



OZANAM NETWORK



International General Council - Society of St Vincent de Paul



Porto 2019 Meeting Of The International Structure

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Editorial

Three years of hard work!

On September 9th, 2019, our mandate as 16th President General of the International Confederation is halfway, having completed three years of service. During this time, with a committed international Board and diligent employees in Paris, we have been able to carry out many projects, programmes and initiatives that have marked the intense work of the International General Council.



These have been three years full of achievements, but also of hard work. I have had the opportunity of visiting more than 30 countries, and therefore I have been learning from all of you in regards to the strength and universality of our Society. To be the President General is a privilege, a blessing, a gift of God and, above all, an incomparable service to the fellow members and to the assisted people.

Some examples that motivate us: we have spread the presence of the SSVP to four more countries (Liberia, Cayman Islands, Cyprus and Albania). We are effectively recalling the memory of the seven founders with a set of activities aimed at knowing them better: Thematic years, contest of essays, film festival, a new song, publications, visit to their graves, etc.

I thank God for the opportunity He has offered me to continue the work of my predecessors, always seeking to act with humility, dialogue and charity, especially concerning my weaknesses.

We have improved the communication and the transparency: launching of the magazine "Ozanam Network", new institutional video, Ozanam TV, strong presence in the social media, more and better reports. We have strengthened the training and formation tools: new study modules, new manuals and new books. We are trying to give an increasing voice and participation to young people, children and adolescents, with various initiatives: launching of the "World Youth Day" (4th July), special collection and promoting world meetings on a regular basis.

I thank God for the perseverance that He has given us to face with strength, prayer and faith, the difficulties that we have found and that we will find on the road. I also take this opportunity to thank, with all my heart, all the Vincentians who help us with some work in the International Structure, the staff of the Parisian head office and the Superior Councils, which revitalize our zeal, ideas and enthusiasm for keeping the same dedication and commitment. I also thank my family for their support, company and understanding.

We have got even closer to the Vincentian Family, the Church, the United Nations and other global entities. We will have a new head office, more modern and larger than that, God willing, will host us in the forthcoming months to face the future of the General Council in an appropriate way.

Thank you for everything. Let us keep together over the next three years, until 2022! Together in unity, charity and harmony, trying to do the best for our dear SSVP, as we are simple instruments of God, knowing that everything we do is not for us but for the greater glory of God.

Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th PGI



Do you know Paul Lamache?



A distinguished Professor of Law, and above all, one of the seven founders of the first Conference of Charity in 1833, close friend of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, he was one of the first people to denounce slavery. Council General has found an important document, providing a portrait of him. It is an article from 1933 (the centenary year of our association) published in a weekly magazine from Grenoble entitled “La Croix de l’Isère”. Through many anecdotes, we discover this good man, brilliant but also deeply pious and humble, whose simple life continues to astonish and inspire us.

Some memories

Article published in the weekly magazine “La Croix de l’Isère”, Sunday 11 June 1933, Grenoble.



At this time of celebration for the centenary of the Conferences of Saint Vincent de Paul, it is of interest to us to read something of the character of Paul Lamache, who lived in Grenoble for seventeen years, and who was one of the promoters of this fine institution.

He was born in Saint-Pierre-Eglise, in Normandy, in 1810. His family was Christian to the core, as indicated by the simple though unusual fact that for more than a century, without a break, a member of the Lamache family had served as the parish priest of Pernelle.

The family was almost totally ruined by the revolution. Yet at the same time, it offered Paul’s ancestors the opportunity to serve the banned religion. Priests were hidden in the small family home of Saint-Pierre-Eglise; the reliquary which adorned the altar where Mass was said has survived.

Paul Lamache had to leave his birthplace early in life, as his studies took him first to Rouen, then to Paris.

It was in Paris he first came to know Ozanam. Although they came from different parts of the country, many circumstances brought them close together: both were sons of doctors, and had a brother who was a priest.

They observed the influence of Voltaire among their fellow students, and there were many stormy discussions. One day in 1833, as they were leaving a meeting, Ozanam turned to his friends, especially Lamache, and said: “Don’t you think it’s time we turned our talk into action, and demonstrated the strength of our faith through what we do?”



They all received this idea enthusiastically, and a few days later, in Paul Lamache's small room in the Corneille boarding house, the first seven Conference members met together.

Paris is indebted to the same initiative for another notable institution. It was this group of inseparable friends, Ozanam, Lallier and Lamache, who visited Archbishop de Quelen on 13 January 1834, to ask for some religious instruction from the episcopal pulpit, addressed particularly to the young people in the universities and schools. The conferences of Notre Dame shortly after responded to this wish, with so many well-known speakers who went on to save so many souls.

We might now set aside, if it were possible, the great things in which he was involved during his youth, and follow the more modest path of his life, addressing its principal stages.

After finishing his studies, and gaining his doctorate in law, Paul Lamache first attempted to find a direction in life. He started practising at the Paris bar, contributed to various legal and literary reviews, in particular helping to found the *Correspondant*, and made some impression through several minor published works. He holds the honour of being the very first person, in 1842, to call for the emancipation of slaves. His brother, Abbé Jérôme Lamache, who became parish priest of Saint Pierre (Basse-Terre) in Guadeloupe, documented his life; this priest had a major influence on the Blacks, who saw him as a saviour.

As a modest and unknown pioneer, Paul Lamache led the way for some of the most famous of the campaigners against slavery, such as Cardinal Lavigerie, who continued in his footsteps during the rest of the century.

At the time he was beginning to gather the documents which his already mature talent would put to good use in his writings on slavery, Paul Lamache had some concerns about his own future: not only was he trying to become a magistrate, but he was even more anxious to establish a household for himself. Uncertainty about the future, the lack of a permanent job or paid employment meant that he feared his most legitimate wishes would be indefinitely postponed. Writing to a friend about

to marry, and commenting on his own position, he adds: "As for your poor friend Lamache, he has every reason to fear that he will need to resign himself to spending the rest of his life on the a tough, difficult path of virtue."

Divine goodness came to the rescue of his wishes, and shortly after, in February 1843, he married Henriette d'Humbersin, daughter of a lieutenant-colonel in the artillery, and granddaughter of Philippe Lebon d'Humbersin, the inventor of gas-lighting; she would be his companion for half a century.

Throughout his life he kept his love for people living in poverty and for the Conferences of Saint Vincent de Paul, as this somewhat amusing point indicates: In an attic room in Saint-Bruno parish in Grenoble, there lived a fine old lady, much burdened by her years. She was Lamache's favourite person to visit. He was no longer very young, and the staircase was steep, but nonetheless he visited her regularly. Whenever he had seen her, whenever he spoke about her, his face lit up with such happiness, that one day, Mme Lamache said, laughing: "Paul, you know I will soon be growing jealous of your old lady!". He was always sensitive to poverty, but unfortunately, he did not have the wealth of Croesus! However, he did everything he could to help people who were suffering, as this anecdote shows:

When visiting a needy family, he noticed a poor young girl, a worker, who seemed as if she might become humpbacked. On his second visit, he saw her condition had worsened. But where could he find the resources needed to pay for the sick girl to be treated? He immediately thought of his main source of help, namely the Carthusians. But only a few days earlier he had been to the Grande-Chartreuse monastery, to hold out his hand for alms for the poor! Without further ado, he took up his pen to write to the Father Prior, but said to his wife that he was afraid of being turned down this time.

By return of post, the blessed envelope arrived, with the grant requested. The good monks never refused to assist him in his work.

It seems right to mention here that Lamache lived surrounded by his family. Only a few years ago, Adrienne and Marie Lamache, his daughters, died



within a short time of each other.

Doctor Lamache, of St-Marcellin, preceded them to the grave. Throughout his career, even more than the others, this man continued his father's apostolate in the area. Feeling his end near, he spoke to me as follows, summing up his life: "I trust the gates of Heaven will be open to me, by the efforts of the little children I baptised after they were born, and those of the people to whom I ministered as they were dying". Indeed, without his vigils, how many would have died without the sacraments!

Many of Paul Lamache's grandchildren heard God's call. One of them, Maurice Lamache, son of M. Lamache, established in Lyon, became a priest; his sister Elisabeth, became a Good Shepherd nun, and finally, the doctor's daughter, Marie Lamache, superior of the Visitation convent in Vif, died just a few months ago.

I recall the story that, when Paul Lamache was close to death, a member of the Conferences of Saint Vincent de Paul devotedly accepted the task of caring for his benefactor. This member, a carpenter, had arrived in Grenoble in poverty, with a family to look after, and remembered the kindness shown to him at that time by M. Lamache.

This was not the end of his gratitude; several years later, when Mme Lamache, very elderly, could no longer go out, he visited her often, and when, just shortly before her death, when she was still fully conscious but losing her sight, she asked for someone to read her some pious work, he once more took on his caring role and read to her.

I will end with one more story concerning Paul Lamache and Dom Bosco. The imminent canonisation of the holy Father makes this pious memory more topical.

M. Lamache had been in Grenoble for a few years, when his wife became seriously ill: she could no longer eat, and the doctors had given her up. In human terms, there was nothing more could be done. But in his deep faith, Paul Lamache, learning that Dom Bosco was visiting Grenoble, tried one last hope. Passing through the crowd could be seen an elderly, white-haired man. He knelt before the saintly

priest, asked for his blessing and begged him to pray for his wife to be cured.

Dom Bosco seemed to reflect:

- Do something for the poor which costs you a great deal! Are your daughters holding onto any family jewels?
- Yes!
- Well, let them send them for the work of my parish of Mary Help of Christians.

As might be imagined, the sacrifice was a hard one. But nonetheless, a few days later, the family's little treasures were offered. And a dispatch arrived from Dom Bosco, saying: "The cure will be obtained if it is necessary for salvation". Mme Lamache lived another twenty years!

When recalling the past in this way, and the good which was done then, through Paul Lamache's generosity, it is as if we are taking part in a pilgrimage to St Roch, to kneel at the tomb of someone who contained in himself and practised Christ's good works, in such a supernatural way.

Visiting the tomb of Paul Lamache

As part of the events organised throughout Paul Lamache's Thematic Year, and as is customary since this initiative was launched by the Council General International, on September 9th, some CGI Board members will visit and pay tribute to the tomb of the SSVF co-founder, Paul Lamache, which is located in the city of Grenoble (France).



Family photo at the annual CGI meeting in Porto



MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURE PORTO 2019

FROM 11 TO 15 JUNE, PORTO (PORTUGAL) WAS THE VENUE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL PLENARY MEETING ORGANISED BY THE COUNCIL GENERAL INTERNATIONAL (CGI), WHICH CELEBRATED THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INCEPTION.

VENUE AND WELCOME

The Casa Diocesana de Vilar hosted the CGI members, the Board, the International Territorial Vice Presidents, the Permanent Section and the International Executive Committee (IEC). The key purpose of these meetings was to discuss Confederation matters concerning National Conferences and Councils.

Aside from being a work session, it was also a great opportunity to get to know each other better, to share ideas and projects for the sake of those most in need, and to foster fraternity among us, as Vincentians, with the aim of building up the second network of charity that prevailed at the Porto meeting.

After a warm welcome from our Portuguese fellow members and the opening prayers, the President General, our fellow member Renato Lima, gave the opening speech highlighting the Vincentian qualities, and quoted one of Lamache's phrases: ... *"in this Year of Lamache, I want to recall one of his phrases: 'that it was the friendship of the group that deserves*

to be associated with the beginnings of the Society'. Thus, following the example of our founders, I am sure that the discussions will take place in a climate of friendship, harmony, respect and collaboration, because these are true Vincentian qualities."

Meeting Agenda

On 11th and 12th June, a workshop was held with the 12 Territorial Vice Presidents and the 23 Zone Coordinators, responsible for the international structure of the SSVp.

On 13th and 14th June, the meeting of the Permanent Section and the International Executive Committee (IEC) was held.

On 15th June, there was a presentation on the Vincentian charity shops.

On 16th June, the ordinary CGI Board meeting took place.

