



OZANAM NETWORK



Council General International - Society of St Vincent de Paul

Madrid will Host the Annual Meetings of the Council General International



182th
Anniversary
of the CGI

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Family Launches
Master's Degree in
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Malawi.
Building houses
for families
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It is High Time to Purify Ourselves

The global health crisis, which has caused havoc on mankind for 18 months already, has led Christians, SSVP members and the Vincentian Family worldwide to ponder on certain issues.

The Council General International (CGI) and the Superior Councils have been harshly hit by the aforementioned crisis; hence, they are joining efforts to overcome hurdles with creativity, innovation, resilience and empathy, always at the service of those in need and Vincentians.

The pandemic, though, has not only given rise to negative effects. This health crisis can be regarded as a “time to purify ourselves”, to rebuild our lives and communities. The pandemic can be a turning point to provide enhanced quality service to our friends in need, because we live now in a new challenging world.

This real “crisis of the future”, felt and suffered by all of us, can actually be a great chance to serve our brothers and sisters in need more effectively, especially the elderly, the children, the sick and the unemployed. The coronavirus is treacherous, just like any other deleterious social disease, such as misery, indifference, depression and hopelessness.

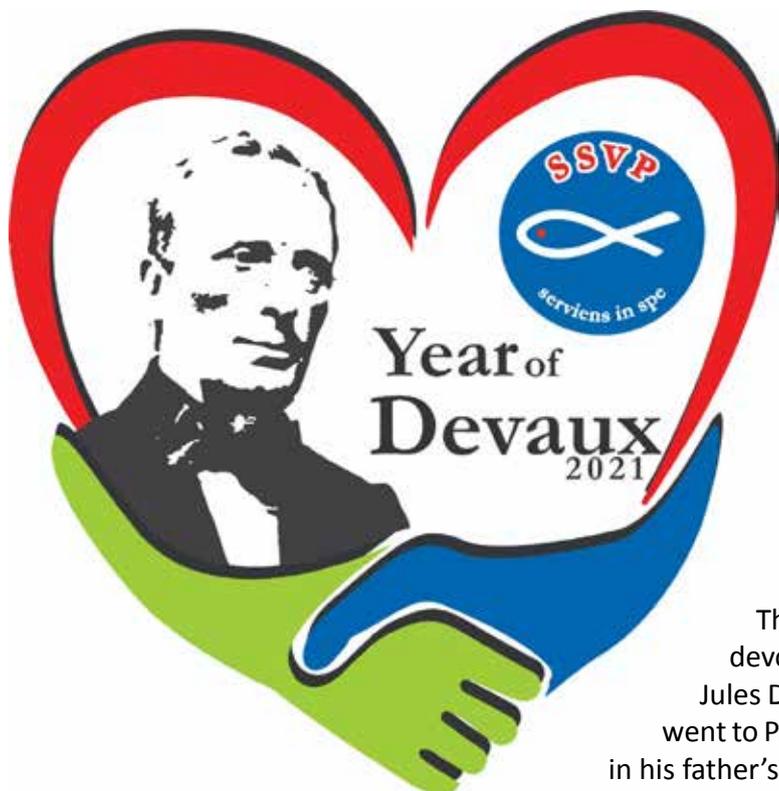
Social and economic inequality among nations has increased due to the pandemic, as has prejudice and selfishness. The “vaccine war” has proved that it is necessary for the international community to support the poorest countries, otherwise the crisis will not end in the near future. There is no point in being vaccinated if my neighbour is not vaccinated. Global solidarity urgently needs to be strengthened and yield positive results.

Charity cannot be locked down. Personal contact, the hallmark of Vincentian Conferences, cannot be replaced by palliative measures. We need to get back to normal to always serve effectively, with appropriate safety and protection, without fear.

With God’s protection and the blessings of Our Lady, we will pursue our path, without getting discouraged or neglecting the poor. As Saint Teresa of Calcutta said: “Fear is always a great poverty”. We, as members of the SSVP Conferences, should keep our focus, with courage, faith and commitment. We, God willing, will get out of this crisis, as we previously have throughout our rich Vincentian history.

We will pursue our path, without getting discouraged or neglecting the poor.





Upcoming Key Dates to Celebrate in Jules Devaux's Themed Year

Significant dates thereof include the following: the prize-giving ceremony of the international literary contest devoted to this founder, the date of his death and the closing of his themed year

This is the fifth edition of the themed years devoted to our founders. This year is dedicated to Jules Devaux, the son of a doctor who, at the age of 20, went to Paris to study medicine at the Sorbonne, following in his father's footsteps.

His stay in Paris changed his life, as he met the colleagues with whom he founded the Conference of Charity. Moreover, he was the one who put the group in touch with Sister Rosalie Rendu (DC), who immediately supported their plans and showed them how to help the poorest.

In addition to the themed year of Jules Devaux, the Council General International (CGI) has launched the international literary contest on this founder, the results of which will be announced on September 9th, the feast day of Bl. Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam.

By the same token, the CGI invites all members to organise a small celebration on the anniversary of Jules Devaux's death, on October 27th, and to conclude his themed year on December 8th, 2021, the feast day of the Immaculate Conception (the patron saint of the SSVP), celebrating a thanksgiving mass in memoriam.

Finally, the CGI's Board, along with a committee made up of some of its members, is visiting the tomb of Jules Devaux in Normandy (France) in the last quarter of the year, always in compliance with existing Covid-19 restrictions.

The CGI invites all members to organise a small celebration on the anniversary of Jules Devaux's death



Forthcoming CGI's Annual Meeting in Madrid

Virtual event due to the pandemic

For the second year in a row, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Council General International (CGI) is holding its ANNUAL MEETING virtually in Madrid, on September 11th and 12th, 2021. Only Board members will be attending in person.

On both days, the plenary meeting is scheduled to begin at 1PM to conclude at 5PM (France's local time). The meeting will be broadcast on Ozanam TV as customary in previous years of this term of office, thus enhancing transparency and dialogue between the CGI and the Vincentian grassroots.

The annual meeting is an event provided for in the Rule and Statutes of the SSVP's International Confederation, as well as in the French regulations, which brings together the key world leaders of our Society to discuss and approve major subjects.

The National Presidents of Superior Councils, members of the International Executive Committee (IEC) and the Permanent Section (CGI's Board and the International Territorial Vice Presidents – ITVPs) are called to this plenary session.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Forthcoming CGI's Annual Meeting
in Madrid

One of the items to be addressed will be the 2020 reports, which will be analyzed, discussed and approved: the President General's Moral Report, the Treasurer General's Accountability and the Secretary General's Operational Report, among other documents.

A cooperation agreement will also be signed with Vincentian Lay Missionaries (MISEVI), a branch of the Vincentian Family focused on sharing experiences, formation and events. The "Charity in Hope" medal will be awarded to "Aid to the Church in Need" (ACN) for its humanitarian work on behalf of the neediest worldwide. Several resolutions will also be voted on during the plenary session.

In addition to the plenary session, there will be two more meetings: the international Board meeting,

on September 9th; and the annual ITVP meeting on September 10th. Following these events, God willing, the 16th President General, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, will be visiting a few Spanish cities and Gibraltar to learn about the Vincentian work being carried out there.

"God willing, we will be holding in-person annual assemblies in the coming years. We rely solely on vaccines and the reopening of borders by countries. These are new times, and we will have to get used to the new normal, always complying with the legal requirements," stated President Lima de Oliveira.

We kindly request our fellow members worldwide to pray for the success of the 2021 plenary meeting in Madrid, and to join in the debates and decisions to be made there. May God bless us!





Talk Show: Fraternal Bonds on Social Media

This Talk Show with the President General reveals how faith and charity should embrace new technologies, which have tangibly kept us united in tough times

On 18th April, in a new spirit of dialogue, closeness and transparency, the President General (PGI) once again met with his fellow members in a live Q&A on OzanamTV, in a simple and direct way. This Talk Show was broadcast in the four SSVP's official languages (English, French, Spanish and Portuguese), with the support of interpreters and the technical staff.

The Talk Show was a friendly discussion among fellow members about crucial issues and the current challenges faced by the SSVP.

Some of the key issues addressed were the following: the development of the spirituality within the Conferences, the progress made in Ozanam's canonisation process, the essential role of youth, resilience amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact of communication and formation on civil society and the right course of the SSVP for the future.

During the two-hour talk show with the PGI, it was highlighted the need to journey together along with the Vincentian Family and the Church, to rely on the

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



Talk Show:
Fraternal Bonds on Social Media

values of our charism, and to foster empathy and resilience to overcome any hurdle, particularly in times of pandemic, thus weaving the network of charity, both towards our “lords and masters” and among our fellow members, so that no one is left behind.

The PGI also spoke about the importance of leadership within the SSVP, about the need to take on responsibilities and to love the Conferences, by generously volunteering our time and skills.

