

International Bulletin

VINCENTIAN MARIAN YOUTH



VMY, rooted in Christ, sowers of hope!

INTRODUCTION...

Every work of love that is done with one's whole heart will always draw people closer to God (Mother Theresa of Calcutta).

My dear sisters and brothers, what a great blessing we have experienced as a Family during 2010! I refer to the many times that we have come together to celebrate significant events during this time in which we commemorated the 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac. While we have just concluded the celebration of the Jubilee Year we must remember that the work still continues.

We do not cease to give thanks to God, our creator, for having allowed us, as members of the Vincentian Marian Youth, to celebrate our III General Assembly during which, among many other things, we defined lines of action that we want to follow during the next five years.

One of the most awaited moments was the election of a new Council that will watch over and encourage our Association until our next Assembly. We give thanks to the out-going Council and we welcome the new Council.

International Council 2010-2015



This new team, together with the International Secretariat, has the task of animating the life of the Association.

This edition of our International Bulletin is especially dedicated to these activities of great significance for our lives as a Family and as an Association and therefore the content of this Bulletin is somewhat distinct from other editions but equally interesting.

Enjoy!



Yasmine Cajuste. (Haiti)
International President
presijmv@gmail.com



Argelys Vega (Panama)
Councilor America
america.jmv@gmail.com



Ghislain Ateazing (Cameroon)
Councilor Africa
africa.jmv@gmail.com



Karmen Kunc (Slovenia)
Councilor Europa
europa.jmv@gmail.com



Anh Nguyen (Vietnam)
Councilor Asia
asia.jmv@gmail.com

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



The III General Assembly of the Vincentian Marian Youth took place in Turcifal, a small community within the city of Lisbon, Portugal, from August 1 – 6 of the current year. Our Association gathered together under the motto: *VMY, rooted in Christ, sowers of hope!* One 157 persons from 38 countries participated and some individuals were unable to participate because of different problems with visas, but we are sure that they accompanied us with their prayers.

The participants in the Assembly made a pilgrimage to Fatima and this journey began with the recitation of the Rosary in different languages and concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist.

Without a doubt the General Assembly is always a significant event for our Association because it provides us with the opportunity to renew, develop and formulate better strategies so that our Association, on the international and national level, might continue to be attentive to the desires of the Blessed Virgin. For the majority of the delegates this was the first time that they had participated in such an event. It was a great blessing that the celebration of our General Assembly coincided with the celebration of the Jubilee Year to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac and at the same time coincided with the 180th anniversary of the first apparition of the Virgin Mary to Saint Catherine Laboure. Some might say: *What a coincidence!* But we all know that there are no coincidences for those who trust in God. This was planned long ago by Divine Providence in order to gift us with all of God's blessings through the intercession of our Saints and through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, our Mother. We give thanks to the Lord for the opportunity and the possibility of having been present and able to participate in this wonderful event. During this time together we were able to share experiences and dreams and share times of prayer and reflection. In this way we were able to know one another in a more profound way and recognize your presence, Lord Jesus, in our midst!



FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly elaborated lines of action in what is now called the **Final Document**, and this represents our commitment and our Pastoral Plan for the next five years. Here the word *final* might very well indicate a beginning ... a beginning of new tasks, stages, and projects that have been born or will be given life in light of this document.

The Final Document consists of five parts or dimensions. The first dimension deals with the **Spiritual Life** which as we know strengthens our growth as persons and as children of God. An **Integral Formation** is necessary so that we might be assisted in defending the dignity of the human person and proclaiming our faith with conviction ... for this reason this was established as the second dimension. The third dimension deals with **Service and Mission** and here we look at the new forms of poverty that are part of our reality. **The Vincentian Family** also had to be included in our document because the reality of being members of a family leads us to work together on behalf of those who have less. In light of the challenges of the financial situation of many groups of our Association we felt it necessary to include a section of **Self-financing** as a commitment that we must continue to work at.

We have prepared a guide for the celebration of the Eucharist as well as a PowerPoint presentation and a triptych which we have made available to you on our web page. All of this is done with the intention of facilitating the presentation of the Final Document in your respective countries. We are hopeful that this material will be useful to you.

There is still much to do and the path is long, but with the help of Mary we will obtain the goal. Our mission, our task as Christian Catholics, as laymen and laywomen, as people who hold Mary as our Mother and as Vincentians, as members of the Church is be active participants because much is expected from ourselves as young people. Thus we are invited to sow the seeds of hope in the VMY and to become more and more rooted in Jesus Christ.



International Encounters



FIRST AFRICAN ENCOUNTER LISBON 2010

From July 28-31, before the beginning of our General Assembly, the First African Encounter in the history of the VMY was celebrated. 32 individuals from 7 countries participated in this event which included the presence of 4 lay young people, 7 representatives from the International Team, volunteers from the VMY in Portugal, and Advisors of the Association (Daughters of Charity and members of the Congregation of the Mission). Many young people were unable to participate because they did not obtain their visas in time, but we know that they accompanied us with their prayers. Leaving aside the fact that only a few countries participated, we can say that this time provided us with an opportunity to know in a direct way the reality of the Association in this part of the world. Africa is a continent with its distinct social and economic reality and has much to contribute to the Church ... this was very evident in the four young persons, in the advisors, the priests and religious women who participated in the Encounter. We are encouraged that they did not lose hope and that they continue to be light and hope for others. Above all their voices became the cries of a people who deserve to be heard and supported.