13th and 14th June

The Permanent Section is, as it were, the CGI's "Management Board". To this end, and with regard to the Councils and other decisions, the annual accounts for 2018, the CGI annual budget, the projects, and the aggregation or institutional letters were approved. Informes y ponencias

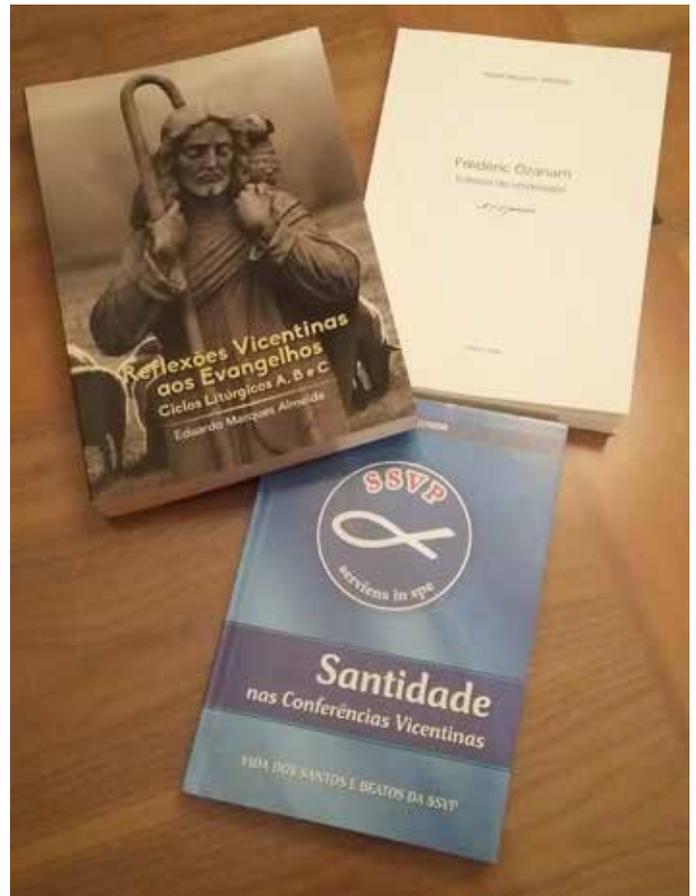
Reports and speeches

On the same day, 13th June, the feast of Saint Anthony of Padua, the following speeches and reports were presented: the CIAD report; the update on specific countries by Joseph Pandian; the report on the Strategic Department by A Ten Velde; the progress report on the Strategic Plan by E. Marques; the report on the General Mediator by Marie F. Salésiani-Payet; the presentation on the progress made in communication, given by Isabel Garzo, who highlighted, among others, the efforts made to enhance the international website; the report on FamVin by R. Tavares; the UN report by Ed Keane; and the report on the relations with the Vatican prepared by A. Gianfico.

There were more presentations in the afternoon. The first one made by the 1st Deputy Vice President General, J. Makwinja; followed by the report on youth projects by W. Alves, highlighting, for the first time in the history of the SSVP, the call for a special collect for Vincentian youth on 4th July; and the report on Training by Maria Luisa Tellez.

Later on, the report on the programme + SSVP Plus by Maurice Yeung, and that on institutional relations were presented. Moreover, the canonisation process of Frédéric Ozanam was also reported by the Deputy Vice President General, S. Gramajo, concluding with the report on strategy for international twinning by T. Muir.

Furthermore, the "13 Houses Campaign" promoted by Famvin Homeless International was presented, and a special mention was made for the Holy Land Conferences to request support.



Logo, Reports, Institutional Video and Books

The Board meeting as well as the Special Commission, which was set up to analyse the SSVP logo design, were held.

Two new institutional reports were presented: "Salamanca 2018, the Vincentian Youth" and the "June 2016-June 2019" reports, developed by the International Communication Commission. The latter document will be delivered to the Secretary-General of the United Nations during the President General's next trip to New York.

The new Institutional Video and two books were presented: "Santidade de la SSVP" (Sanctity of the SSVP), by the Brazilian Gesiel Junior; and "Reflexões vicentinas al evangelio" (Vincentian Reflections on the Gospel) by another Brazilian member, Eduardo Marques. In addition, Porto's Council presented us with the book Federico Ozanam, esbozo de una cronología (Frédéric Ozanam, the outline of a chronology) by Father Manuel Mendes, which was published for this event.



Signature of the agreement with the Religious of Saint Vincent

Lectures and presentations with spiritual content

Moments to experience spirituality came from the presentations given by Dr. Guzmán Carriquiry Lecour, the Vice President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America “The Role of the Laity in the life of Pope Francis’ Church”; and that by Don Manuel da Silva Rodrigues Linda, the Bishop of Porto, who urged us to understand the new forms of poverty, including violence, assault and depression, and prompted us to innovate: “it is not only about giving food or home visiting”.



Singers of the anthem of the 7 founders at the time of its presentation in Porto

Then, we heard the lecture given by Father Bertin Sanon, the Superior General of the Religious of St. Vincent de Paul (RSV), “The Religious of St. Vincent de Paul, their story and their work”.

The RSV, founded by Jean-Leon Le Prevost, who was a fellow member of the SSVP in Paris, is a branch of the Vincentian Family with a common heritage and roots with our SSVP.

Signing a Cooperation Agreement

An international cooperation agreement was signed with the RSV to strengthen relations between the two institutions.

‘The Seven Founders’ song

“The Seven Founders”, a new song for the international SSVP, was a great surprise.

As a reward for the hard work carried out, Paulo Cesar Felizardo da Silva presented us with his moving composition ‘The Seven Founders’, performed in Portuguese by his son, Jose Augusto Felizardo da Silva. We were enthused by the former’s words and the latter’s voice.

Then, Claudia Zamora presented a Spanish version, full of sweetness and sensitivity, which touched the hearts of the members to the extent that we felt the union and pride of being Vincentians.

Thank you for your voices and the love put into the performance.

“Charity in Hope” Medal to the Scout Movement

We celebrated the second award of the “Charity in Hope” Medal, our Society’s highest distinction, to the World Organisation of the Scout Movement. The PGI, Renato Lima de Oliveira, accompanied by the Vice President Joseph Pandian, the Secretary Bertrand Ousset and the Treasurer Larry Tuomey. The award was collected by Mr. Craig Turpie, the World Chairperson of the Scout Movement.

The initiative was approved in Paris by the CGI

Board on 16th December, 2016, and resulted from the desire to express recognition of other people or institutions that carry out actions for the sake of the poorest, who are examples of 'serving in hope', while strengthening ties with other groups or entities with which the Society has common goals.

Our President General stressed that the Scouts, which were founded in 1907 and with international headquarters in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) **"are an example of helping young people and are distinguished by their initiative, courage, discipline and pursuit of personal development. Their mission, vision and values are very much in line with those of the SSVP, as they seek to create a network of friends and to work for and at the service of charity". Their motto is 'Creating a better world'**. In addition, both the Scout Movement and the SSVP are present in a large number of countries all over the world, 170 and 156 respectively.

Craig Turpie showed his emotion and gratitude on behalf of the 50 million children who make up the movement. **"Scouts do not seek gratitude, they do what they have to do, true to their promise, to help others, but when an award of this kind is given, is an expression of confidence in what we are doing and for me it is an honour to collect it on behalf of the Scout Movement"**.

The movement is trying to adapt day by day to the needs of young people and seeking to change their lives, those of their families and communities and thus, those of towns and cities around the world. Hence, they have become the leading educational youth movement in the world. Turpie said, **"When we look at the world, we see that our mission has never been more essential"**.

True to their charisms, both institutions made a firm commitment to continue their collaboration and joint actions.



Renato Lima with Craig Turpie, chairperson of the World Scout Movement

14th June Meeting of the IEC. New countries. Approval of agreements.

On 14th June, the International Executive Committee (IEC) met, which is made up of countries with more than 1,000 active and aggregated Conferences, plus five countries freely elected by the President General: Australia, Brazil, the United States, India, England and Wales, Ireland, Italy, France, Zambia, Cambodia, Mexico, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe and South Tyrol.

These countries account for almost 90% of all Vincentians in the world. Therefore, the decision taken by this Committee are fully valid and representative. The IEC is the body closest to the President General, which advises him and defines strategies.

The IEC approved the 2018 reports and management produced by the President, the Secretary and Treasurer General, as well as the audit report, ratifying the 2019 budgets and other economic proposals presented by the Treasurer.

These 5 countries (Canada, New Zealand, Croatia, Lebanon and Sri Lanka) were also appointed as IEC guest members for 2 years, starting in September 2019.

Among other agreements, the sale of the current headquarters in Paris and the purchase of the new one at 65 Rue Glaciere were unanimously approved.

To this end, the creation of a joint venture called 'Amin de Tarrazi' was approved.

To close the session, matters were discussed about crowdfunding, about SSVp guidelines related to social media and about the progress of the commission in charge of amending the Statutes and International Rule.

15th June Exhibition of Vincentian charity shops

Countries, such as Australia, the United States, England, Wales and Ireland, where Vincentian charity shops have been operating with great success for years, shared their experiences with us and the main objectives with which they proposed this project. "To obtain money is important for carrying out our social work, but the main thing is the Vincentian work that we can do through these shops".

16th June

To conclude this successful event, the ordinary CGI Board quarterly meeting was held.

Transparency

We would especially like to thank Ozanam TV for the live broadcasts that enhanced the transparency

of all the meetings, and to announce that all the presentations, the institutional video and other informative documents will be uploaded to the international website.

Next international meeting

The next international meeting will take place, God willing, in June 2020 in Nairobi (Kenya).



Many thanks once again to all the participants, especially to our Portuguese fellow members for preparing this magnificent meeting, to all the ecclesiastical and civil authorities, to the speakers, and especially to all of the members who have travelled to this beautiful city. Likewise, to the fellow members who have followed this meeting live, through social networks and on Ozanam TV, and to the employees, translators, technicians and other personnel who made it possible.



2nd Regional Meeting of the American Region #2

FROM APRIL 24TH TO 26TH, 2019, WITH THE THEME: FORMED IN ORDER TO SERVE BETTER, THE NATIONAL PRESIDENTS OF COSTA RICA, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, MEXICO, PANAMA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATES FOR TRAINING AND BY THE COORDINATION TEAM, MET IN THE VINCENSIAN SEMINARY OF XOCHIMANCA LOCATED IN MEXICO CITY WHERE THEY HELD THE SECOND REGIONAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN REGION #2. THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL PARTICIPATED IN THIS MEETING: SEBASTIÁN GRAMAJO (THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL GENERAL VICE-PRESIDENT) AND MARIA DEL CARMEN GUZMAN SOTO (THE INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT FOR THE AMERICAN REGION #2).



In the opening ceremony, the various members welcomed all the participants and the minutes from the previous meeting were read. The participants sang the hymn of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, and members of the Society in Mexico presented some regional dances. This part of the meeting was concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist that was presided by Father Luis Lusarreta Indurain, CM (the National Advisor of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Mexico).

The following presentations were given: Leadership and Team Work (Luz María Ramírez Gonzalez [the National President of the Society in Mexico and Delegate for Training]), The Vincentian Vocation in Daily Life (Fr. Jesús Plascencia, CM [Father Superior of the Congregation of the Mission in Mexico]), The Home Visit in the Vincentian Tradition (Sister Carolina Flores, DC), Workshop on Special Projects (Juan Cristobal García Catavi [the Delegate for Regional Projects]), Legal Aspects of Projects Sponsored by the National Councils (Sebastián Gramajo [member of the International Council]), Activities of the Youth Representatives (Edgardo José Fuentes Flores).





The program also included: a video from the International President, Renato Lima; as well as the formation plan (organized in three modules) presented by the International Vice-Presidency; the distribution of the Guía Breve de la Conferencias (Handbook for Conferences). A representative of each country was given a flash drive that contained an electronic library (books, audios, videos, a manual about the use of the logo, circular letters, as well as themes and publications from the General Council to support the spiritual, Christian and Vincentian formation of the members).

