

## The Editor

After a break from *Nuntia*, we gather now the most relevant news of the *Being and Doing* of the Congregation in the world. This issue gives news from the months of July, August, and September.

Not long ago we celebrated the feast of our Holy Founder, asking through him that the Spirit of God help us to “*put on the spirit of Christ*” (CR, I, 3), “*for growing in the holiness which our vocation calls for*” (CR, XII, 13). In this way, we can continue being Good News for the poor.

## International Meetings

### Visitors’ Meeting, New York, 2013

“It is my hope that our time together in these days will be a ‘transfiguration’ of sorts, that our meeting will be a transforming event, deepening our love of Jesus and Saint Vincent ... to recognize our responsibility for a great heritage, from Saint Vincent and the first missionaries to our day; to be docile to the Holy Spirit, who wishes to make more dynamic our fidelity in creativity to the Mission; to commit ourselves to recreate the charism, attentive to the signs of the times.”

With these words the Superior General opened the Visitors’ Meeting held in New York from 1-15 July 2013.

During the meeting, the confreres had the opportunity to share and be enriched with the different forms of expression of Vincentian spirituality, developed in the diversities that our continents present. But they especially emphasized reflecting, deepening, and seeking concrete expressions to the challenges and the lines of action arising from the 2010 Assembly.



This led them to explore the different areas that stimulate the life of the Congregation, such as dialog in search of “Creative Fidelity” in the realization of the same. Among these it is necessary to point out: formation, re-configuration, dialog with the poor, dialog with the Vincentian Family, creativity in our ministry, and the methodology of systemic change, among others.

It is also worth pointing out that the Preparatory Commission for this meeting, coordinated by Joe Agostino, worked arduously, which was reflected in the good development of the meeting. The confreres of the host province, together with the staff of Saint John’s University, took pains to be good hosts and provide the necessary resources for the successful implementation of this meeting.

We are grateful to the Preparatory Commission, to the confreres of the Province of USA - East, to Saint John’s University, to all the Visitors, and to all those whose material and human resources made it possible to carry out this meeting.





## International Meeting of Provincial Treasurers, Paris, 2013

From 5-7 August, the International Meeting of Provincial Treasurers was held. The Treasurer General, Joseph Geders, prepared the topics it addressed. In carrying out the meeting, he counted on the help of his assistant, Mr. Michele Mifsud, and the logistical service of the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity in Paris.

Among the topics covered can be highlighted the contextualization, reflection, and deepening that Father Geders made in relating the current situation of the provinces, the Congregation in general, and the world financial situation. They also shared examples of the transformation of some real estate for better economic benefit. These examples were presented to provoke dialog in search of financial alternatives within the provinces. Among the other topics were: in-depth discussions on the role of treasurers, on aspects related to Solidarity in the Mission, as well as on seeking funds for VSO's projects.

## Meeting of the SIEV Commission

The SIEV Commission met in Rome on 19 September to discuss current and new projects, including a survey it formulated for the Visitors at their July meeting. Its purpose was to seek their opinions, solicit new ideas, and to identify confreres in their provinces able to be researchers and to write on Vincentian history and spirituality. The Visitors were most helpful in articulating their needs from SIEV for their provinces. In each of the three language groups, the majority of Visitors chose either spirituality and/or history as their main interest. They also helped SIEV by indicating numbers of available personnel from their provinces who could serve as the "next generation" of researchers, writers, and translators.

The SIEV Commission discussed the results of this survey at length and then made some recommendations to the General Council.

At this meeting, the SIEV Commission decided to define what is meant by "Vincentian Studies." After discussion, the following was adopted, pending approval of the General Council:

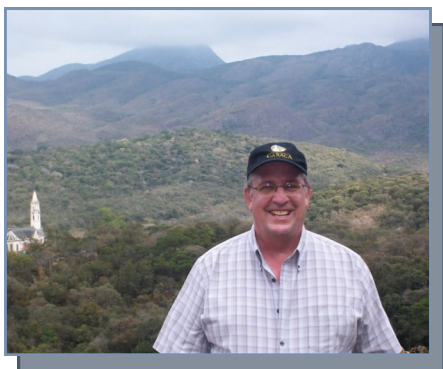
- *We define "Vincentian history" as: the study of the Congregation and its provinces; of various branches of the Vincentian Family and related lay and religious movements; of specific works, ministries, and undertakings within the Family; and biographies/memoirs of significant figures within Vincentian history.*
- *We define "Vincentian spirituality" as: the exploration of the lives, writing, and spiritual development of our Founders, Saints Vincent and Louise, our saints and blessed and other significant Vincentian figures; themes and strands within the Vincentian charism; and its concrete expressions in our apostolates, pastoral care, and ministries.*