International Young Vincentians Meeting MADRID 2011

During the summer of 2011 the following events will be held:

First, the *International Young Vincentians Meeting* will take place from August 12-15 under the motto: "*Vincentian, a lifestyle for today*".

As everyone is aware, the second event is the celebration of *World Youth Day* from August 16-21. The motto of this event is "*Grounded and built on Christ, firm in the faith*".

All of this has one objective: to celebrate our Christian faith with other young people from throughout the world and to proclaim the reality that the Vincentian charism is alive in us today.

In order to prepare for this event: we will publish 5 catechetical lessons that will help us deepen ourselves in the Vincentian charism (see blog).

The last date to register for these events: April 1st, 2011.

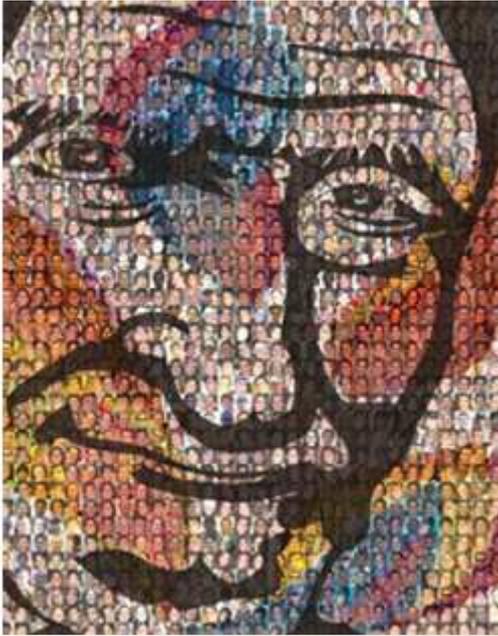
You can contact us at: Preparatory Commission jmj2011fv@gmail.com
Blog: <http://jmj2011famvin.99.org/>

*Spread the news!
We hope to see you!*



CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF THE V.F.

Fr. Pavol Noga *Sub-director International*



On September 25th in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, representatives of all the branches of the Vincentian Family gathered together to celebrate the Eucharist on the occasion of the closing of the Jubilee Year. I ask myself: *was this really the end? What did this time mean for me?* I dare to raise these questions in the name of our Association.

With the official closing of the Jubilee Year I have before me an image from the last act of the World Youth Day celebration that was held in Colonia, 2005. At that time the Pope drew to a close all the different events that accompanied this celebration. I remember that we remained in the plaza, among the remains of food and the garbage and we asked one another: *Now what? Is this all that remains?* ... No, because what we experienced during those days did not end there but rather it was the beginning of a new pride in being a young person and being Catholic and recognizing the face of Christ in our lives.

I am also convinced that the closing of the Jubilee Year of our Vincentian Family is not the end but is a time to renew ourselves in our pride in being young people and Vincentians, a time to become even more aware of the gifts that Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac have given to us. We need to continue to discover the heritage and the richness that these Founders have entrusted to us. Even though they died 350 years ago, they will always live; they have no date of death because the poor are always and will always be among us.

Personally this year has given me the desire to go further and I want to tell you that I have much faith in the young women and men of the VMY. I ask you to have the courage to go beyond the official celebrations and see with the eyes of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise the new forms of poverty, the new signs and challenges that are in front of us. In this way we will become truly convinced and proud to be the bearers of hope in the same way as our founders were. I desire this with all my heart.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL AND SECRETARIAT



★ During the last few months Father General has confirmed the following appointments National Advisors: **Fr. Jesús Palau, CM** (Honduras), **Sister Nelly Beatriz Díaz Yaguana, DC** (Ecuador), **Fr. Clément Ondoua, CM** (Cameroon), **Fr. Tomas Brezani, CM** (Slovakia), **Sister María del Socorro Pinto Mira, DC** (Guatemala). During the same time period the National Statutes of **Ecuador** and the **Ivory Coast** were approved.

★ From July 9-11 Fr. Pavol participated in the National Encounter of the VMY of the Czech Republic which was held in Vranov ... 80 individuals participated in this event.

★ From August 23-27 Argelys (International Councilor) and Katarína (Volunterr) participated in the Encounter of Advisors which was held in Sinjak, Ukraine. After this gathering they visited some groups of the VMY.

★ On September 24th Ghislain Atemezing (International Councilor) spoke to representatives of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society about service projects that are being carried out by our Association.

★ Our International Councilor, Karmen Kunc, represented us on September 25th on the occasion of the official closing of the Jubilee Year and in **GioVin2010** which was also held in Rome.

★ Because of technical problems at the International Secretariat, the e-mails (telefonica) are not functioning. Therefore we ask that any information that you wish to send us or information that you need from us should be directed to the following e-mail accounts:

Sub-director General : secinterjmv@gmail.com

International Delegate : delinterjmv@gmail.com

English Volunteer: english.jmv@gmail.com

Spanish Volunteer: espanoljmv@gmail.com

French Volunteer: françaisjmv@gmail.com

Portuguese Volunteer: portugues.jmv@gmail.com