During the 3-day meeting, the members had the opportunity to deepen their relationship with God through prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist that was presided by our advisors and supported by the Conference 'María Reina', enabling the participants to experience the presence of God who accompanies us in our mission of service on behalf of those in need. Naturally, we had to visit and celebrate the Eucharist at the Basilica of Guadalupe (a very emotional and significant event for all the participants) ... There we entrusted our service and ministry to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The participants also enjoyed spending sometime at Lake Xochimilco, starting with a visit to Lake Xochimilco, with a boat ride in the traditional trajineras; the performance of a Folkloric ballet, and

a cultural night during which the participants shared some of their traditions through videos and parades of typical costumes and regional dances.

Some of the commitments made during our time together include the following:

Training: to make others aware of the Guide and the material that was distributed, and to adapt this material to the reality of each of our countries;

Special projects: to make all the conferences aware of the format for requesting projects, including the Twinning Guidebook;

Youth: to support the youth work plan that was approved by each National Council.

Panama was put forward as the next meeting venue, to be held in May or June 2021. Our meeting concluded with the traditional closing prayer of the Society, and Father Luis Lusarreta, CM, gave the blessing. The meeting wrapped up with mariachi music.

Luz María Ramírez González
The National President in Mexico
Delegation for Training (American Region #2)

The President General at the United Nations

FROM 15 TO 20 JULY, THE PRESIDENT GENERAL AND A VINCENTIAN TEAM OF THE CGI REPRESENTED THE SSVP AT THE UNITED NATIONS, FULFILLING AN IMPORTANT AGENDA THAT INCLUDED ALL KIND OF MEETINGS AND INSTITUTIONAL PARTICIPATION IN ORDER TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THE ROLE OF THE SSVP WITHIN THIS INTERNATIONAL BODY.

For these days at the United Nations, the delegation of the SSVP was made up of: the International President General; Renato Lima; the permanent representatives of the SSVP at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, Edmund Keane and Pattie Hughes; the International Territorial Vice President - America 1, Mike Nizankiewicz; and the National President of the SSVP in the United States; Ralph Middlecamp.

Following the established agenda, on July 15 **the SSVP delegation met with members of the Vincentian Family Coalition at the United Nations** (of which the SSVP is also part). In this coalition, six Branches of the Vincentian Family are represented and work together, in order to be the mouthpiece of our charisma within this international body.

After this fruitful encounter, the delegation met with the Ambassador of Ireland in the United Nations, Ms. Geraldine Byrne Nason. Then it took part in a discussion with international experts on education as a tool for human growth, as well as for eradicating poverty.



SSVP Branch during on trip to the UN: Edmund Keane, Mike Nizankiewicz, Renato Lima, Pattie Hughes and Ralph Middlecamp



Coalition of the Vincentian Family at the United Nations

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

On July 16, the SSVP delegation took part in another interesting **debate on how to reduce inequalities in order to build a better world**. The event was promoted by the ONG's Committee and coordinated by Sister Margaret O'Dwyer, Daughter of Charity. The President General, Renato Lima, had the opportunity to address a few words about the work carried out by the SSVP, and stressed the importance and the necessity of the home visit in a society that, today, does not take care of interpersonal relations, closeness, brotherhood and true concern for others.

Once this debate finished, **the SSVP delegation met with the international delegate of Caritas in the United Nations, Dr. Joseph Donnelly**, with whom they primarily discussed about the possibility of a more coordinated and effective work between the SSVP and Caritas worldwide. All of it, taking into account the joint mission of evangelization and the desire of both institutions to bring the message of Jesus Christ to those who suffer.

To finish this intense day, **the delegation took part in some events of the United Nations promoted by various bodies, notably the ECOSOC** (Economic and Social Council of the United Nations of which the SSVP is part as a special consultant).

On July 19, the SSVP delegation held a meeting with Mr. Daniel Perell, representative of the Baha'i International Community before the United Nations, and President of the **ONGs Committee of ECOSOC**. There was an interesting debate with him on the role of the Baha'i Community and of the SSVP in helping humanity, and the need to work for the construction of a fairer and more fraternal world.

Finally, **the visit to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See** at the United Nations was the coda to the agenda set by the SSVP delegation, which was received by Bishop Tomasz Grysa and Father Roger Landry. They addressed the topic of the joint work of the Church and of the SSVP as spokespersons of the excluded, as well as the need to defend the values of the Gospel.

With regard to his presence at the United Nations, the President General of the SSVP stated: "For me, it was essential to know closely the SSVP activities at the United Nations, in order to strengthen our working team and verify the most urgent needs in



Meeting with Daniel Perell, the NGO Chair of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)



Work meeting with the Head of Delegation for Caritas Internationalis office at the United Nations, Joseph Donnelly



Meeting with the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

this area, so that we make our presence in this international body more fruitful and effective. For the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul it is a priority that the International General Council could keep a strong relationship with the United Nations.”

Activities with the SSVP and local institutions of New York

In addition to the agenda scheduled for the activities relating to the United Nations, the SSVP delegation held also meetings with local institutions and with various Councils and Conferences of the SSVP in New York, including the visit to some of their social projects.

On July 17, the President General and his team visited his Excellency Timothy Dolan, Cardinal of the Archdiocese of New York: Together, they addressed topics of charity and social justice, as well as the support of the diocese for the creation of new Conferences and the necessary introduction of the SSVP in the University environment.

Also on July 17, a dinner was organized, in the parish of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, with the participation of more than one hundred Vincentians from New York, who enjoyed the President General’s speech and an enriching debate.

Next day, July 18, the communication channel of New York’s Archdiocese, “Catholic New York”, interviewed the members of the SSVP delegation to discuss topics as interesting as the systemic change, charity, youth and the SSVP, the home visit, etc.

In addition to visits to the Church hierarchy and contacts with the media, it is always important for the President General to visit the Conferences and to know first-hand their



Institutional visit paid to Timothy Cardinal Dolan, the archbishop of New York



Interview with the Catholic NY, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of New York



Visit to the headquarters of the Central Council in Long Island



Visit to Long Island's care centre

activities and projects. In this sense, also on 18 July, the SSVV delegation visited the Council of Long Island, both its headquarters and a project of warehouse of second-hand products offered to families in need. Another notable visit on this day was paid to the Project "St. Dimas", a home for ex-convicts where the SSVV facilitates their social reintegration.

Finally, on July 19 and together with the Vincentians of the Conference of our Lord's Ascension, the SSVV delegation participated in the distribution of food to the homeless in the district "Upper West Side", many of whom live in public shelters or sleep in the street.



Food distribution to the needy of the Upper West Side



Meeting with the Vincentians of New York in the parish of St. Ignatius of Loyola



The 9th Pan Asian Conference

11 - 14 November 2019 | Hong Kong



PANASCO 9

*THE 9TH PAN ASIAN
CONFERENCE (PANASCO 9)
A MEETING FOR VINCENTIAN
LEADERS FROM ASIA AND
OCEANIA UNDER THE MOTTO:
'SERVE IN HOPE. WALK WITH
CHRIST'.*

*THIS CONFERENCE OF SSVP
MEMBER COUNTRIES IN ASIA
AND OCEANIA WILL TAKE
PLACE IN HONG KONG FROM
11TH TO 14TH NOVEMBER
2019, GATHERING AROUND
400 MEMBERS FROM 32
COUNTRIES BELONGING TO
THESE TWO CONTINENTS.*

*THE PRESIDENT GENERAL,
RENATO LIMA, WILL ALSO GIVE
A SPEECH AT THIS EVENT.*

The objective of this conference is to produce realistic outcomes that will enhance our charitable works with those we serve, to provide a platform for Vincentian members of different places to share experiences and knowledge with a view to achieving medium- and long-term goals, so that we learn from each other on how to better serve our brothers and sisters in need.

Thematic talks in PANASCO 9 cover areas such as immigrants, refugees, and displaced, marginalized and homeless people, youth development, spirituality in Vincentian families and the definition of new types of charitable works. The President General, Renato Lima, will also give a speech at this event.

By the same token, this conference also provides an occasion for all member countries and fellow members to strengthen the network of charity, as well as to renew our faith in each and every participant.

Since 1968, PANASCO has been held eight times in various cities from Asia and Oceania, with great achievements such as:

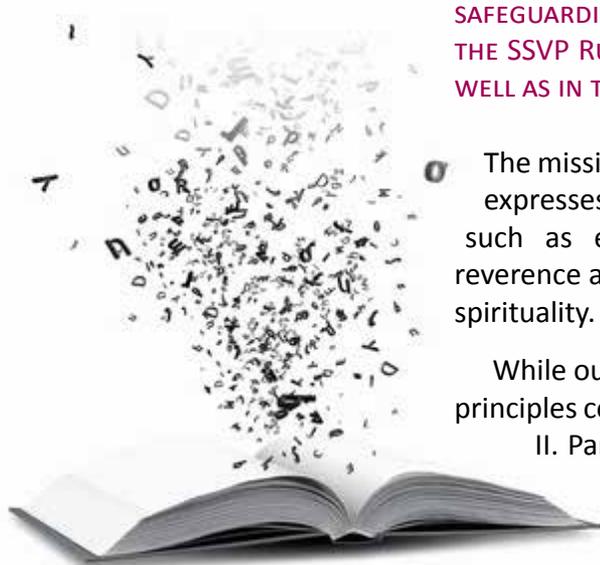
- Members from Asia and Oceania growing closer;
- Substantial increase in twinning activities within these two continents;
- Member countries working together to expand SSVP by setting up new Conferences.

PANASCO has been defined as a journey of love and development for all Vincentians around the world.

All the information about the Conference on www.panasco9.net

Establishment of the Special Commission for the Vincentian evolution of the international statutes

THE TASK OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION IS TO CONSIDER THE MOST EFFECTIVE BLUEPRINT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE OF THE SOCIETY, WHILE SAFEGUARDING THE INTEGRITY OF OUR MISSION (AS EXPRESSED IN PART I OF THE SSVp RULE) AND OUR POSITION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.



The mission of our treasured Society is set forth in Part I of the Rule. It expresses our Vincentian vocation, as well as our own key principles, such as equality, subsidiarity, democracy, leadership of service, reverence and empathy towards the poor and, of course, our cherished spirituality.

While our members around the world understand and partake in the principles contained in Part I of the Rule, the same cannot be said of Part II. Part II of the Rule aims to establish important frameworks for the International Bodies of the Society, and to determine how the mission is carried out as addressed in Part I. There have been several concerns regarding the clarity and effectiveness of the current frameworks in Part II, which have led to the establishment of this Special Commission by the President General.

It is crucial to ensure that the Special Commission complies with the key principles of the Society. A transparent and democratic process has been proposed to achieve it while ensuring the participation of all Superior Councils around the world. This process is as follows:

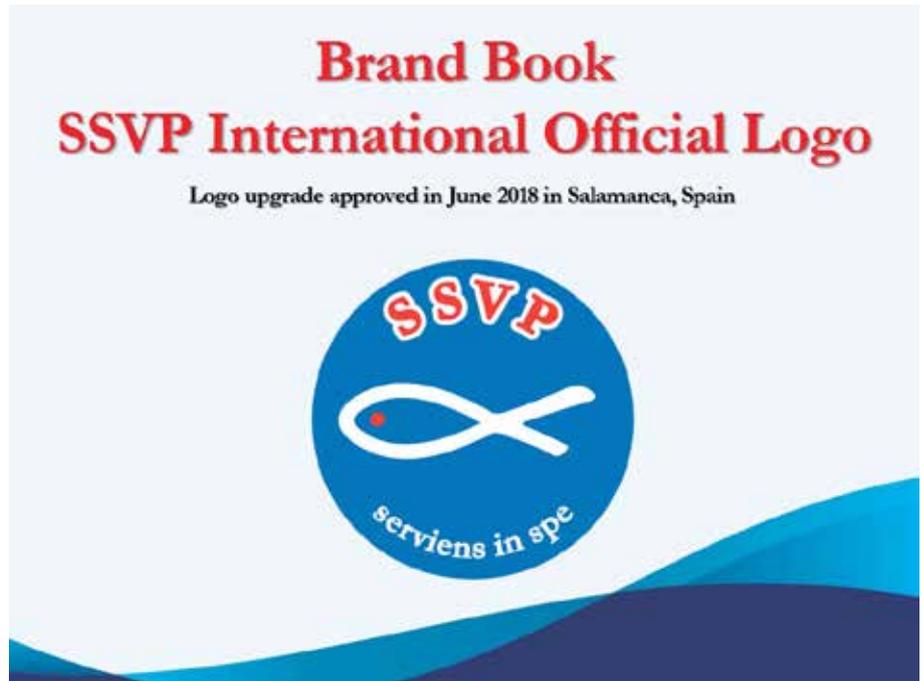
	Stages of work
July to November 2019	Any Superior Council seeking to get clarification or give feedback on one or more sections of the Commission’s terms of reference, may do so.
December 2019 to June 2020	The Special Commission considers all feedback given by the Superior Councils and develops discussion documents to respond to key issues raised, and to examine opportunities to amend Part II of the Rule, in order to enable and protect the integrity of the Mission of the Society.
July to September 2020	Any Superior Council seeking to get clarification or give feedback in response to the Discussion Papers of the Special Commission on opportunities for amendment, may do so.
October 2020 to late 2021	The Special Commission considers all feedback given by the Superior Councils and develops recommendations in accordance with their terms of reference.
Late 2021	The Special Commission’s final recommendations and background materials will be available to all The Superior Councils.
2022	The General Assembly votes on the recommendations of the Special Commission.