The Commission also agreed to participate in and promote two symposia in 2014. One is on the topic of "An Exploration of the French School of Spirituality" sponsored by the Paris Province and several French religious communities in Paris. It will be held at the Motherhouse from 30 June to 4 July. The other, sponsored by the Commission on Islam-Christian Dialogue, will be held at DePaul University in Chicago, USA, from 29 June to 8 July. SIEV will assist in publicizing and promoting these two symposia, as they are excellent opportunities for ongoing formation.

Finally, SIEV Commission members noted that, in 2017, the Congregation will celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the mission at Folleville, the "conversion experience" of Saint Vincent, which we often consider the "spiritual foundation date" of the Congregation. Discussion was held on how to promote this important anniversary as a time of renewal for the Congregation and the Vincentian Family. SIEV will work to make more digital resources on Vincentian history and spirituality available so as to assist confreres and members of the Vincentian Family on this important occasion.

The next SIEV Commission meeting is in January 2014 at the Motherhouse in Paris.





## Activities of the Superior General

As we know, our Superior General has an agenda quite full of work in the animation of the Congregation of the Mission, the Daughters of Charity, and other branches of the Vincentian Family. He shares one of those experiences.

### Visit of the Superior General to Kazakhstan

From 14-17 September, the Superior General, accompanied by Stanislaw Zontak, Assistant General, visited the confreres and the Daughters of Charity in Kazakhstan.

On Sunday, 15 September, he met and greeted the faithful at the conclusion of Mass in Szortandy (a city approximately 80 km from the capital, Astana), where the confreres, Maciej Mech, Paweł Kucharski, and Leszek Smakosz, live and work. Later he celebrated Mass with the faithful in the community in Nova Kubanka. After Mass, he met the people in a room adjoining the church and talked personally with them. Some people shared the story of their lives, as well as their process of conversion. They are a simple people with very deep faith.

In late evening, the Superior General met the Daughters of Charity of the three communities of Kazakhstan (Szortandy, Nova Kubanka, and Astana) in Szortandy and he had a long conversation with them on the Vincentian vocation and the situation of both companies in the world.

On Monday, 16 September, he paid a visit to the Archbishop of Astana, together with the Visitor of Poland, the Provincial Treasurer, and the confreres who work in Kazakhstan. During the meeting they covered various topics referring to the service of the confreres in the Archdiocese of Astana.

Later the Superior General visited the community of the Daughters of Charity in Astana in a very poor and abandoned neighborhood. Before ending the day with the celebration of Mass, he met the local authorities of Szortandy, where he indicated his desire that their presence should be of significant help too with mutual cooperation for the human development of the local populations. He showed his satisfaction and happiness that relations between the communities of brothers and sisters and the local authorities are very good and expressed his hope that they continue deepening in the future.

On Tuesday, 17 September, the Superior General went to the small town of Piotrovka, where the confreres have begun constructing the church and he blessed the foundation with the hope that the work will be completed within a year. After the meeting and prayer with the faithful of the city, he visited the mayor.

The confreres carry out their pastoral work in 30 communities, and this number is growing, because they discover other regions, cities, and villages where there are Christians, who for a long time have not had any contact with a priest, religious, or another person who encourages them pastorally. Some communities have been able to transform any house into a chapel. In other situations, they meet families ready to offer their homes as places of prayer and adoration.

The Superior General visited some of these places and in the evening he celebrated Mass with the faithful of Kankrynka, where the believers of other neighboring areas gathered. At the end of the Mass, the faithful, in their kindness and simplicity, spoke about their happiness, hopes, and difficulties. All of them expressed their desire that this type of visit should be more frequent, since it already made them feel part of the universal Church and assured them that they are not abandoned and forgotten in these places "lost" in an immense steppe.