Other key issues addressed were the following: the new date set for the General Assembly which, due to Covid-19 restrictions, will be held a year later, in 2023; the good work undertaken by the SSVP at international institutions, such as the UN and UNESCO, as well as the involvement at the Vatican via the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life; the SSVP Safeguarding Protocol for Children and the Most Vulnerable; and importance of the SSVP’s twinning system, the Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD) and the Fund for International Solidarity (FIS), at which point Renato Lima highlighted that befriending /

collaboration is not just about money, but it is also about spiritual support.

Our PGI assured us that the SSVP is a lifestyle in pursuit of holiness, following in the footsteps of the founders of Conferences, like so many others who were part of the institution and have been recognised by the Church as venerable, blessed, saints, servants of God, hence reinforcing the prayer-action binomial, which is the foundation of our charism. In other words, we cannot turn a blind eye on the suffering of our neighbor. We regard faith as a way to take action with justice and charity.

To conclude and with regard to the final step in Ozanam’s canonisation, Renato Lima kindly asked fellow members to join in the fast proposed by the CGI on the 23rd of each month, as a token of communion and support for this cause by all Vincentians around the world, looking forward to seeing Ozanam on the altar.

The next Talk Show will be held, God willing, on October 30th, 2021.

DIRECTO 5

Mensagens

Confrade Renato, bom dia. No ano passado, vocês do CGI criaram o dia internacional das **CONSÓCIAS**, em 14 de agosto. Nos conte como surgiu essa idéia?

Cida Prates Santos



CGI Board Meeting

On April 24th, the Board of the Council General International (CGI) held its third meeting this year, which was virtual, with the support of interpreters, due to travel restrictions around the world

The Board is made up of 15 brothers and sisters, appointed by the President General (PGI), as well as Father Andrés Motto, our beloved spiritual advisor.

Some of the agenda items addressed were as follows:

- Virtual formation on the SSVP, the pandemic and the future;
- Dates and venues for the upcoming annual CGI’s assemblies;
- Update on Ozanam’s canonisation process;
- Approval of programme of activities/events for 2021, 2022 and 2023;

- Theme for the “SSVP International Youth Day”, on July 4th;
- Balance sheet by Treasurer General;
- Other issues raised by Board members.

On April 25th, a special meeting was held for the 12 International Territorial Vice-presidents (ITVPs) to discuss further improvements within the International Structure.



Third International Board Meeting Held in 2021

An intensive session with many issues discussed and approved

On July 10th, the SSVP's third CGI Board meeting of the year was held in Paris, gathering all Board members.

At the beginning of the meeting, Fr Andrés Motto, Spiritual Advisor, pondered on the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on employment and jobs, and announced that some documents will be launched on November 14th, on the occasion of the World Day of the Poor.

Fellow member, Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General, reported on the activities undertaken in the last two months (online and face-to-face events), the actions fostered by the Council General, and the agenda set for the second half of the year. For his part, Juan Manuel Buergo, 3rd Deputy Vice President General and SSVP Spain's National President, outlined the details of the forthcoming CGI annual meeting, which will

be held in Madrid from 9th to 12th September 2021. The Board approved all the documents to be presented to Superior Councils at this event.

The reports produced by the Treasurer General, Larry Tuomey, and the Secretary General, Marie-Françoise Salesiani-Payet were then presented and approved. Furthermore, some information was provided on the progress made on Ozanam Historical Place at the international headquarters, which will gather extensive information on Bl. Ozanam and the other founders, as well as documents on the inception of the Society; and on SSVP's activities and events at the UN, such as the signing of important declarations along with other institutions.

As far as formation/training is concerned, the International Vice President for Formation and Training, María Luisa Téllez, announced that the



2nd webinar on “Poverty, Pandemic and Charity” will be held on November 28th, with five new speakers. As for youth, fellow member Willian Alves marked the SSVP International Youth day, on July 4th, and other ongoing initiatives.

Fellow members Antonio Gianfico and Sebastián Gramajo shared encouraging news about Bl. Ozanam’s canonisation process and the Vatican. Alfons Ten Velde outlined the new “Terms of Reference” for all offices held at the CGI, and fellow member Ralph Middlecamp explained the progress made on international solidarity in our Society.

The SSVP’s International Vice President for Structure, fellow member Maurice Yeung, reported on the current situation of the SSVP in the world, highlighting some possible actions in certain areas. Jean Noel Cormier, President of the Concordat, reported that he has sent a letter to the countries expressing his thanks for their financial contribution to the General Council. Claire Victory reported on the next steps for the Safeguarding Protocol; and Joseph Makwinja produced a report

on the 2nd All-Africa Assembly, which will be held in July 2022 in Nairobi (Kenya) and will gather the SSVP presidents of this continent.

At the request of President General, there were two guests at the meeting: fellow member Júlio César Marques de Lima, who briefed on the SSVP Plus Project aimed at expanding the Society to several countries in the coming years; and fellow member Carlos Lafarga, who outlined the progress made in Communication, and, particularly, in social media.

To conclude, Vice President General Joseph Pandian remarked that the meeting had been held in memory of all SSVP members and people assisted by the Society who passed away during the pandemic, and prayed that mankind would soon be back to normal.

Forthcoming Board meetings: September 9th (Madrid, Spain) and December 5th (Lyon, France).

Our thanks to the interpreters and the staff of the international headquarters for their logistical support during this meeting.





President General Delivers Letter of Aggregation to a Conference at a Military Educational Institution

St. Maurice Conference was established in 1917, but the Letter was missing

On May 30rd, in the city of Resende (Brazil), 170 km away from Rio de Janeiro, the members of St. Maurice Conference experienced a unique moment: they were given a copy of the Letter of Aggregation by the SSVP's President General, the second one, since the original letter had been missing for many years. This Conference is located on the premises of Agulhas Negras military academy, a higher-education institution preparing future officers of the Brazilian Army.

At the ceremony, fellow member Renato Lima de Oliveira was accompanied by several local Vincentian leaders, both from the Central Council of Resende and the Metropolitan Council of Volta

Redonda, in charge of the region. The Letter of Aggregation was delivered during the Holy Mass, celebrated by Father Lucas Mota Diniz (military chaplain), who emphasized the importance of this formal commitment with the Council General, via the aggregation to Paris.

Right after the Mass, St. Maurice Conference's members (12 young cadets) went to the parish hall, where President Renato gave a short formation course "Overview of the SSVP", elaborating on the pillars of our entity, the charism of St. Vincent, the legacy of the seven founders, the mission of the Conferences and the Vincentian hierarchy.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

President General Delivers Letter of Aggregation to a Conference at a Military Educational Institution

On this occasion, all were presented with the SSVP Rule and other Vincentian books. Monsignor Fernando Guimaraes, Military Archbishop of Brazil, sent a video message greeting the Conference for having received the Letter, and expressing his satisfaction with the ongoing charitable activities. The National President, brother Cristian Reis da Luz, also sent a beautiful message, which was read out to Conference members, about the unity within the SSVP. “The delivery of this Letter of Aggregation is a moment to celebrate with great joy, to cherish in our heart and memory.”, stressed Cristian.

Formation Course

During the formation course, President Renato presented a picture with the image of the seven SSVP founders, as well as a relic of Bl. Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam: “Congratulations on the outstanding social and spiritual work undertaken for the poorest, especially for the children in need”, said the President General. Brother André de Mello, the Conference president, was moved to receive such a precious object, especially when he learned that it was the only relic in the city of Resende. This was followed by a visit to the Central Council’s headquarters.

St. Maurice Conference was established in 1917, at a time when the Military Academy was still located in the neighborhood of Realengo (Rio de Janeiro). Despite its relocation to Agulhas Negras, in Resende, the Conference remained operational and added a Vincentian Village to its charitable service. Inaugurated in 1948, this village consisted of 20 small houses for needy and homeless families. The President General, on his trip to Resende, also visited the village, and was impressed by the quality of such meritorious work, identifying possible new forms of Vincentian action in the fields of culture, education and sports.

“My dream is to establish Vincentian Conferences at all the military schools, academies and barracks of the three military branches (the navy, army and air force), so that the Catholics who work there can also enjoy the same privilege as we do: personal sanctification, friendship and charity towards those who suffer. I request the National Councils to consider this possibility, according to their situation, since the creation of Vincentian Conferences at military headquarters is a call we cannot shirk”, stated President Lima de Oliveira, supported by Father Lucas.