In addition to the proposals of the Superior Councils, the Special Commission shall also consider those received from any member of the Society. All the information on the Special Commission will be available on: <https://vincentians.ssvpglobal.org/en/boite-a-outils/international-statutes>

BRAND BOOK: SSVP International Official Logo

AIMED AT MAKING A BETTER USE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LOGO, AND WITH THE LOGO REVAMP APPROVED AT THE CGI ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD IN SALAMANCA 2018, A CIRCULAR LETTER WAS SUBMITTED IN JUNE 2019 TO ALL SSVP MEMBER COUNTRIES ATTACHING THE BRAND BOOK FOR A CORRECT USE OF THE CURRENT LOGO.

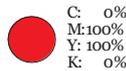
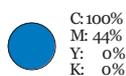
THIS BRAND BOOK PROVIDES THE GUIDELINES ON THE PROPER USE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LOGO IN ITS REVAMPED VERSION, INCLUDING SPECS ON SIZES, COLOURS AS WELL AS DIFFERENT USES OF THE INTERNATIONAL LOGO.



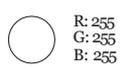
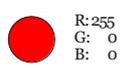
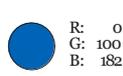
Standardization

2 - Collors (as in the French flag)

CMYK



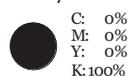
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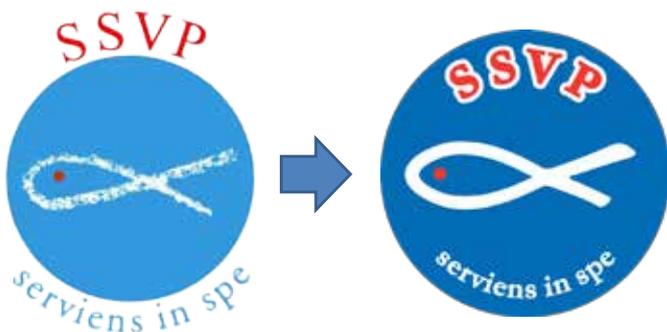
PANTONE



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Upgrade (1999 – 2018)



Applications

2 - Background application (examples)





Andrés R. M. Motto, CM.
International Spiritual Advisor

Attacking the roots of poverty

Dear brothers and sisters of the SSVP. I am writing to you as I serve the Vincentians in the Central American Province of Guatemala. Some years ago, this country suffered the enormity of the extermination of native peoples, ordered by general José Efraín Ríos Montt. What injustice and sorrow! On the other hand, Frédéric Ozanam showed a strong social commitment, even from a very early age. And he lived a very good life with this. In this way, his words and actions were united with happiness and wisdom. Similarly, as the years go by, we see that Ozanam's project remains relevant for today.

And again, we see that across much of the world, exclusion and marginality are becoming worse. I believe that, now and in future, as well as serving the poor directly, the SSVP must fight the causes of poverty with even greater dedication. These are many and various. I will list just four.

1. Ecological imbalance. Our beloved Pope Francis alerted us to these in his encyclical *Laudato si*. And those affected first and foremost are those excluded from society.

2. Organized crime, of whose many tentacles, drug-trafficking is the most horrible. Wherever organized crime is found, poverty is perpetuated.

3. Ill-advised politics and economics. Such as savage capitalism. As Pope Francis says, this is an economy which kills. As do the models of the extreme left. So that today, the failure of the few countries which continue this is clear to see. Moreover, I dare say that many people have promoted these mistaken and ineffective social policies with the best intentions. However it is, both extreme capitalist policies and those of the far left have led to great poverty. In some cases, it has been immediate, and in others more measured.

4. Political corruption, of all kinds. This diverts social funds into private pockets. It is worth recalling here a saying from Confucius: "In a country well governed, poverty is a matter for shame. In a country badly governed, wealth is a matter for shame". There are many causes of poverty, but we will stay with these four for now.

How can we reverse these 4 issues, which are true poverty-making “factories”? How can we achieve a profound change in structures and in mentalities? There are no recipes, but there are criteria. As Christians and Vincentians, the way we act begins to manage other parameters and other risks. This is not to ignore the works of service and of development; but rather to bring together coordinated actions which confront these 4 issues. Those who implement these evils wish us to believe they are invincible... but only God is invincible. Another criterion is that where there is hunger, cold, sickness, violence, unemployment, war, abandoned children, old people discarded, violation of human rights, where these things exist, our social, evangelising activities move forward urgently, to the people and communities affected, seeking an effective solution. Prioritising people, and from there, imagining a healthy social structure. We need to renew the covenant with people, with communities and with their specific needs. We need to win back the hand in hand relationship with the other person, where the encounter is notable for its ethical commitment.

Another requirement is the need for greater training. Out-of-date service to the poor, unexamined, will always be deficient. So for love of those in need, let us willingly look for on-going, quality training. This must be a feature across all types of service carried out by Vincentians. At times, seeing the number of problems we face may distress, frighten or worry us. But we remember what Blessed Frédéric said: “I am happy to have been born at a time when perhaps I will be able to do much good”. I admit that as Spiritual Adviser to the International Council General of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, I am meeting so many good people, with so much commitment to people in need. With these human resources, and with the help of Jesus, Lord of history, we are encouraged to move forward a little more in our work to reduce poverty.





The purpose of formation

DEAR READERS, AS THE INTERNATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION, I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO WRITE AN ARTICLE IN EACH ISSUE OF THE OZANAM NETWORK MAGAZINE ABOUT THIS IMPORTANT TOPIC, SO HERE WE GO WITH THE FIRST ONE. IN THIS FIRST PIECE, I WOULD LIKE TO REFLECT ON WHAT I CONSIDER TRAINING TO BE, ABOVE ALL, AND WHAT ITS PURPOSE IS.



So to start with, formation must not be simply a collection of data, figures, information and so on, but it should pursue the aim of making us better people in our daily lives, alongside those in need, with our own family, friends and our fellow members. It's not about remembering and knowing more things, but, like a fine rain, it permeates our personality and helps us to be better, and to become more holy.

The second effect of training is to help us to think, to reflect and discern, as the Holy Father has invited us to do. Although we received “pellets” of knowledge from these pages, these may come in Socratic mode, reaching the right place, and drawing the best from us, helping us to deepen our understanding of the topics we will cover by our own efforts.

As you all know and understand, we are living in a society which is turned outwards, leaving us no time for thought or for personal growth. There is too much “noise”, the world has become a global village, not a bad thing as long as we can make our own decisions and choices, and for this we need formation, we need to be well-formed. It is not true, as relativism preaches, that anything goes.

On completion of each formation topic, we will have a short bibliography on each subject covered.

I humbly recommend that you read and continue to try to become the best person you can be, as we are all creatures of God.

God has given us the gift of free will and reason, but to make good use of these gifts we have to be well trained, and it is the task of each of us to do this. In these pages we will receive guidance on the subjects we will be covering in the coming months. The following material will be addressed, always from a human and Christian perspective:

- The visit;
- Vincentian virtues;
- How to do good well;
- Communication;
- Vincentian leadership;
- Fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit (in a Vincentian reading).

And that's it for my first piece for the Ozanam Network magazine, entrusting myself to the Holy Spirit, I take my leave of you all until the next time.

May the Lord pour out his blessings on each and every one of you.

María Luisa Téllez
International Vice President for Training and Formation

'13 Houses' Campaign in Mexico

THROUGH THIS CAMPAIGN RUN BY THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY IN MEXICO, WITH THE SSVP'S INVOLVEMENT, 13 HOUSES HAVE BEEN BUILT FOR FAMILIES WHO LOST THEIR HOME IN THE 2017 EARTHQUAKE IN THE NORTHEAST TOWN OF HUEYAPAN IN RURAL MEXICO.

The earthquake was so destructive that it took rescuers over a week to gain access to the community. One year later, many families were still homeless, so this project provides the much-needed support to some of the country's most vulnerable families.

Several of the families who benefited from these homes have been involved in the housing design, which are being built according to high-quality construction standards so they can continue to serve the poor for many decades to come.

The homes are a partnership between the Vincentian Family and a local NGO, the Hearts for Mexico Foundation.

These 13 homes are built in the year we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Congregation of the Mission (CM) and the Daughters of Charity (DC) arriving in Mexico, a country where, according to the Mexican government, much remains to be done, since 1 out of 13 people live in extreme poverty.





Spanish-speaking international vinentian music festival

THIS EVENT IS A MEANS FOR ARTISTIC EXPRESSION AND FOR EVANGELIZATION, AND IS INTENDED TO STIMULATE THE ARTISTIC CREATION OF WRITERS AND COMPOSERS OF CATHOLIC VINCENTIAN MUSIC, AND TO SPREAD AND MAKE KNOWN THE CHARISM INHERITED FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND HIS FOLLOWERS.

The theme of the Festival is: “Followers of Jesus Christ, Servants of the Poor”. Hence, the themes of the songs had to be in line with the vocation which we are called to as a result of the charism inherited from St. Vincent de Paul, and with the call to follow Christ in the person of the poor within the Vincentian Family, whether we are secular, clerical or religious.

All the updated contest-related information is available on the website <http://festival.vincentians.com>, from where you can listen to around 50 songs from 14 countries around the world.

The selected tracks will be part of an album, recorded by professional musicians and performers, which will be produced in the second half of 2019 and edited at the end of the year.

The contest is now closed, but all the information about the English-speaking International Vincentian Music Festival is now available on <https://famvin.org> and <http://festival.vincentians.com>

[//famvin.org](https://famvin.org) and <http://festival.vincentians.com>

Sr Kathleen Appler, Mother General of the Daughters of Charity, appointed as a member of the Congregation for the Consecrated Life

ON 8 JULY, POPE FRANCIS NAMED 23 NEW MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION FOR INSTITUTES OF CONSECRATED LIFE AND SOCIETIES OF APOSTOLIC LIFE, INCLUDING SIX FEMALE RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS GENERAL, AND ONE DIRECTOR OF A SECULAR INSTITUTE OF WOMEN..



These appointments demonstrate the importance Pope Francis gives to putting women in leadership positions in the Vatican, and they follow that of 2014 when Sister Irma Luzia Premoli, Superior General of the Comboni Missionaries, was appointed a member of the Congregation for Evangelization of Peoples. It was the first time a female religious superior joined a Vatican congregation.

Including these seven religious sisters as members of the Congregation - previously formed only of men - is a clear response to the call to action on inclusion, at a time when the problems and concerns facing Roman Catholic congregations and religious orders all over the world in the 21st century have to be faced. The Congregation is responsible for everything relating to religious orders and congregations, and to societies of apostolic life, in terms of their governance, discipline and studies. The Vatican has confirmed that it is the first time women have been appointed to the Congregation.

Born in Utica, New York, Sister Kathleen was elected Superior General of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul at the General Assembly in Paris, France, on 25 May 2015. Prior to her election as Superior General, Sister Kathleen was a member of the Council General of the Daughters of Charity from June 2009, and Visitor to the old North-East Province, with its office in Albany, New York.