## *The Congregation of the Mission in the Vincentian Family*

### **International Meeting of Young Vincentians**

*“Young Vincentians, Missionaries of Charity: Let us go to the poor,”* this motto met the Young Vincentians in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, from 19-22 July, to deepen their vocation and Vincentian spirituality, share their experiences of service of the poor, and develop closer ties of Vincentian fraternity. Held in the “City of Saint Vincent de Paul’s Boys,” a great charitable work developed by Vincentian laymen from the SSVP, the meeting had the participation of 1200 persons, representing ten branches of the Vincentian Family from 20 countries.

Moments of prayer, Eucharistic celebrations, catechesis, workshops, guided visits to Vincentian works, cultural and recreational moments marked four days, in climate of much happiness and fraternity and with good organization. The meeting, by the content of the reflections, the richness of the conviviality, and the creative participation in the celebrations, was very enriching. In addition, it provided the young persons with the beautiful experience of being and living as members of the larger Vincentian Family, with a common, very current and daring, ideal and with the challenge of walking in close collaboration and in a spirit of communion.

The presence of Yasmine Cajuste, International President of the JMV, of Gregory Gay, Superior General of the CM and the DC, of Michael Thio, International President of the SSVP, of Philippe Mura, Superior General of the Religious of SVP, and of Maria Rosa Monesso, MISEVI’s International Coordinator, was a motive of happiness and incentive for all the participants. The absence of representatives from some European countries, where the Vincentian Family is strong and numerous, was regretted.

In their creative way of being, their enthusiasm and generosity, the young persons celebrated their faith and renewed their Vincentian commitment of service of the poor. They manifested the force of the call that the Vincentian ideal has with youth, who, when well supported, can do much to transform and rejuvenate Vincentian practices and organizations in view of the growth and revitalization of the Vincentian service of the poor.






## *The Congregation of the Mission in the Vincentian Family*


### **To administer the heritage of the poor as wise stewards**



*A workshop for members of the Vincentian Family to examine principles and practices of asset management.*


From 9-11 August 2013, a symposium was held for members of the International Vincentian Family. This symposium, sponsored by the Vincentian Studies Institute of DePaul University, was held at the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity, rue du Bac, Paris. There were three days of workshops that included presentations, case studies, and discussions. Five key topics of asset management were covered, as seen from the perspectives of Catholic Social Teaching and the Vincentian tradition.


### **The principal topics were:**

 **Transparency** with Christine Peeters, former treasurer of AIC International, Belgium. Transparency, or simplicity, is an essential virtue of the Vincentian Family. For the good of the mission, it is indispensable that we present ourselves as we are.

 **Stewardship** with Roger Playwin, Executive Director of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, USA. Wise stewardship of the patrimony involves caring for all the goods of creation that God has entrusted to us, including material goods and our personal gifts. The good use of creation is our responsibility since all human endeavors take place within a limited and finite context. This leads us to live ecology in a Christian manner.

  **Sustainability** with Sister Joyce Weller, DC, Executive Director, Daughters of Charity Foundation, Los Angeles, California, USA, and Mr. Conway Collis, President and CEO of GRACE Our tradition is inspired by a balance between an efficient effort to assure the continuation of our works and great trust in Divine Providence, which supplies goods for God's most beloved children and guides our actions at every step.

 **Collaboration** with Christine Littlefield, Senior Communications and Fundraising, DePaul Ireland. Collaboration is essential for the present and future of Vincentian efforts, and should consider the different opportunities to work together both within the Vincentian Family and also with other persons and institutions that share our mission or want to help us build a better world where justice and charity reign.

 **Corruption** with Susan Braatz, Senior Forestry Officer of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy. Vincentian stewards know that they carry out their tasks in the midst of a society and some sectors that often are subject to corruption or the structures of sin, out of which resources are devia-

The participants reflected on and penetrated the thought and spirituality of Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Louise de Marillac, Blessed Frederick Ozanam, and contemporary Catholic Social Teaching. The symposium was seeking as aim to help the members of FAMVIN to use the patrimony of the poor wisely through a practice of careful and sustainable asset management. Participants reflected on the management of certain types of assets: human beings, finances, investments, properties, physical plant, fundraising, governmental practices, etc.

In addition, they shared experiences through case studies (including the means by which provinces/institutions have become self-sustaining, fought corruption, and become sensitive to cultural and ecological concerns). The symposium provided the necessary ideas in the search for a contemporary model for sustainable Vincentian asset management to share with the International Vincentian Family.