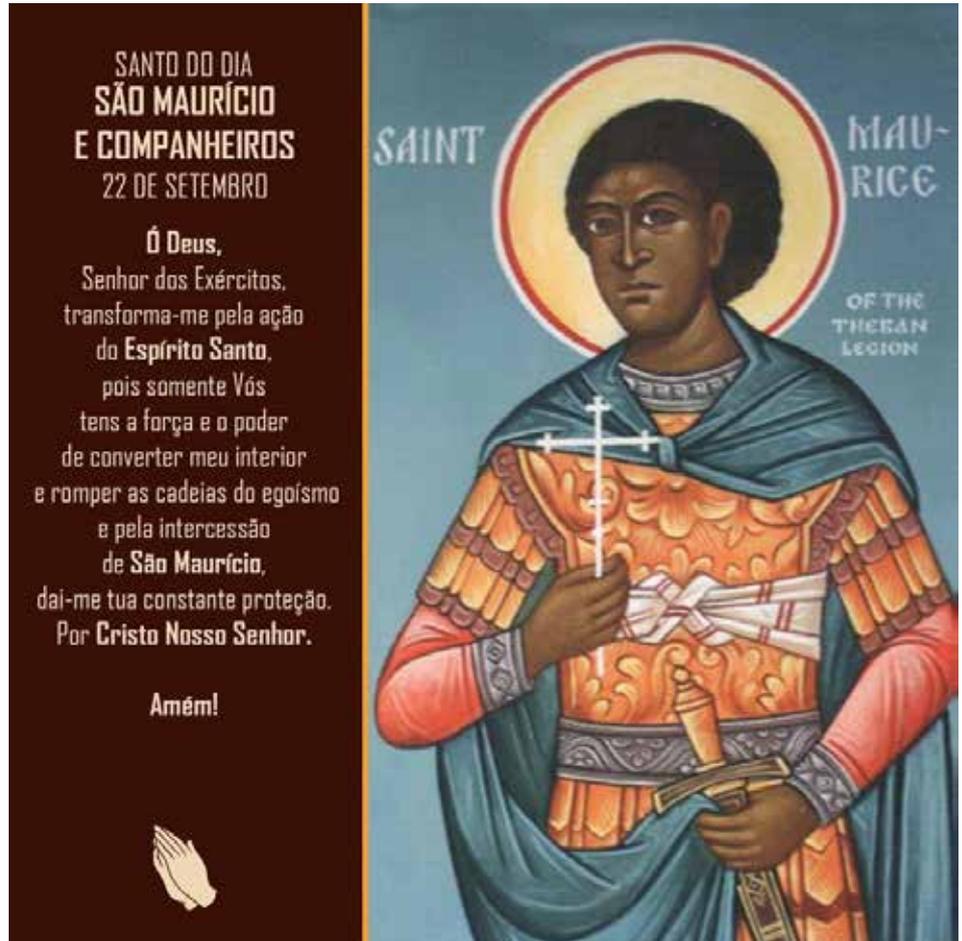


During the events that took place in Resende, brother Renato Lima recalled the time when he was an officer cadet. “Looking at these boys today brings up memories of myself in the armed forces in 1986, when I joined a SSVP Conference also located in a military environment, in the city of Campinas (State of Saint Paul). The values upheld by the Armed Forces (family, character, self-improvement and honesty) are also preached at the SSVP, combined with the Vincentian virtues, especially with regard to those in need and, above all, among our fellow members”, emotionally remarked President General.

Saint Maurice

Saint Maurice, after whom the Conference was named, was a Roman military leader in Thebes (Egypt). He became the commander of a legion entirely composed of Christians. On one occasion, Maurice stood up to emperor Diocletian, who gave the order that the army should give sacrifices to the Roman gods in thanks for the success of the wars. The emperor also ordered the execution of a number of Christian prisoners. Maurice and his legion refused to comply with the order, so they were all killed. For this, the Holy Church declared them saints and martyrs.

The name “Maurice” means “black moor” in Greek, as he was the first black saint of Christianity. Saint Maurice is one of the most popular saints in western Europe. There are over 650 sacred places bearing his name in France and Switzerland alone. Over 70 European towns bear his name. He is also known as the patron saint of the Holy Roman Emperors. His feast day is celebrated on September 22nd. His birth date is unknown, and, according to the



hagiographies of St. Maurice, he died in 286 (3rd century). Saint Maurice, pray for us!

Download the documents below (in Portuguese)



[Monsignor Fernando's video](#)



[Brother Cristian's message](#)



[President General's speech](#)

New rules regarding the submission of aggregation and institution requests

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

To improve the service of aggregations and institutions, we have established new rules regarding the submission of aggregation and institution requests.

- The approval of aggregations/institutions by the members of the Permanent Section will continue to be done, as in the past, twice a year (usually on June 15 at the CGI annual meeting and on December 15). However, the deadline for sending the forms to the CGI will be set two months BEFORE the meeting of the Permanent Section. This means that:

- For the Permanent Section of June 15: everything must be sent before April 15.
- For the Permanent Section of December 15: everything must be sent before October 15.

ATTENTION: Concerning the year 2021, the usual dates have been modified because of the pandemic. These two meetings will therefore take place this year:

- On June 1, 2021 (concerning this session, it is too late to send your applications: the closing was done in April)
- On September 15, 2021 (deadline for sending applications: July 15)

Another change concerns the way of sending. Ideally, all applications should be sent to us by mail. However, we understand that for some countries this may be an additional difficulty. We have therefore established the following rule:

- Countries sending no more than 20 aggregation requests may do so by email (only for countries that really cannot afford to send by mail). Please do not send two emails with 20 requests each.
- Beyond 20 aggregation requests we ask that you send forms by mail only.

Address:

Conseil Général International
Confédération Internationale de la
Société de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul
Service des Agrégations et des Institutions
65 Rue de la Glacière - 75013 - Paris - France

The current e-mail address for mailings or questions regarding the Aggregations is:
Aggregations - Paula Gomes -
email: cgi.assist@ssvpglobal.org



[You will find attached an updated document that will remind you of the procedure concerning the Aggregations](#)

Please make these changes known to the Conferences.

Fraternally yours,

The General Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the General Secretary.



Visit to SSVP nursery school

Father Motto Visits Vincentian works in Brasilia

Ten busy days in Brazil

Back in Europe, after teaching Vincentian courses in Central America, Father Andrés Motto (Congregation of the Mission, CM), spiritual advisor to the Council General International (CGI), spent a few days in May, in Brasilia (Federal District), capital of Brazil. The city happens to be where our 16th President General, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, lives and works.

Father Motto stayed at the headquarters of the Metropolitan Council in Brasilia, and received all the logistical support from the local leadership. He also visited and blessed the CGI office in Brasilia, President General's workplace.

Many members were pleased to join Father Motto in various activities. During his stay in Brasilia, he visited two special works supported by the SSVP: The Nursing Care Home for the elderly, located in the city of Formosa; and the Day Care Centre, in the city of Cruzeiro Velho, for children of up to five years old.

In addition to the full Vincentian agenda, the priest visited Catholic places, namely the Monastery of St. Benedict, the Metropolitan Cathedral of Our Lady of Aparecida, the St. John Bosco Sanctuary, the Mother Queen Sanctuary, the Military Cathedral of Mary Queen of Peace and the Saint Pio of Pietrelcina parish. One of the most outstanding moments was the Holy Mass, concelebrated by him in Portuguese, at Our Lady of Hope parish, where he was warmly greeted by the whole community.

During his stay in Brazil, Father Motto himself praised the work undertaken in the "Structural city", a very deprived area which is supported by numerous Vincentian Conferences, by the Catholic Church itself and other social entities. There, he witnessed firsthand the plight of many people, harshly hit by misery, unemployment and the pandemic, and the Vincentian reaction to these challenges. Shortly afterwards, Father Motto was also welcomed by the authorities at the Embassy

of Argentina, where he met with his fellow countrymen.

“I very much appreciated my brief stay in Brasilia. My special thanks to my fellow members who, patiently and kindly, took the time to accompany me during my trip, explaining everything with great detail. The visit to the most deprived area of the “Structural City” was a great value to me. There are no words to thank everyone for the warm welcome and affection received throughout my stay in Brasilia. I am especially grateful to the President General, my colleague Renato Lima”.



Fr. Motto with Fr. Geraldo Oliveria



Visit to the nursing home in Formosa



Fifth Anniversary of Current CGI's Term of Office

On September 9th, 2021, we commemorate the 5th anniversary of the current term of office of the Council General International (CGI), under the guidance of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Vincent de Paul

First off, I would like to thank the Good Lord for the grace of having been appointed by Him, with a majority of votes from countries belonging to our Confederation, to hold the prestigious office of 16th President General of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP).

I was elected to preside over the CGI up to 2022. However, due to the international Covid-19 health crisis, my term of office has been extended for another year following the decision made at the extraordinary assembly held by countries making up the International Executive Committee.

I would like to thank the International Board, the headquarters' staff and, especially, the Superior Councils, which are part of the Confederation, for their wholehearted support to the CGI and to myself. Thanks to this union, harmony and strategic vision, we are achieving all the goals established, and beyond that; but this —and I do insist— is not my achievement, but that of all those who are working together for this purpose.