There are 14,500 Daughters of Charity around the world, living and serving in 94 countries. Sister Kathleen is in charge of this community of sisters, divided into 60 provinces and one region.

The President General, Renato Lima, stated, "The General Council and the whole SSVP are very happy with this news. Knowing that Sister Kathleen Appler received this position of service to work for the poor in the Vatican is a very good thing for the entire Vincentian Family. We pray that her work in this Commission will be very fruitful and we are at her disposal for any project and initiative."

Council General is updating its data on the St Vincent de Paul Society's presence around the world



PRELIMINARY COMMENTS

How many countries are there in the world? It's not easy to answer this question. First of all, what does the concept of "country" indicate? Considering this subject in more detail, the Council General noted that there were big differences in the officially-agreed figures. While the UN recognises 193 countries around the world, the International Olympic Committee has 206, while FIFA (for football lovers), lists 211 countries. Some observers consider that the UN list is "artificial", since it does not match specific territorial boundaries, and they estimate that in fact there are 324 countries across the world! So this number varies according to the political or social criteria used by each organisation to define what a "country" or a "nation" is. Views differ in this field. Each of the lists available have benefits and disadvantages. But they are drawn up according to criteria appropriate to each organisation.

Since none of these lists fully satisfies the needs of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (using the UN criteria for instance, several of our territories are simply not recognised), Council General has decided not to follow existing lists of countries, but instead provide its own Vincentian list of countries, in accordance with its original traditions.

The countries or nations we will call "Vincentian

territories", for the purposes of clarity, are those Vincentian areas which have been formed over time for reasons of history, culture and the development of the association in the country concerned. So the "Vincentian territory" does not always match the "national territory".

UPDATING STATISTICS

There is a second problem as regards our association. Statistics have been somewhat neglected in recent years. The figures provided were approximate, and were not examined in detail.

Our 16th President General, Renato Lima de Oliveira, wished to clarify the situation and review everything.

The full list of "Vincentian territories", as you will see, has therefore been drawn up with great care, based on the latest information provided by our 12 Territorial vice-Presidents on the situation of our organisation on the ground.

Council General undertakes to keep it up to date every year, as the Rule requires of us; in order to maintain "an accurate picture of the true scale of the Society" (article 6.2.2 of the international statutes).

OUR ORGANISATION THEREFORE HAS A PRESENCE TODAY ON ALL 5 CONTINENTS, IN 149 VINCENTIAN TERRITORIES (FIGURES FOR DECEMBER 2018) AND 138 UN COUNTRIES. HERE ARE THE NUMBERS FOR EACH CONTINENT:

Continents	Vincentian Territories
Africa	40
America	36
Asia	32
Europe	31
Oceania	10
TOTAL	149

To see the full list, click on the link:
<https://www.ssvpglobal.org/es/nuestras-implantaciones/>

REMARKABLE GROWTH

Ever since the Holy Spirit inspired our seven founders to establish the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in 1833, our association has grown continually:

YEAR	EVENT	PRESENCE IN THE WORLD
1833	First Conference of Charity	France
1853	Death of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam	17 territories, including 11 in Europe
1933	Centenary of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul	64 territories
2000	Second millennium	127 territories
2018	Current situation	149 territories

INSPIRATIONAL PROSPECTS

These positive figures could never satisfy Vincentians, since, as Blessed Frédéric Ozanam reminded them in 1835, "Charity should never look back, but always ahead, because the number of its past good deeds is always small, and the present and future sorrows it must relieve are infinite."

So the task remains huge: so many hearts to be consoled in the world, so many people knowing nothing of the path to holiness offered by Conferences - to serve and meet God by practising works of charity, mercy and evangelisation.

Through the "SSVP PLUS" project, Council General thus continues its mission with enthusiasm,

to "develop the Society around the whole world", consolidating existing structures, re-energising the weakest, and introducing the Society to new countries. There are opportunities at the moment in Greece, Morocco, Vatican and in Kazakhstan (and 15 other countries), and it is up to Vincentians to support these new shoots with their prayers.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has only one desire: that the poor and suffering Jesus, hidden in our deprived brothers and sisters around the whole world, should be loved and served even more!

"Not to us, Lord, not to us, but to your name be the Glory!" Psalm 115.

NEPAL

Orientation programme in Kathmandu

33 Nepal is a Hindu dominated country in the Himalayas. The Christian population is less than 2%. The Vicariate of Kathmandu has 8 parishes, 10 mission stations and 24 submission stations.



The SSVP has its presence in all the parishes and in some mission stations. These conferences were in distant locations and difficult to access and most of them were not at all lively or active. So an Orientation programme was arranged in Central Nepal on 18th May 2019. (similar programme was arranged in East Nepal in Feb.2018) which was found to be very useful as this was the first of its kind in Nepal. The Programme was inaugurated by the Rev. Fr. Silas Baugati ,Vicar general of Kathmandu Vicariate and attended by more than 40 Vincentians. Some Catholics who wished to join the Society also participated.



ITALY

The Ozanam Center of Sant'Antimo welcomes many young people in difficulty



33 This center has been working with needy families and children for 30 years. Never shying away, facing each situation with passion and tenacity, almost always difficult and delicate. At the Ozanam Centre in Sant'Antimo (province of Naples), we find children with sad and desperate stories behind them, where the volunteers' smile and human contact can give them confidence and courage to move forward.

The uniqueness of this Center lies in the richness of its diversity, where the person coming in is not an enemy, but a person who deserves to be helped and accompanied in their long, tortuous and difficult path of growth. Antonio Gianfico, the National President of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and founder of the Ozanam Center, doesn't tire of repeating this in the Osservatore Romano: "That rediscovery of humanity lives in every single person. Today, unfortunately, we live in a society where human relations tend to weaken, so the Vincentian volunteers are convinced that it is necessary to have frequent contacts that give us the opportunity to appreciate others."



Antonio Gianfico, in the middle of the picture, with Ozanam Centre's beneficiaries

Commemorating 160 Years of SSVP in Argentina



On 4 and 5 May, Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP), together with his fellow members Júlio César Marques de Lima (International Territorial Vice-President for South America) and Sebastián Gramajo (2nd Deputy Vice-President General), was in Buenos Aires to attend the events marking 160 years of the SSVP in Argentina (1859/2019).



All the events were organised with great care by the National President, Celeste Godoy, together with other members of the steering group of the SSVP's National Council. There was a packed calendar of celebrations. On Saturday 4 May, after a delicious shared lunch, a "Training Meeting" took place in the mother house of the Daughters of Charity (FC), attended by all the leaders of the Vincentian Family in Argentina.

On this occasion, the President General spoke about projects, programmes and actions carried

out by the International Council General during the three years of his term of office (2016/2019). A speech by the historian Ana María Silvestrini was listened to with great attention by everyone, as she described the characters of those who founded the first Argentinian conference. Father Fernando Sánchez, the national coordinator for the Vincentian Family, offered everyone an overview of the challenges faced by each Vincentian branch.

After this training meeting, Mass was held to commemorate the 160th anniversary, presided over

by Father **Juan Carlos Gatti Octavien**, visitor for the province of Argentina / Uruguay / Paraguay for the Congregation of the Mission (CM), in the church of the Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Parish, near the sisters' house. In his homily, Father Juan Carlos described the story of the Argentinian founders in great detail, as people of faith, dedicated to the service of those in need.

The next day (Sunday 5 May), the President General visited the Santa Clara de Asís Foundation care home for the elderly, where at an afternoon tea, he shared some happy times with the residents. A commemorative plaque was unveiled, marking the 160 years since the SSVP was founded in Argentina. The Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires, Monsignor Joaquín Sucunza, attended this ceremony, sharing with everyone his friendship, evangelical knowledge, love for the poor and our Society. Renato presented the bishop with the book "Apasionados por la Caridad y la Justicia" [Passionate for Charity and Justice], and the Vincentian cross (based on Matt 25, 31-46).

"Argentina is a country of great solidarity. For 160 years, the SSVP has been serving the community, especially the most needy, in very practical ways. I am very happy with the path the SSVP in Argentina has taken, offering great potential for creation of new Conferences, and for more services delivered by the Councils. We thank God for all the blessings received over these 160 years. May the SSVP and the



Celeste Godoy with Julio César Marques, Renato Lima and Sebastián Gramajo



Vincentian Family continue to help our brothers and sisters most in need in Argentina, serving in hope and love, as Our Lord Jesus Christ asks us to”, said Renato Lima.

During these two busy days, the President General and the Vincentian delegation also had the pleasure of meeting four former presidents of the National Council of Argentina: Carlos Bado, Luis Larrosa, Roberto Hernández and Adrián Thier.

The first SSVP conference in Argentina was founded in Buenos Aires, in the parish of Nuestra Señora de la Merced, on 24th April 1859, led by Julio Amadeo André-Fouët, a captain in the French Navy, together with other founders. Fouët, who was a member in the city of Lorient (France), also organised the foundation of the first conference in Uruguay in 1858.

Some months later, in September 1859, a group of Lazarist priests and Vincentian members disembarked in the port of Buenos Aires, coming from France, after a journey of 52 days across the Atlantic. This is why 2019 is the year in which we commemorate 160 years since the arrival of the SSVP in Argentina, and also of the Vincentian Family. Congratulations, Argentina!





SSVP Phoenix U.S.A.

Feed. Clothe. House. Heal.



Those four action verbs in the title aptly describe the incredible good works of the Phoenix (Arizona) Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Founded on December 4, 1949 the Council was originally called the Council of Maricopa County, the county in which Phoenix is centered.

Today, The Phoenix Diocesan Council has 89 conferences (virtually one in every parish in the archdiocese), 2,500 Vincentians and over 6,000 volunteers. With assets of over \$58 million and Expenses exceeding \$55 million going directly into mission related services and projects, the Phoenix Council is likely the largest Council in the world. Lets take a look at the many programs and services offered by the Council and supported by those 89 Conferences.



FEED

With one of the largest industrial kitchens in the West, the Phoenix Council serves over 1.2 million meals each year to individuals and families. At its main campus in south Phoenix is the Family Dining Hall, which serves evening meals in a collegial atmosphere that has many activities for adults and children alike, in addition to the healthy and well-prepared meals.

There is another dining facility a short distance to the northwest of the main campus where the Society is part of a "Human Services" campus shared with Maricopa County Health Services, and Central Arizona Shelter Services.

This campus began in 2005 as a collaborative effort and offers many “one-stop shopping” services for the homeless. Other SSVP dining facilities are located in Sunnyslope, El Mirage and Mesa, all part of the Metro-Phoenix area.

Also at the central campus is an urban farm, which was made possible by a grant from the Rob and Melani Walton Fund (members of the Walmart family corporation). This unique project of the Society ensures that meals prepared by the Phoenix Council are not only filling, but also healthy and nutritious

Many of the conferences provide food as part of their home visitations. Pictured below is a group of Vincentians from St. Matthews Parish (including visiting President General Renato Lima de Oliveira), in south Phoenix getting ready to do multiple home visits in teams of two

CLOTHE

The main campus of the Phoenix Council offers showers and other hygienic services for the homeless. Their large warehouse stores clothing and furniture, in addition to thousands of square feet of food storage. Clothing is never a problem for those in need through the main warehouse or one of their 17 thrift stores.

The main campus also has a Ministry For the Homeless where guests are made welcome and provided with showers, clothing, shoes, counseling and referral services. The Council also has an Adopt-a-Family program where specific families are met around Christmas time and provided with gifts and holiday meals, ensuring that their Christmas is filled with love and free of stress.



HOUSE

The Council has four specific programs to provide shelter to those in need: Aid to Stranded Travelers; Homeless Prevention; Ministry for the Recently Released, and; Ozanam Manor.

Aid to Stranded Travelers provides assistance to non-residents who find themselves stranded or in crisis situations.

Homeless Prevention provides one-time assistance for rent, mortgage and utility bills. The Council also partners with other agencies to assist in keeping people within their homes or apartments. Arizona Public Service, the utility provider, has partnered with the Council to provide emergency bill assistance to customers in need.