## The Congregation of the Mission in the World: New Missionaries



**“I would like to live my life to serve the poor.” Toshio Sato, the first Japanese confrere.**

Born and raised in Fukushima, Japan, Toshio Sato earned his undergraduate degree in international economics and dreamed of a successful career in business. However, Toshio felt called to move “in a very unexpected direction” while working at a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Japanese Consulate in Chicago.

Toshio comes from Buddhism. In the following interview, he explains his process of conversion.

### Inspired by a “living faith”

***Toshio, you are a convert to Catholicism. Who and what led you to the Catholic Church?***

*God blessed me through this job by allowing me to meet a Japanese Catholic who showed me a “living faith.” While reading [her Bible], the teachings of Jesus came alive to me through the living faith of my Catholic friend. I could see the glimpses of this living faith in her response to God’s love through her daily concrete actions to others. After several years of working at the Consulate, I pursued a master’s degree in public service management at DePaul University in Chicago. Through the program, I met so many young Catholics who desired to serve others selflessly as a career, especially those who are most marginalized and neglected by society. Their energy, sincere care for humanity, and solidarity with the poor gave me inexplicable tranquility and tremendous respect. They inspired me so much that I started visiting Catholic churches. I began volunteering at a sandwich window at St. Vincent de Paul parish in Chicago. It was there that my eyes and heart were opened to those who came for food. I was able to recognize the faces of the poor on the street as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. These were the same faces that previously I had not paid attention to.*

***You are a vowed member of the Congregation of the Mission. Please tell us why St. Vincent de Paul and his company are so inspiring for you.***

*At DePaul University, for the first time in my life, I met Vincentian priests. Their unwavering and genuine focus on the benefit for the poor and marginalized deeply touched me. For them, “the end” is unambiguously clear: to serve the marginalized most effectively through shared leadership and by educating others to be leaders themselves. This made me wonder about a life devoted completely to serving “the least ones” who are marginalized in our society, those whom Jesus told us to serve as if they were his own brothers and sisters. Discovering that there are Vincentian priests actually doing this solved a part of my discernment puzzle. My desire to serve those in need with my whole being grew more ... I would like to live my life to serve the poor, our masters, and to be evangelized by them as St. Vincent was, following Jesus as our model.*

His unshakeable commitment to those who live in poverty touched him deeply. He entered the Vincentian Seminary and completed his formation and education at Saint John’s Seminary in Camarillo, California. Toshio was ordained on 27 June 2013 in Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Saint Louis, Missouri. During his formation he served with joy in many Vincentian ministries as a volunteer and as a seminarian – from California to Kenya. Toshio was sent to his first assignment as Parish Vicar in the Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Dallas.



## The Congregation of the Mission in the World: New Missionaries



### Surabaya, Indonesia: Priestly Ordination

On the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 15 August 2013, thirteen deacons (eight from the diocese of Surabaya, four from the CM, and one from C.J.D.) were ordained as priests by Msgr. Vincentius Sutikno, Bishop of Surabaya. There were about 140 priests and 2000 people present at the ceremony.

In his homily Bishop Vincentius highlighted the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary as a model and concrete example for our life, both as priests and people of God. “Mary was faithful in seeking God’s will in her whole life. Her fidelity brought her to the perfection as Mother of God and as people of God. You, especially the new priests, should strive continuously to live according to Mary’s example for this is our only offering to God and our dedication for the people of God.”

At the end of the celebration, Robertus Wijanarko, Visitor of Indonesia, announced the assignments for our new priests: Gregorius Kukuh Nugroho is assigned as an animator for our school in Lazaris Foundation and as assistant parish priest in Christ the King Parish, Surabaya. Henricus Yuli Kurniawan is sent as assistant parish priest in St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Batulicin-South Kalimantan. Yustinus Edi Purwanto is assigned as Director of Popular Mission and as assistant parish priest in St. Joseph Parish, Kediri. Petrus Hastomo Aribie, the third Vincentian priest from our mission in West Kalimantan, is sent as assistant parish priest in Holy Cross Parish, Jakarta.

### European Interprovincial Internal Seminary

On 14 September the opening of the European Interprovincial Internal Seminary was held in Naples with six seminarians (one from Portugal, one from Saragossa, one from Rome, one from Naples, two from the Region of Albania), under the responsibility of the formation team composed of Roberto D’Amico (Director), Lorenzo Manca, and F. M. Cardozo. In addition, a diocesan priest (candidate for the Province of Naples) began his Internal Seminary under the responsibility of Giuseppe Fiorentino; he will take part in some formative activities of the Interprovincial Internal Seminary. Present were Eli Chaves, representative of the Superior General; the Visitors of the Provinces of Naples, Rome, Turin, Portugal, Saragossa, Barcelona, and the Orient; representatives of the Visitors of Salamanca and Madrid; several confreres and lay friends.