Since 1839, the CGI has been the major guardian of the Rule and the SSVP unity, upholding the same foundations and principles of the Society in over

I do believe we have achieved several objectives through projects, initiatives and programs that have increased the CGI's visibility

150 Vincentian territories. Our concerns revolve around transparency, democracy and innovative management, being always close to members, showing the great role of the CGI for the whole SSVP.

I am an open person and I strive to work out solutions to the most difficult decisions through dialogue and consensus, according to the Vincentian tradition. We do not always get it right, but we can guarantee one thing: we have never stood still or idly by, especially in these difficult times of pandemic.

Throughout these five years, I do believe we have achieved several objectives through projects, initiatives and programs that have increased the CGI's visibility. We have worked hard to disseminate the biographies of the seven founders. We have stepped up efforts in Bl. Ozanam's canonisation. We launched the Fund for International Solidarity (FIS), expanding the CGI's solidarity and fraternal aid beyond its borders.

As for formation, we have included new modules of the Universal Program, edited new books and resumed the publication of Circular Letters. With regard to young people, we would like to mention some of the initiatives undertaken: the SSVP International Youth Day (July 4th), the youth census, and the 2nd International Meeting in Salamanca

(Spain). Moreover, our communication has been enhanced with a new website, institutional videos, social networks, memorial logos and newsletters. In addition, we have introduced the figure of General Ombudsman to receive comments and address concerns and conflicts.

Furthermore, institutional relations have been strengthened via agreements and conventions, bringing the SSVP even closer to the Church and the United Nations. In these five years, and despite the pandemic, we have visited 40 countries; and thanks to the "SSVP Plus" project, we have reached

Institutional relations have been strengthened via agreements and conventions, bringing the SSVP even closer to the Church and the United Nations

out to six new countries. We also established the "International SSVP Women's Day", on August 14th, and a spiritual campaign for Ozanam's canonization has been launched, consisting of members fasting on the 23rd of each month. To top it all, we have acquired new general headquarters in Paris, thereby increasing the CGI's assets.

To all the members around the world, brothers and sisters, I ask you to pray for me and my family. May we continue to serve the SSVP, always in unity.

*Bother Renato Lima de Oliveira,
on behalf of the International Board.*

To top it all, we have acquired new general headquarters in Paris, thereby increasing the CGI's assets

182th Anniversary of the CGI

Despite the global health crisis, the Council General is in full swing

On July 21st, 2021, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) enthusiastically celebrated the 182nd anniversary of the founding of the Council General International (CGI), the body in charge of overseeing the observance of the Rule in all countries and of preserving unity in our Institution.

On July 14th, 1839, our founders approved the SSVP's restructuring with the subsequent establishment of the CGI, which decision was endorsed at a General Assembly on July 21st, 1839.

Throughout its 182 years, the CGI has faced numerous challenges, such as epidemics, wars, struggles and persecutions. On the other hand, the SSVP has grown and reached impressive figures: 47,000 Conferences, 800,000 members and 30 million needy people assisted. During this period, sixteen President Generals have been elected. Today, 120 members from all continents hold service positions at the Council, plus seven qualified staff members at the new headquarters in Paris.

"It is an immense privilege, yet a great responsibility for me, to hold the noble position of President General, especially because I am the first from a developing country like Brazil. I don't deserve to

perform such a service in view of my limitations, failures and imperfections; for this reason, I do believe that only the Good Lord can protect us from the snares of evil and enlighten us to make the right decisions that will yield good fruits for the whole Society. I am very happy, and I do hope to always serve more and better", stated 16th President General, fellow member Renato Lima de Oliveira.

Let us pray for the International Board and for all the members who render or have rendered some type of service at the International Structure. We recognize, on this date, not only the seven SSVP founders, but also the first members and all those who have served at the Council General in these 182 years, especially those who are already in the Lord's House.

On July 21st, 2021, all parishes with a Vincentian Conference were requested to include the following intention during the Holy Mass: "On the occasion of the 182nd anniversary of the SSVP's Council General International, we pray that it will keep on bringing the message of peace, unity and charity to all its members and to the poor of the world, especially in these gloomy times arising from the international health crisis."



Testimonies from CGI Members on the 182nd Anniversary

RENATO LIMA DE OLIVEIRA 16th President General

It is an immense privilege, yet a great responsibility for me to hold the noble position of President General, especially since I am the first from a developing country such as Brazil. I have no merits to perform such a service due to my limitations and imperfections; for this reason, I do believe that only the Good Lord can protect us from the snares of evil and enlighten us to make the right decisions that will yield good fruits for the whole Society. I am very happy, and I do hope to always serve more and better.



LARRY TUOMEY Treasurer General

Cutting-edge technology and air travel have made the task of CGI easier than for its predecessors. We now have a diverse membership from the five continents whereas, for the first 100 years, CGI members were only from the mother country. Wars prevented CGI from meeting over long periods in history, but we can overcome difficulties of meeting via modern technology. Yet, past and present, the basic task of CGI remains the same - to encourage Councils, Conferences and members throughout the world to better pursue their Vincentian vocation.



JOSEPH PANDIAN Vice President General

I have been attending CGI annual meetings since 2002. With Brother Renato, I joined the Council General's Board in 2016 and that has been an enlightening experience for me. I realized for the first time that I belong to an international family of love and charity. The amazing leadership of our President was an awakening for me in many ways. Being at CGI is an experiential learning process that I thank God too much.



JOSEPH MAKWINJA 1st Vice President General Deputy

Being part of President Renato's team at the CGI has given me the opportunity to enjoy camaraderie and experience with men and women always ready to assist and help those less fortunate, and carrying out their tasks with particular pleasure and humility under the patronage of St. Vincent de Paul in order to reach holiness, despite our human weaknesses.



MARIE-FRANÇOISE SALESIANI PAYET Secretary General

Being part of Council General means to serve joyfully within an enthusiastic and convinced team, to participate in poverty alleviation, to live the Gospel in the footsteps of our founders, to serve our brothers throughout the world in charity and friendship, to be surprised by encounters and unexpected calls, to pursue our mission and to leave no one behind. I thank brother Renato for the trust placed in me.



SEBASTIÁN GRAMAJO 2nd Vice President General Deputy

When brother Renato called me to be part of the Council General, I felt the joy of belonging to a group of friends united in the pursuit of holiness, in the love for the poor and in the service of our Vincentian brothers and sisters around the world. I want to thank God and the Vincentians for the progress made in Ozanam's cause of canonization, fulfilling the dream of so many Vincentians who, for years and years, have prayed to say: "Saint Frédéric Ozanam!"



JUAN MANUEL BUEGO GÓMEZ
3rd Vice President General Deputy

It is an exciting responsibility to belong to the CGI. Always with humility and open-mindedness, we should try to improve as a person, absorbing the best teachings that our fraternal community provides us. I am proud of being able to give back to the SSVP, from the CGI, with efficiency and joy, some of the fruits yielded by me.



WILLIAN ALVES
International Vice President for Youth, Children & Teenagers

Serving SSVP as a CGI member is another step towards holiness. It is a great mission, not regarded as an honour; all the opposite, it entails being available, serving, helping, learning and sharing experiences. Being at the CGI, I realised how vibrant, audacious our institution is, with men and women passionate about dedicated and zealous service to the most needy. We are indeed a great and beautiful Charity Network, founded by young visionaries!



ANDRÉS MOTTO, CM
Spiritual Advisor

I am happy to accompany and advise the SSVP because it has generated a valid model of evangelizing laity. The SSVP is one of the most worthy associations that promote Catholic social Christianity. When Brother Renato called me to be an advisor at the international level, I felt that I was not worthy and that it was a task that was beyond me. But at the Council General International I met a very understanding and supportive group of brothers and sisters. I am happy to be collaborating with the CGI. This activity is for me a task but also a beautiful gift from God.



MARISA TÉLLEZ
International Vice President for Formation & Training

Belonging to the CGI's Board implies providing a new service to the SSVP, as well as the pride of sharing with all its high-level members, important decisions for the proper operation of the Institution, on so many fronts and facets that should culminate in the holiness of its members and in helping those most in need. To my mind, it has been a source of joy to meet Vincentians from all over the world who, by their example of commitment, make us better and help us move up on that ladder that leads us to address the world's problems, thereby bringing us closer to God. At the same time, we feel part of this great family.



MAURICE YEUNG
International Vice President for Structure

It is amazing that the SSVP, through the CGI, has been serving the poor and those in need for 182 years. We are not only delivering charitable works, we, in fact, are sharing God's love and messages with them. Whilst the entire world is facing unprecedented difficulties, particularly in the midst of pandemic, and is encountering different kinds of poor, the Council General International is making appropriate adjustments to address all these issues. I am very grateful to be part of the CGI's team under brother Renato's presidency.