Ministry for the Recently Released provides referrals and other services to recently released prisoners and their families. Their goal is to reduce the rate of recidivism by helping those who have paid their debt to society get back on their feet.

Ozanam Manor is perhaps the crowning jewel of the Society. It is a modern dorm like facility that provides bridge housing and helps residents

get into permanent housing. Meals, free laundry, and assistance by caseworkers help residents find meaningful employment as a major step towards a life free of poverty.

Pictured is the Ozanam Manor building located on the mail campus, the reception desk, and a waiting room for people seeking assistance with job referrals and other basic needs.





HEAL

Named after its major donor, the Virginia G. Pier Medical Clinic treats both adults and children in a wide array of physical services and treatments. With the high cost of medical care in the U.S., the clinic is an oasis for many in need.

Operated in a modern and very professional way, the medical clinic has also become a teaching institution and has agreements with such prestigious health centers like The University of Arizona College of Medicine, Mayo College of Medicine, Creighton University School of Medicine, in addition to many others. The competent medical staff is led by Dr. Maurice Lee, MD, MPH, FAAFP.

Under the direction of Dr. Scott Myers, the Delta Dental Oral Health Center provides services ranging from cleanings and fillings to extractions and denture fillings. The center also provides oral hygiene training for adults and children.

The rental of medical equipment, such as crutches, wheelchairs or walkers, can be quite expensive. Fortunately, the Phoenix Council has a “Loan Closet” where such items are loaned out, at no cost, to patients who need them.



In addition to all of this, the Council also has a Family Wellness Center supported by the Ben and Catherine Ivy Foundation. Established in 2000, the center focuses on health management to prevent chronic and costly diseases like diabetes. Programs focusing on physical activity, nutrition and overall wellness is playing a key role in the Phoenix metro area on helping individuals, families and children make important lifestyle changes.



The Phoenix Council is under the very capable leadership of Steve Atwood, President of the Board of Directors, Steve Zabilski, their long-time Executive Director who has played a key role in elevating the stature of the Society in the Archdiocese, and Shannon Clancy, Associate Executive Director and Chief Philanthropy Officer.

I had the pleasure of re-visiting the Phoenix Council in January of this year, along with President General Renato. President Renato was genuinely impressed with such a large and successful operation on behalf of so many individuals and families in need. For me, it was a reunion since Phoenix is where I began my Vincentian journey in 1987.

Below is a picture of President Renato and me in front of a beautiful statue of the Pieta at a special chapel that adjoins the Society’s Human Services Campus Dining room.



It was heartwarming to revisit with many of the great Vincentians there who played an important part in my Vincentian formation. I would like to thank those specific individuals who played a role in giving me a strong Vincentian foundation, but I fear I would miss one or two people. So, let me just say a big Thank You to those that did and I pray that God continues to bless you.

For more information on the great works of the Phoenix Council visit their website:
www.stvincentdepaul.net

Michael Nizankiewicz
International Territorial Vice
President America 1



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Jerusalem: Living the Vincentian charism in everyday life



Created in 1851, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Jerusalem was established as a fraternal Christian organization of lay people who practice the Vincentian charism by lending a hand to those who are needy and suffering on a person-to-person basis

In the subsequent 40 years of its establishment in Jerusalem, the Society opened a hospital and expanded its activities to Bethlehem, Jaffa, Haifa, Nazareth and Salt, in Jordan. Nowadays, other branches exist in Beit Jala, Ramallah and Jifna. During World War I and through the Nakbeh, the Society played an indispensable role in helping the refugees who took shelter in different places in the Holy Land.

In addition to its mission to help the needy, the Society in Jerusalem also supports existing institutions like hospitals, orphanages and vocational schools. Our fellow member Tony Khashram, Vice-president of the Conference Holy Sepulchre, located in Jerusalem’s Old City, explains that “the families who are in need not only ask for help from the Society” but from these institutions as well.



The three main categories the Society is assisting are the youth who have not finished school, the elderly who are sick or have no income support or pension and the marginalized Christians. In the case of the youth, support is offered by providing vocational training and courses, which include travel clerk and professional culinary courses for instance at local institutes such as the Notre Dame Centre. These programs allow them, among others, to find work in Jerusalem and in turn minimize the rate of youth immigration.

Another program that has been running for the past six years involves the Christian community in the Gaza Strip. Nowadays over 60 Christian poor families, who live in dire conditions and hardships, receive little sums of money from time to time.



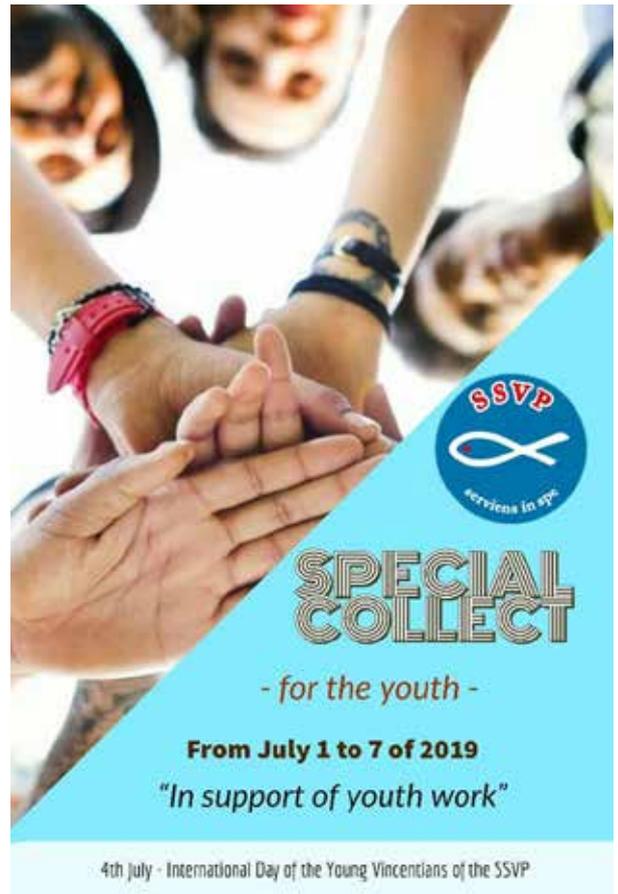
Special Collect for the Youth 2019

IN ADDITION TO CELEBRATING THE SSVP INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY, A SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL COLLECT FOR SSVP YOUTH HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN JULY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY.

This initiative was launched by the President General, Renato Lima, in his circular letter 2019. Therein, the President General remarks that “the Council General International has agreed that the ‘Special Collect for the Youth 2019’ will be held in each country on July 4th, and that the total amount raised to set up a ‘SSVP Youth Fund’ will be managed by the Superior Council (or similar). I am convinced that fellow members’ generosity will allow this fund to be built up with sufficient resources in order to boost activities related to the SSVP Youth. Thanks for all your support!”. The President General suggested that the Special Collect should be made at the Conference meeting to be held from 1st to 7th July, 2019 or at the earliest possible date. This collect can be made at any conference meeting in July.

In addition, the guidelines provided by the CGI International Youth Committee is that all contributions will be sent to the respective Superior Councils, which, in turn, should allocate the amount collected to work with young people in the country. Those Superior Councils with better financial conditions and/or those that have raised more money may promote twinning, by donating the amount to countries with less resources or by allocating the amount to the International Committee so that it will be distributed to countries with limited resources.

Within a culture of transparency, all Superior Councils shall report to the Council General on the amount collected and the activities to be undertaken





SSVP World Youth Day: Young Vincentians Caring for the Environment

RECENTLY, UNDER THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT GENERAL, RENATO LIMA, THE 4TH JULY HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ACKNOWLEDGED WITHIN THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AROUND THE WORLD AS THE 'SSVP'S INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY'. THIS DATE WAS CHOSEN TO COMMEMORATE THE FESTIVITY OF BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI, A YOUNG ITALIAN VINCENTIAN WHO DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO SERVING THE NEEDY AND THE SICK, WHO HAS BEEN PROCLAIMED PATRON SAINT OF THE VINCENTIAN YOUTH, A ROLE MODEL FOR ALL OF US (AND ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG).



As Willian Alves, the International Vice-President for the Youth, said: *"The SSVP International Youth Day is the perfect time to pause and reflect on this hectic world, focusing on the hopes and challenges of the young members of our Society, who have always instilled an enthusiastic and proactive spirit over time in order to build an organised, multifaceted and fearless society that is always creating networks and forging bonds."*

On this day, the SSVP wanted to devote special attention to young people, who took the opportunity to raise awareness about environmental protection, as stated in the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* (on Care for our 'Common Home'), focusing on an 'integral ecology' and preserving natural resources, which are not only beneficial for the planet but also give opportunities to those who suffer the most due to an ill-considered exploitation of nature.

For this reason, many SSVP countries joined this international call and devoted this day to plant trees, clean up common areas, pick up debris or trash, give talks on ecology in schools or celebrate a mass committed to the care and protection of the planet. The young people undertook this initiative, supported by Vincentians of all ages who wanted to live this festive day helping the youth. An unforgettable day that will remain in everyone's memory.



Boipelo Mathodlana
SSVP Africa 2 Youth Coordinator

My nephew born mid-January 2019, an SSVP parish visit, junior candidates integrated into work, all of this and so much more continued in my absence from my South African home. My life in its various facets.

In that space, I had new outlets for my energies, outlets that were quickly filled with something new, something that could potentially add value to them on my return to my normal life. Maybe the addition would be a depth of being, but maybe not, perhaps a new approach to an old problem, or the art of truly letting go of the perception of control.

Being in a foreign environment does that to you, it forces you to get over yourself by somehow getting into yourself, it's something I find very exhilarating. Like a new you that's equally conscious of the 'real' you. The you that doesn't have the assumptions that the people around you understand you, in this case, they want to understand you and why you do things in the manner that you do. For me, it was re-learning the art of self-imposed observation and silence and knowing when it was necessary, recognising the importance of using my voice and the power of its

A unique experience. My First World Youth Day in Panama 2019

impact; the why, when and how of what I implicitly or explicitly say.

In my experiences of EIJV and WYD, I reflected on all of this and more, how do you connect when you don't have the comfort of prior personal knowledge or a common language and customs. When the effort is to understand the basics of what you are trying to say and why. In the various group discussions, there was a necessity to communicate as effectively as possible, share experiences and work towards a unified voice (aka presentation). It was in these moments where I discovered the beauty of EIJV and WYD, in looking for and creating a language beyond linguistics. It was in the language of joy, a cross of and across the diversity of love, in being *"la juventud del Papa"* (youth of the Pope), in the identity of an imperfect youth that strives for more, that strives for better, that aims to inspire and live in and as examples of hope.