Father D’Amico, in a meeting with the representatives of the provinces, presented the broad and detailed Plan of Formation and several practical matters, related to the running of the Seminary, were studied. At the Eucharist, celebrated with the requisite solemnity and presided by Eli Chaves, the Director officially declared the Admission of the Internal Seminarians. When the Mass concluded, those present met for a moment of fraternity, where they could externalize all their joy and hope with this significant interprovincial collaborative effort in the formation of our own.

May the European Interprovincial Internal Seminary, now in Naples, continue producing much fruit of renewal and missionary activity for our European Provinces. May God bless this work, because the cries of the poor are great, but the workers are few!







## Nominaciones / Confirmaciones

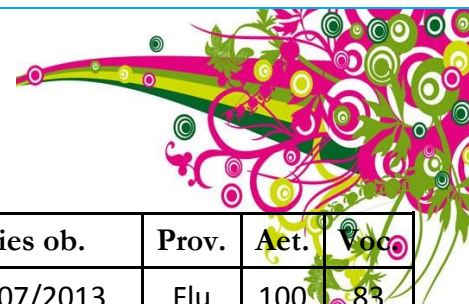
VAN DORPE Raymond Anthony	Appointed 03/16/2013 Assumed office 06/28/2013	Visitor Western Province USA
SPISLA Fabiano	Reappointed 08/01/2013	Visitor Province of Curitiba, Brazil
CAAMAÑO DOMINGUEZ José Ignacio	Reappointed 09/12/2013	Director DC Province of Barcelona, Spain

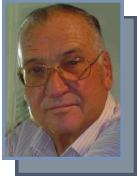
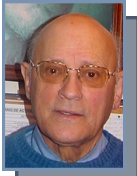

## Ordinaciones

DINH QUANG HUNG Joseph Cuong	Sac	Vtn	01/06/2013
NGUYEN ANH Joseph Linh	Sac	Vtn	01/06/2013
NGUYEN DUC Pierre Trung	Sac	Vtn	01/06/2013
PHAM VAN Joseph Diem	Sac	Vtn	01/06/2013
PHAN TIEN Paul Dung	Sac	Vtn	01/06/2013
SATO Toshio	Sac	Occ	27/06/2013
MANCA Lorenzo	Sac	Nea	29/06/2013
MARTINELLI Giuseppe	Sac	Nea	29/06/2013
SIRICA Mario	Sac	Nea	29/06/2013
FONDIYI KONGNYUY Divine Cyril	Sac	Par	29/06/2013
PRINČIČ Tilen	Sac	Sln	29/06/2013
MAÑOSCA Cardozo Faiver	Sac	Nea	28/07/2013
EDI PURWANTO Yustinus	Sac	Ids	15/08/2013
HASTOMO ARBIE Petrus	Sac	Ids	15/08/2013
KUKUH NUGROHO Gregorius	Sac	Ids	15/08/2013
YULI KURNIAWAN Henricus	Sac	Ids	15/08/2013
AKACHUKWU Ndubuisi Leonard	Sac	Nig	16/08/2013
ANIEKOP Ifiok Pius	Sac	Nig	16/08/2013
OKOLO Cosmas Chukwubuiem	Sac	Nig	16/08/2013
UCHE Emmanuel Okechukwu	Sac	Nig	16/08/2013
UMETIETIE Esigbemi Ambrose	Sac	Nig	16/08/2013
MUTABAZI Alexis	Sac	Col	18/08/2013



## Necrologium



Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
PEREIRA ALVES José Moacir	Sac	30/07/2013	Flu	100	83
ARANA JIMÉNEZ Segundo 	Sac	29/08/2013	Per	81	64
FERNÁNDEZ CASANOVA Pedro 	Sac	31/08/2013	Cae	81	64
ROUEL Emile	Sac	10/09/2013	Ori	86	67
LEWICKI Jarosław 	Sac	12/09/2013	Pol	58	38
WILLEMET Pierre	Sac	12/09/2013	Par	87	70
DEBORTOLI José	Sac	03/10/2013	Flu	79	60



***Requiescat in pace***