ... it almost seems impossible that we came to know one another so quickly. There are times when people participate in these popular missions and they think that they will not be able to motivate people to make a commitment with the church ... at other times people are afraid that they will not find the right words to speak or afraid that they will not be able to lead some gathering of the adult members of the community. When, however, people entrust all of this to the Spirit, when they ask that God might use them as his instrument in order to proclaim a message of salvation, then usually everything will be resolved in a fruitful manner. Yes, very often things will not go according to the way that one had planned, but with God's grace any difficulty can be overcome and very often things turn out better than one had planned.

There are experiences that help people to grow spiritually and strengthen their faith, experiences in which people can learn from others. The popular missions were a new experience for me and they taught me that ministry, no matter how humble, is always fruitful. I also learned to appreciate my parents ... and one of the greatest things that I learned was that no matter how many problems and difficulties I might have to confront as I walk through life, the grace of God will help me overcome those obstacles. I have no doubt that young missionaries and servants throughout the world can learn different lessons as a result of their ministry. If someone asks me next year if I want to participate in the popular missions, with much enthusiasm and surety I will say: WITH MUCH JOY AND WITH ALL MY HEART I WANT TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE LORD!



BEHIND THE CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS MISSIONARY

In a culture paradoxically suffering from anonymity and at the same time obsessed with the details of other people's lives, shamelessly given over to morbid curiosity, the Church must look more closely and sympathetically at others whenever necessary ... into this "art of accompaniment" which teaches us to remove our sandals before the sacred group of the other. The pace of this accompaniment must be steady and reassuring, reflecting our closeness and our compassionate gaze which also heals, liberates and encourages growth in the Christian life (EG, #169).

Did Jesus receive some type of preparation before he was anointed as the Messiah?

Yes, Jesus received a preparation from the Father (John 5:19) in order to form humankind in accord with what he had received from the Father (Matthew 15:6; John 4:10).

As a member of the VMY how can I imitate Jesus Christ, the greatest missionary? As a response, let me highlight ten characteristics of accompaniment.

Immersed in the people: Jesus did not live a life that was distinct

from the people, rather he was a prophet who traveled from place to place and was present in the life and the problems of people; he was continually sought out by the multitudes.

Shared the joys and sorrows of the people: Jesus was present at significant events in the life of people: weddings, when people mourned the death of a loved one; Jesus visited the sick and went to the synagogue.

Was filled with compassion for those who suffered: various biblical passages speak about Jesus' compassion with regard to people who found themselves in the midst of situations of poverty, hunger, and exploitation.

Stood with the poor and those who were despised: Jesus did not support the powerful but stood with the oppressed and defended their cause. The political and religious leaders of that era recognized that option ... Jesus said that those who are ill are the persons who need a doctor.

Passionate with regard to the life and the happiness of people: as Jesus began his public ministry he said: the Spirit of the Lord sent me to proclaim Good News to the poor, liberty to captives ... Jesus was engaged in this process of evangelization during the years of his public ministry ... he healed, encouraged, saved and said: I have come so that they might have life, the fullness of life.

Jesus looked for collaborators: recognizing the extent of the marginalization and the oppression of the people who were poor, Jesus realized that he had a great mission and needed many collaborators. Jesus lived with integrity so that his words and actions were in accord with one another. Jesus invited others to live with the same integrity and he himself practiced what he preached.

He spoke fearlessly: Jesus courageously denounced hypocrisy, opportunism,

authoritarianism, close-mindedness, and attachment to wealth. Threats from the powerful were not able to silence him.

He looked for strength in prayer: at the important moments in his life, especially moments of crisis, Jesus went off by himself to pray in order to define the path that he had to travel ... he looked for strength.

He was strong during trying times: while the apostles were fearful of Jesus' eventual tragic end he nevertheless proclaimed this reality to Peter who was unwilling to accept that fact. Jesus traveled to the cross and in the Garden and during his passion Jesus was not overcome by fear or discouragement. He remained silent and calm because he realized that no one could extinguish his life unless he himself generously surrendered his own life.

It is these characteristics that, for many years, have enabled me to serve and to be a missionary in the VMY. With Saint Vincent all of us ought to continue Jesus' mission. Today, more than ever before, it is necessary to share the joy of the gospel. In Mary we are able to come to an appreciation of the mystery of Pentecost because, like her, we seek for that opportunity to enter into contact with God as we reflect upon our history. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to accompany us on our journey through life.



Bienvenu Fouda
Volunteer for the French speaking countries

WE ARE SEARCHING FOR.....

A YOUNG PERSON WHO IS AVAIBLE AND JOYFUL....

To whomever I send you, you shall go (Jeremiah 1:7)



We want to continue to accompany the young men and women from the French speaking countries. We are hoping for a response from a good young person who desires to be on the front lines, in the midst of the social networks in order to engage in this noble ministry at the International Secretariat at the VMY which is located in Madrid, Spain. Help us to make this activity a reality at the Secretariat and we assure you that you will not be sorry.

Leave you comfort zone and take the risk of going to the peripheries (Saint Francis).

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AND SECRETARIAT

- The Director General of the VMY, Fr. Gregory Gay CM, has confirmed the following appointments: **Victor Joseph Umoren** (President of Nigeria), **António José Nunes Clemente** (President of Portugal), **Father Rajesh Lakra, CM** (Advisor, Northern India), **Sister Lynda OKPARAEKE** (Advisor of Nigeria).
- The team at the International Secretariat participated in the Rural Youth Celebration of Easter which was held in several Provinces, San Sebastián, Granada and Santa Luisa. This was a time for reflection and internalization. At the same time Yancarlos Carrasco participated in a popular mission with various religious communities in the Centro Penitenciario Murcia 2. This was a new experience to see Christ deprived of his freedom in the person of those prisoners.
- On May 10 and 11 the volunteers participated in 6th Phase of the Missionary Formation of the VMY in Spain. This involved reflection on the Social Doctrine of the Church and the Religious/Moral Ethics of the Church. There was sharing of experiences among the lay missionaries and with this course another phase of our formation was completed.
- On June 15th several young men and women from the Diocese of Madrid were sent forth as Missionaries, among these men and women was our volunteers from the Secretariat, Bienvenu Fouda. The Eucharist was presided by the Director of Pontifical Missionary Work in.
- On May 31st the VMY in Spain held a meeting in which the members of the International Secretariat served as catechists. The theme of this gathering was "give an expression to your gaze" and more than 1,200 young men and women participated.
- **We want to thank each and every one of the young men and women who enthusiastically and joyfully promoted the Campaign: One euro for me Association. This campaign was initiated during the season of Lent and continued until the end of the Easter Season. We hope to share with you the fruits of this initiative by providing the Advisors with this information when they gather together during the month of July in Paris. They in turn will then be able to provide this information to the local groups of their respective countries.**