The language of what is unspoken but understood in the movement of dance to the opening beats of a DJ or a cultural showcase that somehow carries the familiarity of home, the shared exasperation at the onslaught of heat and the desire to stop walking, cool down and share a pitcher of water. WYD was to me a



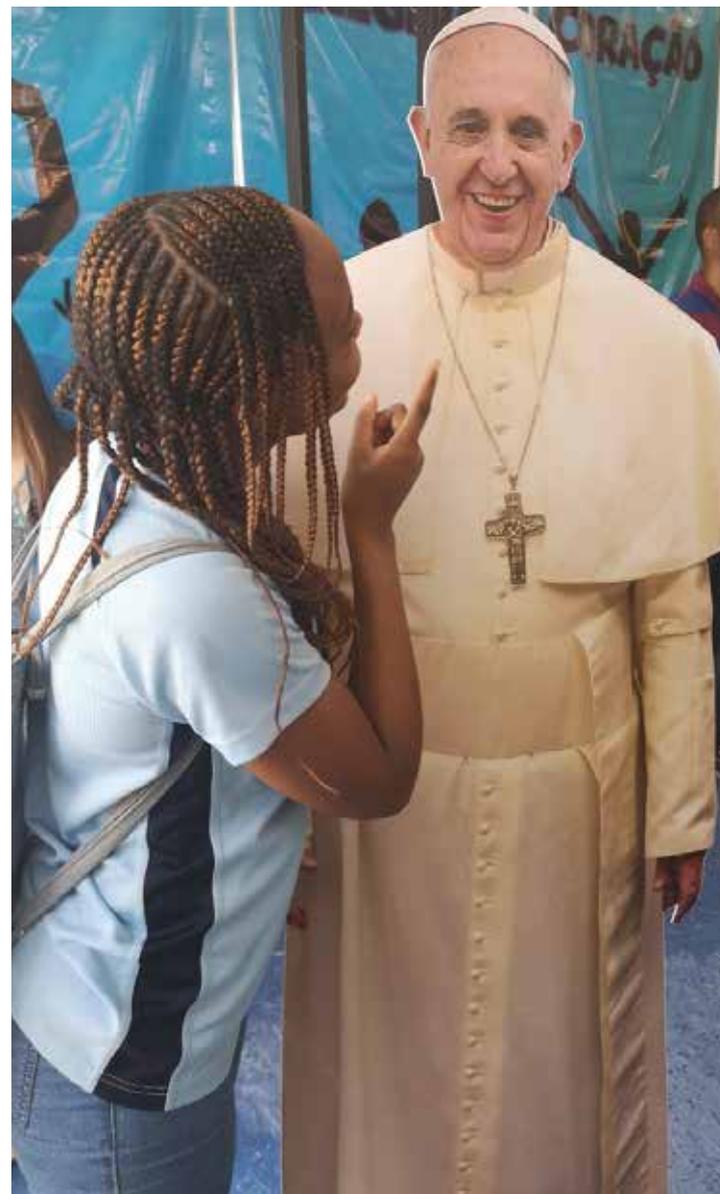
SSVP YOUTH

joyful expression of sharing a common purpose, the purpose of love a unification in the Body of Christ, in the acknowledgment that the entirety of my being forms part of the sum in another Whole Body. That as we kneel together in adoration, we instantly understand and share reverence of The Body.

In those moments, of shared adoration, group discussions, singing on the trains, racing to the edges of the barricade to capture your 'moment' with the Pope (and promptly forgetting to stay on selfie focus as He came into view), walking in the sun and discussing the antics and plans of the day with a host family; through all of them I found my peace, my quiet contemplation and in a funny that only God can design, I learnt to find peace of mind in the midst of the busyness. It was at this WYD that I recognised the importance of my voice and the impact of my silence despite the surrounding noise. Where I experienced retreating inwards whilst remaining outwards. Retreating to find the Him in me that is ready and willing to listen, wanting to embrace what is unsaid or not easily understood. In this beautiful Central American country, I learnt to find and capture the moments, moments to quietly serve in action, moments to relish the busy and to take advantage of it, to share the joy of busyness and moments to learn from the busyness. To learn to use the busy to fulfil His will for a life that is unpredictable, exhilarating, imperfect, purposeful and joyful.



Boipelo Mathodlana, second person on the left, along with other Vincentians at the WYD





Canada

10th Annual Youth Helping Youth Pencil Case Project

A RECYCLING PROGRAM IS GIVING NEW MEANING TO THE TERM PEN PALS. THE PENCIL CASE PROJECT IS A PROJECT THAT HELPS SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AND TEACHERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

The initiative was started by young people who noticed that a lot of school supplies were being thrown out at the end of the school year. The supplies, still in good condition, could be used to help give children in need a better school experience by providing them with classroom supplies.

Each year, with the help of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, gently used and new school supplies are collected.

Items are collected from schools in Hamilton, Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, London and the

Greater Toronto Area. These cities are located in the Province of Ontario, Canada.

The school supplies are sorted, counted, packaged, and shipped off to a chosen country in a 20-foot container. On average, over 7,000 pounds (3175 kg) of material is shipped each year.

Children in the following countries have been assisted over the past ten years: Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Peru, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Philippines, Rwanda, and Trinidad/Tobago.





Journey of the International President to Detroit (USA)

THE SSVP IN DETROIT IS MADE UP OF A CENTRAL COUNCIL WITH MORE THAN 3,000 VINCENTIANS COMMITTED TO HELPING THE MOST VULNERABLE

WHILE ON HIS WAY TO CANADA, TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL PLENARY SESSION, RENATO LIMA DE OLIVEIRA VISITED DETROIT'S CENTRAL COUNCIL

Detroit is a central council composed of ten local councils (125 conferences with more than 3,000 members) and is engaged in various social works: 6 thrift stores that sell second-hand merchandise, 30 soup kitchens that serve meals to people in need, various social programs, a Vincentian camp for young people and a program for ex-offenders. The president of the council is Therese Frye; the executive-director is Daniel P. Malone and the vice-president is William.

During his time in Detroit, the International President engaged in the following activities:

He visited a special work of the Council in Pontiac: a soup kitchen for people in need that serves 300 people twice a week. Renato shared a meal with those people who are served by the Society and was able to dialogue with the president of this work, the fellow member, Jane.

Renato met with the bishop of Detroit, Allan Henry Vigneron and also with the auxiliary bishop, Donald

Francis Hanchon. At that meeting the International President thanks the bishops for their support in establishing a new Conference in the Cayman Islands.

Visit with the members of the Royal Oaks Council: Renato Lima gave a presentation to 150 members in the Little Flower Basilica. The following day he visited the offices of this council and some of its projects: second-hand thrift shops, a dental clinic. The International President gave another presentation to some technicians in the Society and participated in a meeting of the Rosalie Rendu Conference ... he also made some home visits with the members of that conference. At the end of this trip, the International President participated in a reception that was held in the Sacred Heart of Jesus Seminary where he spoke about the work of the International Council and responded to the questions of the participants.

Renato Lima was very pleased with this trip to Detroit and even more pleased with the service that the fellow members are providing to those men and women who are poor and most in need.



PGI’s Trip to Canada to take part in the SSVP National Assembly

THE PRESIDENT GENERAL DELIVERED A SPEECH ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE COUNCIL GENERAL INTERNATIONAL AND WAS PRESENT DURING THE ELECTION OF THE NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF CANADA

The SSVP’s Annual General Assembly in Canada was held in Windsor, from 19th to 22nd June. The President General International, Renato Lima, participated in the last two sessions, those of June 21st and 22nd.

Dating back to 1846, Canada’s Superior Council has a long history since its foundation. It currently has 15,000 fellow members organized into 800 Conference groups spread throughout the country.

Due to the country’s bilingual situation, Canada’s assembly was held in the two official languages (French and English). The assembly’s agenda included the election of the new national president for the 2019-2025 period, a position which was assigned to Joseph Claude Bédard, who takes over from Jean-Noël Cormier.

In addition to being present during the election of the new national president, the PGI, Renato Lima, delivered a speech on the Council General International with an interesting and active round of questions.

This national assembly’s agenda includes speeches, the meeting of the National Council itself, different

workshops (on youth, home visits, implementation of special projects...), youth meetings, involving about 300 people who represent the entire organizational structure of SSVP Canada. The next meeting of Canada’s national assembly will take place in Calgary in 2020.

Renato Lima with the new president of Canada, Joseph Claude Bédard





First meeting on SSVP Charity Shops

COINCIDING WITH THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL GENERAL INTERNATIONAL (CGI) IN PORTO (PORTUGAL), THE FIRST MEETING OF THE CHARITY SHOPS OF THE SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (SSVP) WAS HELD. THE PURPOSE OF THIS GATHERING WAS TO LOOK AT SOME COMMON ELEMENTS AND TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER, ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS IS AN ACTIVITY THAT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

As our patron, St. Vincent de Paul, stated: “love should be inventive unto infinity”, and, to this end, the charity shops were established with a view to finding new ways with regard to financing the Society and that in turn would allow the members to respond to the needs of those persons who are most in need. Furthermore, these shops have become a practical form that allows people to donate articles of clothing and furniture that they no longer need.

The members in Australia, the United States, England, Wales and Ireland (places where these shops have operated successfully for many years) shared their experience with the CGI members when it comes to establishing and managing these shops. This was a great opportunity for the members in those countries where these shops have not been established, to obtain some information and tools in order to begin such an initiative.

In each one of the regions where these shops have been established, they are known by different names: “Vincent’s” in Ireland, “St. Vincent’s” in England;



“Vinnies” in the United States and Australia. Australia has the largest number, 652 in which some 16,783 volunteers work. They began this work in the 1920’s for the purpose of raising funds for local poor families. Today, these shops have become very popular and almost every city and town has their own “Vinnie’s” shop, thus becoming a must for tourists.

In all these countries the “Charity Shops” or “Retail Shops” are an important service offered by the Society. These shops not only offer people clothing and other articles at affordable prices, but also provides income for the Society which is directly invested



Vincent's charity shop in Ireland has been awarded the 'Shop of the Year award' and "Community and Social Impact award' by the Charity Retail Association, a trade association representing the interest of charity shops and charity retailers. Congratulations on your work!

in the local community. We are not a business, but true Vincentians. As such, *to share with those who have less, and to do that from the surplus of others ... that is a sacred mission*, stated Ralph Middlecamp, the President of the National Council of the United States, who also quoted the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: *"Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none."*, Luke 3, 10.

These shops sell many different objects: games, books, furniture, etc. The primary product that one will find in these stores is clothing for children, men and women. These donations come from people who leave these articles in the shops or in containers that are placed in various sites in their community. At times, a parish or a school or some other institution will make a call for the collection of clothes. Prices can range from 3€ to 8€.

It is important to point out that the financial objective is not the primary purpose of this activity. Rather, as Dermot McGilloway (the National Director of this project in Ireland) has stated: fund raising is important in order to carry on our various social works, but the primary objective of this is the Vincentian ministry that we are able to engage in through these shops.

These shops are a way to make the Society

known to the larger society and also to be able to communicate the values of the Society, and thus the members can engage in an effective ministry that enables the Conferences to assist families. Many people, who frequent these shops, do not want to buy something but want to relate to another human being, want to share activities, want to be heard...

The charity shops are managed by a small number of professionals along with the work of a great number of volunteers. Volunteering is another value of this activity, namely, these shops provide the members of the Society with a manner in which they can minister effectively in their community and can also acquire work experience.

Begin where you are; use what you have; do what you can! (Arthur Ashe)



The Conferences of the International Board's members

The conference is an expression of how the members of the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul live the Vincentian charism. Therefore, membership in a conference and participation in the fraternal community life of the conference are essential conditions for every member. Furthermore, frequently the conference will have a good relationship with the priests and the parishes in their zone, a direct relationship with the Church that is very enriching for the members of the Society. It could be said that the conference is the fountain from which the members of the Society drink in order to satisfy their thirst for service on behalf of the poor and in order to strengthen their desire to develop and become more deeply rooted in their faith.



Jean Noël Cormier,
the Chairman of the Concordat. 'Jesus, Mary and Joseph' Conference (Canada)



Willian Alves,
the International Vice-President for Youth, Children and Teenagers
Conferenciá Don Bosco (Brasil)



Sebastián Gramajo,
the 2nd Vice-President General Deputy. 'Santa Clara de Asís' Conference (Argentina)



Maurice Yeung,
the International Vice-President for Structure and Special Projects. 'Holy Cross' Conference (Hong Kong)



Anfons ten Vélde,
the Chairman of the Strategic Department. 'St. John' Conference (the Netherlands)



Carmela Addante,
the International Vice-President for Institutional Relations and Management. 'Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes' Conference (Canada)

Therefore, in this edition of Ozanam Network we want to inform the members that all those individuals who are members of the “Board” of the Council General International, like any other member of the Society, are also members in a conference where they reside. It is there in that conference, together with the other members, that these individuals participate and develop their activity and their prayer life. The President General, Renato Lima, stated: “I follow the Conference President’s guidelines myself; and I, like any other member, take responsibility for those tasks that are entrusted to me. If this were not so, I would be a President General disconnected from the base and from the needs of the poor and those who suffer.”