ALFONS TEN VELDE
International Vice President for Governance & Strategic Affairs

I am honoured and proud of being a member of the current CGI's Board, forging friendships with colleagues from all parts of the world. Their knowledge and wisdom make me a richer and more spiritual person. Together we make the Council General a strong and inspiring example for all Vincentians throughout the world. We face the difficulties together and seek the best solutions to the problems we encounter on this path, with God's grace.



ANTONIO GIANFICO
International Vice President
for Institutional Relationship

Being a Vincentian is a way of life, and serving the Council General International is also a way of life. I have learned a lot during my current term of office, full of innovation and ideas. The Council General is the guiding light for National Councils, making every effort to preserve unity and overseeing the Rule. I would like to express my gratitude to our President Renato for his enthusiasm, commitment, dedication and for the passion he puts into his work. Being part of CGI is an honour and enriching experience thanks to the contributions made by our brothers and sisters from different parts of the globe. And here we are in order to serve the poor in a more appropriate way, preserving the Christian values and the Vincentian Charism, as our founders have taught us.



RALPH MIDDLECAMP
International Vice President for
Solidarity & Special Projects

Being part of the Council General International has strengthened my vocation and dedication to serving the poor. The founders of the Society were good friends and, through the Council General, I have been privileged to make new friends from every part of the world who share this commitment to living out the Gospel by serving those in need. Most of what we do as members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to serve the poor is very local. However, the leadership of the CGI serves and unites us into a worldwide network of friendship and charity.



JEAN-NOEL CORMIER
Chairman of Concordat

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul gives me the opportunity to live the gospel of Jesus Christ by serving the people in need. Whether we are active at the Conference level, at the Council level or at the Council General International level, all actions are focused on this objective, and, for me, it is more than volunteering, it is a way of life.



CLAIRE VICTORY
Chairman of IFAC

To be part of SSVP means having brothers and sisters, colleagues and friends, all over the world. Our lives are so different, yet we share the same mission and values. Being involved with the CGI Board means that I am able to support my Vincentian friends around the world and thereby enrich my own Vincentian life and work.



GONZAGUE DE RAULIN
Staff member

Frédéric Ozanam and his colleagues founded the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in 1833, one year after the cholera pandemic. With the same context today, the CGI and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul are fighting against new forms of poverty. I couldn't help but notice the perseverance of President Lima de Oliveira, in his willingness to make himself available and listen to the team and the territories for this cause of universal charity. He is willing to meet and cooperate in the face of these new scourges with his communicative warmth. Renato Lima de Oliveira is resolved to continue the work of the founders throughout the world. That is why, it is a great honour for me to serve the Council General International.



LILIANE MONTEIRO
Staff member

After having worked in multinational companies, I decided to put myself at the service of a noble cause, and that is how I came to be at the Council General, to which I am grateful for having given me the opportunity to make my humble contribution to this immense world chain of charity. I take this opportunity to thank Council members at the grassroots for their work. I admire the selflessness of the CGI's members, who work really hard. Working at an NGO like the CGI at service of those most in need comforts me in my principles. This way, the motto "serve in spe" has a meaning with each new day of work.



BRUNO FABRE

Staff member

20 years ago, I did not know the Society of St Vincent de Paul... and then I joined the CGI! What an honour to work for this magnificent institution, what a joy to be day after day at the service of those who are at the service of the most vulnerable and to be a small link in this chain of love that has made such a big difference in the lives of so many people for 182 years!



ANNE WINTENBERGER

Staff member

Working at the Council General has been an exciting inner and professional adventure for me. It has allowed me to deepen my faith, meet wonderful people and experience beautiful friendships with people of all cultures. I have opened myself to the complexity of the world, and witnessed with hope the unfolding events and my own poverty, to be edified by the exemplary lives of thousands of anonymous Vincentians around the world, by their constancy and gratuitousness in service, by their faithfulness to commitment, whatever the cost, with the strength given by love.



STÉPHANE JOACHIM

Staff member

I am very fortunate to have worked at the Council General International since 1995! President General Tarrazi hired me. This generous man, full of the Vincentian spirit, trained me, explaining the role of the CGI, and in what spirit I should be working. I have been very lucky, and I am thankful for that. The Vincentian spirit includes simplicity, humility, gentleness, selflessness and enthusiasm, as well as unity among ourselves. So I am very proud and happy to work at the CGI. Thanks for these 25 years, which, happily, is not finished yet! Providence is with us, and helps us in our mission.



PAULA GOMES

Staff member

Being part of CGI gives a deeper meaning to my daily work, because I know that, through it, I can make a difference and have a positive impact on the lives of those who need help.



AMBRE SIONNEAU

Staff member

I have just arrived at the Council General of SSVP, as an administrative and legal assistant. I am impressed at how all its members and the big Vincentian Family are full of kindness. Everyone comes from all walks of life, yet they gather around the same goal: serving the poor with a fraternal spirit. Obviously, the Society is ancient, but faces new and exciting challenges. Working at Council General is a spiritual boost, and I hope to be able to bring a positive contribution.





Holy Mass in the Parish of Saint Thomas of Aquino to celebrate the 182 years of the General Council

President General's Brief Visit to Lisbon on the CGI's Anniversary

Mass celebrated by Father Álvaro Cunha, CM.

Back to Brazil after attending the Board meeting held on July 10th, in Paris (France), in a week with a full agenda with institutional contacts, the 16th President General, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, visited Lisbon (Portugal) on July 21st, where he took part in various events.

By a pleasant coincidence, that day was the 182nd anniversary of the Council General International.

In thanksgiving to God for this day, the President Renato Lima de Oliveira, accompanied by the National President, sister Alda Couceiro, attended the Holy Mass presided by Father Álvaro Cunha (CM) and other Lazarist priests at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish. The President General also prayed for the end of the pandemic and for the souls of all the deceased with Covid-19 around the world.

Renato greeted the members of the local Vincentian Conference who were present at the Eucharist and presented Father Alvaro with a copy of the book *Holiness in the Vincentian Conferences*, written by Gesiel Junior (SSVP Brazilian member), gathering the biographies of over 50 Venerables, Servants of God, Blessed and Saints who were members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Renato Lima was also at the headquarters of the Superior Council of Portugal, where he spoke with the President, Alda Couceiro, and the National Delegate for Youth, Orlando Mendes, about various topics, such as the CGI's agenda for the coming years, the World Youth Day in 2023 and Ozanam's canonization process. Renato Lima was moved to see that the National President had placed on the walls of the national headquarters



a picture of him as the current President General.

During his brief stay in Lisbon, the President General visited the Trajouce Cemetery to pay a solemn tribute to the 13th President General, brother César Augusto Nunes Viana (1932-2004). He was the first Portuguese (and also the first non-French) to hold this noble office, which he held from 1993 to 1999.

“It was very moving to address my prayers to the soul of brother César Augusto, a great role model of a Vincentian since he was young. A man of science and religion, he was loved by all. An example of humility in today's world full of indifference, selfishness, vanity, envy and betrayal,” stated our President.



Visit to the tomb of Brother César Augusto Nunes Viana



Visit to the headquarters of the National Council and working meeting with President Alda Couceiro



Meeting with staff members

President General's Packed Schedule in Paris

A week full of visits, celebrations and very fruitful contacts

After attending the ordinary CGI's Board meeting, held on July 10th, fellow member Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General, had a packed institutional schedule in Paris, the beautiful capital of our Society. From July 11th to 19th, he visited several churches, met with ecclesiastical officials, and made several institutional contacts.

First of all, the President General attended Holy Mass at St Vincent de Paul Chapel, concelebrated by Fr Andrés Motto, Spiritual Advisor to the Council General International (CGI). Then, Fr Roberto Gómez, superior of the Mother House of the Congregation of the Mission, invited all the French Vincentian Fathers to a luncheon with whom President General engaged in a pleasant and fraternal conversation.

Mgr Matthieu Rougé, bishop of Nanterre (in Paris' metropolitan area), visited the CGI's headquarters,

as well as Ozanam Historical Place and other areas, and was very pleased with the growth of the SSVP around the world. President General handed him the Ozanam medal, books on Ozanam's correspondence and other institutional CGI reports.

During the visit to the Church of Saint-Séverin, Fr Vincent Thiallier explained that Saint Vincent de Paul baptized a child in that church, showing the President General a relic of the saint of charity. Fr Vincent kindly explained about the stained glass windows in a chapel of the parish, depicting part of St. Vincent de Paul's life.

President General also visited the Sacré-Cœur Basilica in Montmartre, where he was welcomed by the rector, Fr Stéphane Esclef, who told him about the history of that parish dating back to 1875, emphasizing the support given by SSVP members at

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



that time to raise the money needed for its construction.