Renato Lima de Oliveira,
the President General International. ‘Nossa Senhora de Fátima’ Conference (Brazil)



Larry Tuomey,
the Treasurer General. ‘Saint Camillus de Lellis’ Conference (Ireland)



Joseph Pandian,
the Vice-President General. ‘Sacred Heart’ Conference (India)



Joseph Makwinja,
the 1st Vice-President General Deputy. ‘Christ the King’ Conference (Botswana)



María Luisa Téllez,
the International Vice-President for Formation and Training. ‘Nuestra Señora del Amparo’ Conference (Spain)

One can never lose sight of the essence of the meaning of belonging to a conference: to pray with the other members, to live in communion with the group, to care for the individuals and the families who seek assistance from the conference ... regardless of one’s position within the Society, all of these realities are most necessary so that the members do not lose sight of their mission and so that the members continue to see the face of Christ in each and every person that they encounter.



Honoured Vincentian

Congratulations to Jean-Noël Cormier who received the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers. Passion, dedication and a commitment to community are the driving forces behind the volunteers who receive this medal. The medal recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields and pays tribute to the dedication and commitment of volunteers. They embody the caring country we aspire to build. A Vincentian since 2000, Jean-Noël is dedicated to helping the less fortunate in Canada and abroad. He was a driving force behind the Society's North of 60 initiative, supporting a people-driven, equitable and evolving North. Jean-Noël was President of the St-Joseph d'Orléans Conference, President of the Central Council of Ottawa and President of the National Council of Canada from 2013 to 2019. Jean-Noël is currently on the Board of Directors of SSVP Council General International, as President of the Concordat. He is also the SSVP training coordinator for America 1 (Canada, USA and English-speaking Caribbean countries).



Jean-Noël Cormier, who received the medal



Society of St. Vincent de Paul TV Series honored with Gabriel Award

ST. LOUIS – THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL’S TELEVISION SERIES “OUR FAITH IN ACTION: TODAY’S SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL” WAS HONORED WITH A SECOND PLACE GABRIEL AWARD BY THE CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION AT ITS ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY ON JUNE 20.

The series follows SVdP members on their spiritual growth journey through service to people and families in need. From the Society’s traditional home visits, food pantries and assistance with rent and utilities, to innovative health care, financial and mentoring programs, the Society’s members, known as Vincentians, see the face of Christ in the people they encounter. In this series, Vincentians volunteer across the country to bring effective, personalized help to people in poverty and share their stories of Christ’s love along the way.

“The TV show is great for highlighting the Society’s name, brand and some of our special works,” SVdP National President Ralph Middlecamp said. “The Society of St. Vincent de Paul puts an emphasis on growing in faith through doing good works. We hope that television viewers who see ‘Our Faith in Action’ will feel we have answered their need for how they can put their own faith into action and will be moved to join the Society in their communities.”

The Catholic Press Association recognized the series with an award for Second Place in the category of Narrative Series (Storytelling). Initiated in 1965, the Gabriel Awards honors excellence in film, broadcast, and

cross-platform media productions released in the United States and Canada.

“The compassion, dedication and enthusiasm of Vincentians to help people in need is inspiring,” SVdP National CEO and OFIA Executive Producer Dave Barringer said. “We are pleased to have a television series to show the spiritual growth and charitable works of our members. It is an honor for the series to be recognized with a Gabriel Award.”

The 10-episode series currently airs on Eternal



Word Television Network as well as on CatholicTV, Catholic Faith Network and Catholic Television San Antonio. It is also available on SVdP's YouTube site. A second season of the series is currently in production.

"I'd like to thank the Catholic Press Association for this recognition," OFIA Producer/Reporter/Host Trace Trylko said. "We are proud to share the stories of how Vincentians across the United States are helping our brothers and sisters in need."

Established in 1911, the Catholic Press Association is an association of publisher and communication professionals that honor excellent work across media platforms.

One of the largest charitable organizations in the world, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (www.svdpusa.org) is an international, nonprofit, Catholic lay organization of about 800,000 men and women who voluntarily join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in 150 countries on five continents. With the U.S. headquarters in St. Louis, Mo., membership in the United States totals nearly 100,000 in 4,400 communities.

SVdP offers a variety of programs and services,



Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul hand out backpacks with personal care items and information about social services to the homeless in Chicago.

including home visits, housing assistance, disaster relief, education and mentoring, food pantries, dining halls, clothing, assistance with transportation, prescription medication, and rent and utility costs. The Society also works to provide care for the sick, the incarcerated and the elderly. Over the past year, SVdP provided over \$3.4 billion in tangible and in-kind services to those in need, made more than 2.1 million personal visits (homes, hospitals, prisons and eldercare facilities) and helped more than 5.4 million people regardless of race, religion or national origin.

For more information about this release, please contact:
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The SSVP Celebrates the 180th Anniversary of the Council General International

On 21st July, 2019, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) celebrated with great joy the 180th anniversary since the inception of the Council General International (CGI). A link with access to the first CGI meeting minute (in PDF version) will be provided below.

The CGI, as it is known today, results from splitting the 'Board' into other two administrative bodies: on the one hand, the 'Paris' Council', that ran the Conferences in Paris (16 units at that time); and, on the other hand, the 'Council General', responsible for SSVP's growth beyond Paris (with 22 Conferences at that time).

It's worth noting that the 'Board' dates back to 1836, when the first Rule was drawn up. However, during a meeting held on **14th July 1839**, SSVP leaders agreed on splitting the 'Board' and the subsequent setting-up of the 'Council General', which decision was made at a General Assembly held on 21st July 1839. Hence, the birth date of the Council General is the **21st July 1839**. The first official meeting of the new Council was held on 27th December 1840. The term 'General Council' was already used in the 1839 Rule.

The term 'Council General International' emerged in 1967, when the 'Bologna's Council General' (women's branch of the SSVP) merged with the men's branch, thus creating a single mixed Society of St. Vincent de Paul, made up of both men and women.

INSTITUTIONAL LIFE

• The SSVP Celebrates the 180th
• Anniversary of the CGI



PGI 9 Pierre
CHOUARD President
from 1954 to 1969



PGI 10 Henri JACOB
President from
1969 to 1975



PGI 11 Joseph
Rouast President
from 1975 to 1981



PGI 12 Amin A. de
TARRAZI President
from 1981 to 1993



PGI 13 César A. NUNES-
VIANA President
from 1993 to 1999



PGI 14 José Ramón DÍAZ-
TORREMOCHA President
from 1999 to 2010



PGI 15 Michael THIO
YAUW BENG President
from 2010 to 2016



PGI 16 Renato LIMA de
OLIVEIRA President
from 2016

On 21st July, 2019, every parish in the world with a Vincentian Conference was requested to include the following prayer in the Sunday Mass prayer list: “We pray for the 180th anniversary of the Council General International of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, so that it may keep on bringing the message of peace, unity and charity to all Vincentians and the poor of the world”.

Let us pray for our President General, Renato Lima, for the International Board, as well as for all the fellow members providing some kind of service within the International Structure. “We acknowledge, on this date, not only the role of the seven founders of the SSVP, but also that of the first members and all those who have served within the Council General throughout these 180 years, especially those who are already in the Lord’s house”, stated the President General.

Further details on the first days of the SSVP and the inception of the Council General can be found in the book by the well-known French writer Matthieu Brejon de Lavergnée (pages 217-230), entitled “The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the 19th century”.

For more information:
cgi.formation@ssvpglobal.org

Click here to read part of Matthieu Brejon de Lavergnée’s book:
<https://bit.ly/2KzH7CN>

Click here to read the first minute of the Council General, dated 21st July 1839:
<https://bit.ly/2Z1qGa6>



Claudia Pereira

Fellow member of São Jerônimo Conference, in Belo Horizonte (Brazil), and the painter of Felix Clavé's portrait.

IN NOVEMBER 2018, THE PRESIDENT GENERAL ANNOUNCED, WITH IMMENSE JOY, THAT WE HAD FINALLY FOUND AN IMAGE OF FELIX CLAVÉ, THE ONLY FOUNDER WHO, UP UNTIL NOW, HAD NO ILLUSTRATION OR DRAWING. TODAY, WE ARE INTERVIEWING CLAUDIA PEREIRA, A SSSVP EMPLOYER AND FELLOW MEMBER OF SÃO JERÔNIMO CONFERENCE IN BELO HORIZONTE (BRAZIL), WHO IS ABOUT TO FINISH CLAVÉ'S PORTRAIT. WHAT A GREAT INITIATIVE, CLAUDIA!



Claudia, as you already know, up until recently, Felix Clavé was the only founder who had no portrait. How did the opportunity arise to start this work?

I spoke with the President of our Metropolitan Council of Belo Horizonte, fellow member Wellington Geraldo Correa, about the finding, in November 2018, of a drawing of the founder Félix Clavé. He asked me if I would be able to paint Clavé's portrait using as a guide the drawing found. This question kindled the desire to portray Felix Clavé with accuracy, a real challenge. It was then that I began to do some research, on the Internet, on the history of this founder who was misunderstood by the society of that time.

This picture has given you the chance to dive a little more into the history of the founder. Who was Felix Clavé for you? What would you like to depict in this portrait?

I was moved by Félix Clavé's life and work, and I couldn't help but notice that only Clavé's name appeared on the Rule's cover of the SSSVP Brazil, neither a picture nor the year of his death. However, I was glad to know that he was born on July 8th, in my own birthday month, and that, like me, he was a law-abiding man, committed to morality and social justice.

Clavé was one of the seven God-inspired SSSVP



founders. As far as I know, he was a person very devoted to his mission, who worked hard along with Frédéric Ozanam. From the beginning, I tried to portray the peacefulness of his expression, seeking to convey to people beholding his portrait a feeling of dignity, commitment and honesty with the SSVP, since Clavé didn't have the opportunity to show all his virtues in life.

Felix Clavé's picture will help all fellow members to get closer to the history of those young founders. Do you think it is important to know our origins?

I think it is pivotal to bring out and preserve the SSVP's charism. We need to be imbued with our tradition, to be knowledgeable about the history of those who made it possible for us to get where we are. All this will have an effect on the formation of today's Vincentians and our future generations, in their actions and in any decision-making process, always guided by the Vincentian charism.

You are an employee at SSVP Bello Horizonte (Brazil), how did the Society come into your life?

I joined the SSVP in 1987 as a member of the Santo André Avelino Conference, following God's call. Today, I am part of São Jerônimo Conference in Belo Horizonte. In 2015, though, I was asked to work as a lawyer in the Metropolitan Council of Belo Horizonte, a position that I still hold today.

I do believe that being Vincentian is, first and foremost, a mission that makes our gifts and talents available to God, to the marginalised and to the poor, thus contributing to the social promotion of those in need and that of the SSVP.

Are you a professional painter? How did you start painting?

I don't sell my artwork. I do oil painting and specialise in sacred figures. I have a very large set of paintings. I started painting back in 2006 looking for an artistic pursuit that would give me pleasure, other than the stresses of my daily life. Naturally, I gradually developed the skills required. The first sacred picture I produced was that of Our Lady

Queen of Peace. I have never stopped painting ever since.

Do you think art can change people's lives? Does it help us build a better world?

Yes, art not only changes people's lives, but it is also opens our minds, our thoughts. It is also a way of expressing everything we feel, of arousing a passion for something.

Art contributes to creating a better world insofar as it is a means of communication between peoples. Furthermore, it provides both the author of the artwork and those who behold it with a spirit of sensitivity. It positively develops a critical or reflective approach on the portrayed subject. Thus, art can transform and change people's lives for the better.

Thank you very much, Claudia. It has been a pleasure to interview a fellow member so keen with her work, with the Society and with art. We look forward to beholding your artwork finished.





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A NETWORK OF FRIENDS, SEEKING HOLINESS THROUGH THE PERSONAL SERVICE TO THE POOR AND THE ADVOCACY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE.

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VALUES

- SERVICE
- Spirituality
- HUMILITY
- CHARITY
- EMPATHY

1

Formation

Ongoing process for all members

2

Youth

30% of members under 35 years of age

3

Twinning

Build a global network of spiritual and material support

4

Expansion

Presence in all countries

5

Vincentian Family

Permanent and deep collaboration

6

Solidarity

International and local partnerships

7

Global Aid

Revamp fraternal aid and development processes

8

Communications

Renew with the use of world-class technology

9

IGC structure

Constant search for accountability and efficiency

10

National Councils

Support to maximize effectiveness



www.ssvpglobal.org



Ssvp-Conseil Général International

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