At the new international headquarters, Renato Lima met with the Secretary General, sister Marie-Françoise Salesiani-Payet. It was a fruitful meeting where they discussed the CGI's schedule for the coming months, particularly focusing on 2021's plenary session to be held in Madrid (Spain) and December's Board meeting to be held in Lyon (France). Moreover, several staff members struck up a conversation with the President General during his stay in the City of Light.



Rector Stéphane, Sacre-Coeur

Another key moment was the Holy Mass at the church of St Stephen on the Mount (Saint-Etienne-du-Mont), at the heart of the Latin quarter, where the first SSVP Conference was established in 1833 by the seven founders. The Saint-Etienne-du-Mont Conference exists to this day; their members meet on a regular basis providing a fraternal hosting service to homeless people.

In addition to the aforementioned events, fellow member Renato Lima also visited the French

association of the Order of Malta (a cooperation agreement will be signed soon with this entity); the Motherhouse of the Congregation of the Religious of Saint Vincent de Paul (RSV), where he was welcomed by Brother Jean-Marc Miele; and the Parish of Saint Rosalie in Palermo, nearby the Council General, where he was welcomed by Fr Lionel Dumoulin. Along with Fr Motto, Renato Lima visited places where Saint Vincent de Paul had lived, such as the ancient region of Saint Lazarus and the Church of Saint-Laurent.



Mgr Matthieu Rougé, bishop of Nanterre

Second edition of the International SSVP Women's Day

International SSVP Women's Day, set up in 2020,
on 200th birth anniversary of Amélie Ozanam

This day is celebrated in tribute to each and every SSVP woman who have taken part, and still do so today, in the ministry of Conferences, bringing their love to their neighbours and their faith to the most needy.

Amélie Ozanam, especially recalled on this day, is a clear example and a role model of selflessness, service and unconditional love for God and the mission of the SSVP, always supporting her husband to make his dream come true with his colleagues: to build a wonderful network of charity. Thanks to her, we have preserved much of Frédéric Ozanam's legacy: his writings and documents.

There were other women who were key to the inception and expansion of the SSVP: Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity who took part in the foundation of the first Conference, brought the Vincentian Charism to that conference, and taught them how to home visit the most vulnerable in the Mouffetard district (Paris).

Throughout the SSVP history, we have witnessed how the Conferences worldwide, which at the beginning, and due to the traditions of that time, were virtually made up of men, have been gradually opened up to women in all fields, thus attaining the harmony and equity according to our beliefs, as God's offspring.

As a matter of fact, the SSVP Rule provides that "members meet as brothers and sisters with Christ in the midst of them, in Conferences that are genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action", and that "the entire Society is a true and unique worldwide Community of Vincentian friends".

An historical example of the vindication of the role of women at the SSVP is Celestina Scarabeli who, on



January 10th, 1856, founder the female branch in Bologna as a result of her fervent yearning to feel Vincentian.

Nowadays, the SSVP women are vital to the continuity of Conferences around the world. There are great testimonies of women stepping up their commitment and Vincentian mission; for instance, the International Secretary General, fellow member Marie Françoise Salesiani-Payet, the first women in the CGI's history holding this office, being in charge of, among many other duties, the management of Paris' international headquarters and representing our institution at the United Nations in Geneva.

On the occasion of this day, President General International stated: "I am most obliged for the work undertaken by all SSVP women, especially those taking the lead of Councils, Conferences and Special Works. My congratulations for their impressive devotion and love".

Dear SSVP Women, best wishes on your day!



CGI Takes Part in Meeting Held by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

The first working meeting organised by this Dicastery of which the SSVP is a member

On June 25th, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development held its first working meeting with all its members, including religious and lay people and consultants. The Dicastery is currently made up of 52 members officially appointed by Pope Francis.

The opening was conducted by Cardinal Peter Turkson (photo), the Prefect of the Dicastery, who emphasized the Pontiff's concern for the importance of integral human development. "Here we have a very broad notion seeking the overall well-being of mankind in each and every dimension," the cardinal pointed out.

Then, the heads of the Dicastery elaborated on goals of each department and commission. The encyclicals *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti* were essential reading for any Catholic leader.

When taking the floor, fellow member Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General, declared that it was a great privilege to be part of the Dicastery. "The Church can always rely on us. We do hope to help the Dicastery with our Vincentian charism, our charitable experience and our social sensitivity," stressed President Lima de Oliveira.

The Dicastery was established by the Holy Father in August 2016 from the union of four Pontifical

Councils: that for Justice and Peace, that for Pastoral Care of Migrant and Itinerant People, that of *Cor Unum* (social area of the Church, of which the SSVP was already part), and that for Health Care Workers. The Dicastery's next working meeting is to be held in 2022, probably a face-to-face meeting, depending on Covid-19 restrictions.

In addition to the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the President General, on behalf of the Council General International, represents the SSVP at two other dicasteries: the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life and the Dicastery for Communication (as an observer).

Furthermore, following the progress made on Bl. Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam's canonisation, the SSVP has been closely liaising with the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. The SSVP and the Church always walk together!

[Further information on the Dicastery, its statutes, mission and vision at www.humandevlopment.va](http://www.humandevlopment.va)



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT





I was a stranger and you welcomed me

The SSVP's President General represents our organization and the Vincentian Family in a meeting about migrants and refugees held by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

On April 15th, fellow member Renato Lima de Oliveira took part in this Vatican meeting about migrants and refugees to report on the service and vision of Vincentian charism.

Our dear President General commented that we face major challenges associated with this issue, starting with “overcoming indifference, prejudices, discrimination and fears that civil society shows towards foreigners” and “our way of overcoming this situation is by serving those who suffer”, seeing them as children of God, “working for their human rights”, moving towards “respect for our neighbour” and “laying aside selfishness and pride” “to seek true charity in all of us”.

Renato Lima also highlighted the need to find concrete solutions to specific problems. With this in mind, he presented the “13 Houses Campaign” within the framework of Famvin Homeless Alliance,

which cares for numerous migrants and refugees. It has already provided more than 5,000 homes around the world and is aiming for 10,000 houses by the year 2025.

However, the key to every real change in society is found in the soul of each one of us, in our individual response as Catholics. Our President General believes that “the virtue of simplicity” is fundamental to offering a warm welcome to all those foreigners who need help. We need to ensure that, through the simplicity and humility rooted in our faith, all those who cross our paths can say: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”.



[Read the President General's complete statement](#)



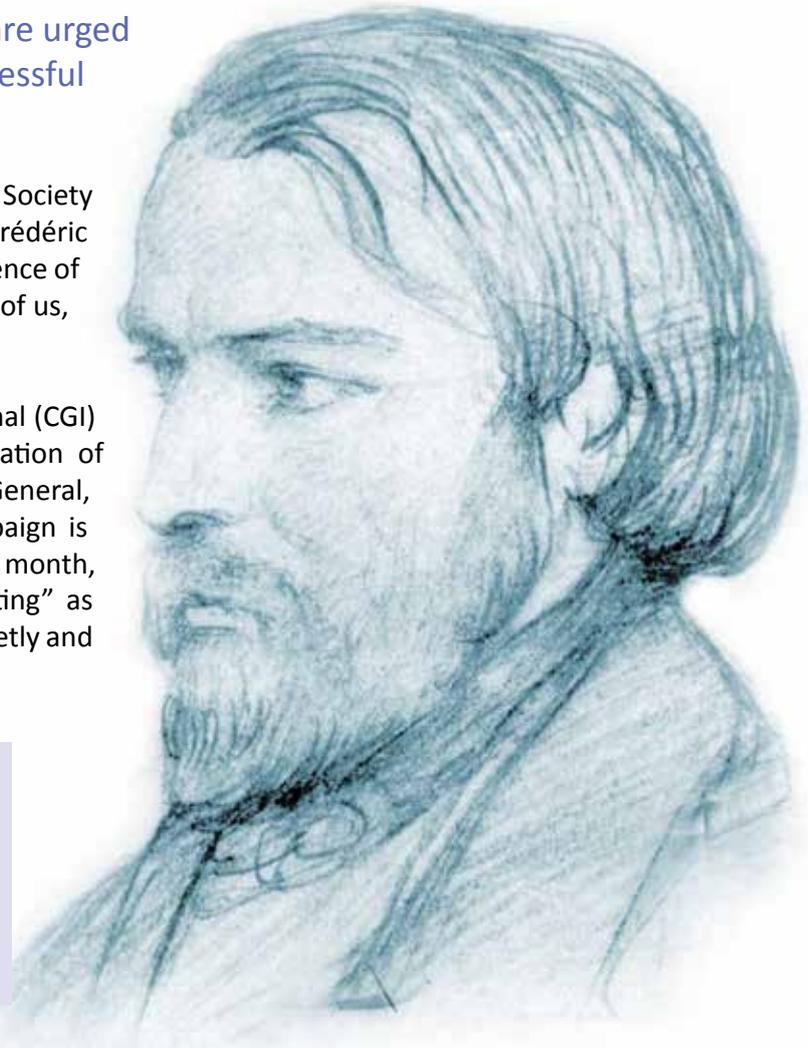
Fasting: Council General Launches Campaign for Canonisation of Bl. Frédéric Ozanam

Every month, on the 23rd, SSVP members are urged to fast until his canonisation reaches a successful conclusion

On April 23rd, we commemorate two key dates for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul: the birth of Bl. Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam (1813) and the founding of the first “Conference of Charity” (1833). Hence, it’s a very special day for all of us, fellow members, especially in times of pandemic.

To mark these dates, the Council General International (CGI) is launching a Spiritual Campaign for the canonisation of Frédéric Ozanam. As suggested by our President General, fellow member Renato Lima de Oliveira, this campaign is about all SSVP members fasting on the 23rd of each month, in honour of Frédéric Ozanam’s canonization (“fasting” as set out by the precepts of the Catholic Church, discreetly and as is customary in each region).

The Council General requests all members around the world to **INTENSIFY** their prayers for Ozanam’s canonization, to be more **DEVOTED** and to submit any **NEW CASE** involving our main founder’s intercession to the Council General.





Learn a little bit more about the book of poems written by Félix Clavé

A copy of this poetry book is in New York (USA)

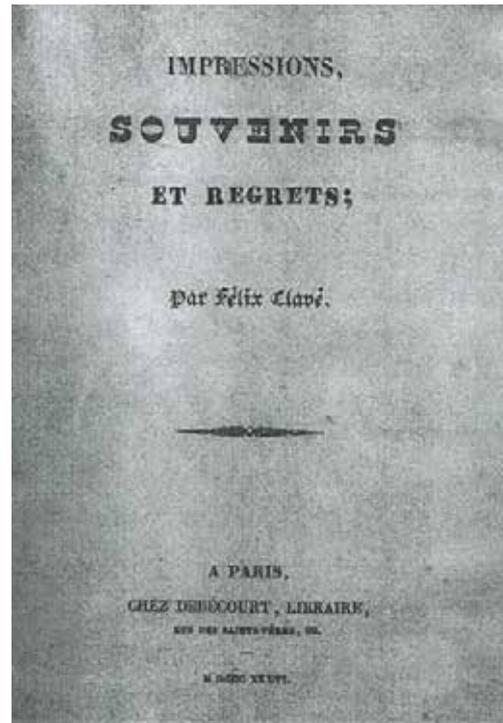
The Council General International is extremely pleased to announce that a treasure has been discovered: a copy of the book *Impressions, Memories and Regrets*, written in 1836 by co-founder Pierre-Emmanuel-Félix Clavé (1811-1853).

The publication was found by sister Pattie Hughes, while researching Clavé in the library of the State University of New York at Stony Brook (United States). Pattie is a member of the United Nations Department within the Council General and became more interested in Clavé's life and work when an international essay contest about him was held in 2020.

"From the moment the President General asked me, I started looking for possible references of this book in American universities. For several months, I made frequent contact with numerous libraries. And God heard our prayers! With the help of friends working in Stony Brook, we were able to locate Clavé's book of poems, a true rarity and, above all, a historical document for our beloved SSVP," stressed sister Pattie.

The book of poems has 180 pages and was printed in Paris on January 20, 1836. With 17 chapters, the work portrays remarkable moments in Clavé's life, such as his first communion, childhood and youth memories, sentimental affairs, bitterness and hopes, besides a part dedicated especially to the Virgin Mary and faith in Christ.

Clavé's book of poetry was highly praised by Ozanam, and also by an academic critic who expressed himself thus in the magazine "Catholic University", published by the Catholic Institute of Paris in 1836: "The book before us gives us more than hope. Few hands have offered such a brilliant literary beginning. This little book will be reread at various times, and many of its verses will remain in the memory of the heart".



Besides this publication, Clavé is the author of several other books, among which we can highlight: *The Question of Mexico* (1845), *The Island of Cuba and Commercial Freedom in the Colonies* (1847) and *The Extraordinary History of Pope Pius IX* (1848). Clavé was also a collaborator to the Paris-based "Two Worlds" Magazine, one of France's most famous publications, which exists to this day.

"Clavé was a very cultured, studious and polyglot man. The more we know his biography, the more we discover the virtues of this man of God, who founded the Conference of Charity in 1833 with Ozanam and other friends. Clavé was an honorable person who never renounced his faith, despite all the insults and calumnies he suffered. He was a man of great valor, full of the Holy Spirit. Without him, the SSVP would not be the same," emphasized the 16th President General, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira.

The copy of the book found in New York has already been sent to the international headquarters in Paris (France), and another one to the Council General's office in Brasilia (Brazil). There is also another copy available at the National Library in Paris. As there is no copyright on this work, everyone can read this very interesting book of poems written in French by cofounder brother Félix Clavé. Just click below:



[Clavé, Félix \(1836\). "Impressions, Memories and Regrets"](#)



Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th President General

Cesar Nunes: The Scientific Fellow Member

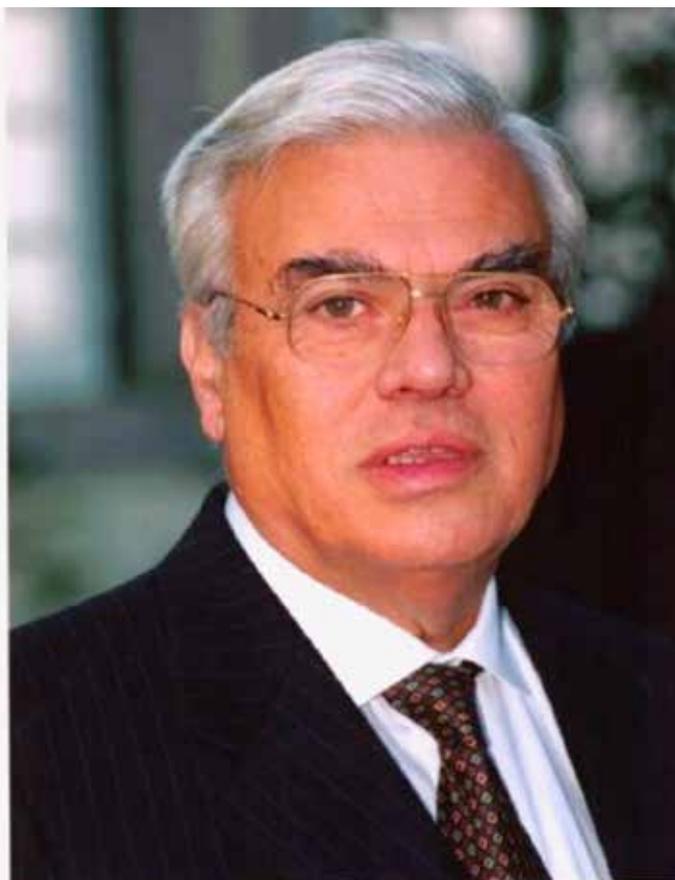
A glimpse into the 13th President General's life

Born on June 6th, 1932, he became a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at the age of 13. He was involved in many youth Conferences, in Portugal and England, where he studied for a few years. Not only was César Augusto Nunes Viana a SSVP member, he also worked as a volunteer making prison visits, and provided support to those struggling with an alcohol addiction.

Being still a young man, he held various positions at Youth Committees, being the first National Youth Coordinator in Portugal: he represented the country at several international events; namely, the 1st World Assembly of Vincentian Youth, held in Paris in 1960, and the 7th International Youth Meeting in Carcavelos, held in Portugal in 1969. He also was the Vice President of Lisbon's Zone Council.

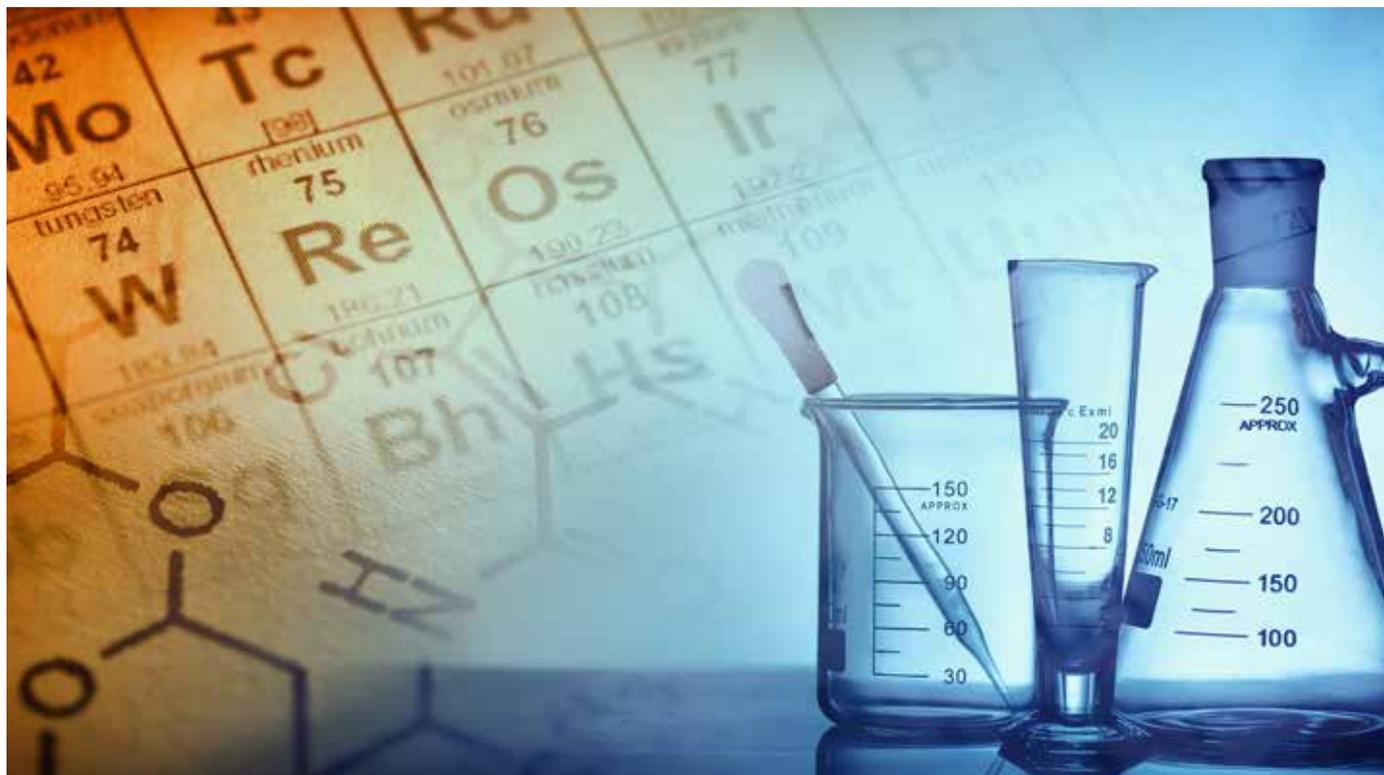
In Portugal, up until the 1970s, there were two Superior Councils as in many other nations: one for men, and the other for women. César Augusto was the last president of the Superior Council for men (1973-1976) and, after its merging with the Council for women, he became the first president of Portugal's National Council (1976-1983). He took part at the CGI's Assembly, held in Ireland, in 1973, when the second SSVP Rule was adopted.

On May 24th, 1993, Nunes Viana was appointed the SSVP's 13th President General, the first non-French-speaking Vincentian in the history of the SSVP since Bailly de Surcy in 1839. The inauguration ceremony was held on September 27th, 1993, at the Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul in Paris. During his term of office, Pope John Paul II beatified Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam on August 22nd, 1997. César completed his term of office on September 9th, 1999.



His academic life was flawless. In 1952, César Augusto graduated with a degree in Physics and Chemistry at the University of Lisbon, with two PhDs in Chemistry: one in England in 1966, and the other one in Portugal in 1969. He devoted his professional life to research and studies, being a well-known full professor in Portugal and all over Europe.

Furthermore, he was professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the Faculty of Science of the University of Lisbon for many years. His academic background is impressive, brimming with science-related activities, such as being president of the



Portuguese Society of Electrochemistry (1987-1989). He also coordinated and oversaw numerous seminars, presentations, science internships, and MSc and PhD theses on Kinetic Chemistry and Electrochemistry. He was also coordinator of the master's degree in Applied Electrochemistry.

One of his best-known papers focused on the role of water as a solvent. He wrote several books in Portuguese, English and Spanish. His most famous publications, co-authored with other specialists between 1982 and 1995, covered topics related to chemistry, such as pressure, solvents, kinetics, volume, ionization, temperature and gaseous reactions. César Nunes was, indeed, very keen on science as was fellow member and professor Ozanam.

Nunes Viana passed away on August 13th, 2004 at the age of 72, when he was holidaying in Cordoba (Spain) with his wife, Madam Henriqueta. The couple had six children and eight grandchildren. His funeral took place on August 16th in Lisbon, and was attended by hundreds of people, including Vincentians, academics, former students, university staff, scientists, journalists, relatives and friends.

I had the privilege to meet our beloved President César Augusto Nunes Viana on two occasions: The former, in 1994, during a brief visit to my city on his way to Rio de Janeiro to take part at the SSVP's Ibero-American Meeting. We toured the Cathedral of Brasilia, and I explained to the late President General the building's architecture. The latter, in 2001, at a dinner in Rome, which was attended by him and the then Vice President General, Huáscar Nabuco. On that occasion, I had the chance to listen and learn from him. To me, brother César was an excellent President General who knew how to dignify the office he held with serenity, zeal, devotion, loyalty and, above all, with passion. Values which are rarely to be found.

I do miss the professor, the humanist, the scientist, the outstanding Catholic and the caring Vincentian that Nunes Viana was. We will never forget Cesar's virtues. I keep his example in mind.

From the Heavenly Conference, take care of us here on Earth!

One More Vincentian Heading for Beatification

Those in need called her “the mother of the poor”

We all know that the Vincentian Family is an immense source of holiness. Today, we are pleased to inform you that Clemência de Oliveira, a Brazilian Daughter of Charity, has been made a “servant of God” by the Holy See, thus heading for beatification.

Born Francisca Benícia de Oliveira, Sr Clemência (1896-1966) enjoyed a reputation for holiness, always serving the poor, the sick, the elderly and the children in need. At 23, she decided to join the Company of the Daughters of Charity in the city of Fortaleza (Ceará, Brazil), with 47 years of life consecrated to God until she was called by God to heaven.

The people fondly called her “the mother of the poor”. Her holiness was widely known in Brazil. Sister Clêmencia’s process of canonization began in 1995 with the documents being submitted to Rome. At the moment, the “Positio super virtutibus” document is being prepared which, once approved, will raise Sr Clemência de Oliveira to the title of Venerable.

The Council General International joins the Company of the Daughters of Charity in this spiritual campaign for the beatification of Sister Clemência, and invites all its members to pray for this worthy cause for the Church but especially for the poor. “Clemência de Oliveira’s life is a path of holiness and charity. We can all learn from her virtues to become better Vincentians,” said Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General.



[To further read on the beatification process of Sister Clemência de Oliveira, click on this link](#)





Julio Cesar Marques de Lima
VPTI America 3

ITVPs Take Part in a Special Meeting about the “13 Houses” Campaign

This Vincentian Family project aims at supporting homeless people



On May 16th, 2021, the CGI’s International Territorial Vice Presidents (ITVPs) took part in a special formation initiative on the “13 Houses” Campaign, organised by the FamVin Homeless Alliance.

The purpose of this event was to provide more information about the aims of the initiative, and its progress in various parts of the world, to make the SSVp’s Territorial Vice Presidents aware of the spread and impact of the projects carried out in the various countries.

This initiative for homeless people is intended to improve (and transform) the lives of 10,000

homeless people worldwide, via projects carried out in each of the 156 countries where the Vincentian Family operates. This campaign was inspired by the action of Saint Vincent de Paul, who built 13 houses around Saint-Lazare, the mother house of the Congregation of the Mission (CM), to care for abandoned children. One of the pillars of this initiative is the collaboration among the various branches of the Vincentian Family in planning and implementation of the projects.

During the presentations, Vincentian Family coordinators highlighted the importance of the SSVp’s action in this initiative, as it is the largest branch



of FamVin. The Territorial Vice Presidents were asked to foster SSVP participation in every country, especially to identify projects which are underway or already completed, and which have not yet been reported to the general campaign coordinators.

In addition to the requirements needed to implement the projects, photographs were shown of the various actions carried out around the world, many of them with the effective participation of the SSVP. Throughout the presentations, the Territorial Vice Presidents could also ask questions and clarify any points about the initiative and the details of its funding.

At the end of the formation session, the 16th President General International, Renato Lima de

Oliveira, thanked the organisers for preparing the presentations, and ensured them that the SSVP is fully involved in this global Vincentian Family initiative, expressing his wish for the Society to carry out projects of this kind in every country where it is present.

“The SSVP is the largest and most influential branch of our Family. We need you to ensure this project moves forward. You have the tradition, the knowledge, capability, resources and an incredible number of members who will help the Vincentian Family reduce the number of homeless people throughout the world,” said the Vincentian Mark McGreevy, leader of the Alliance.



The Vincentian Family Launches Master's Degree in Vincentian Studies

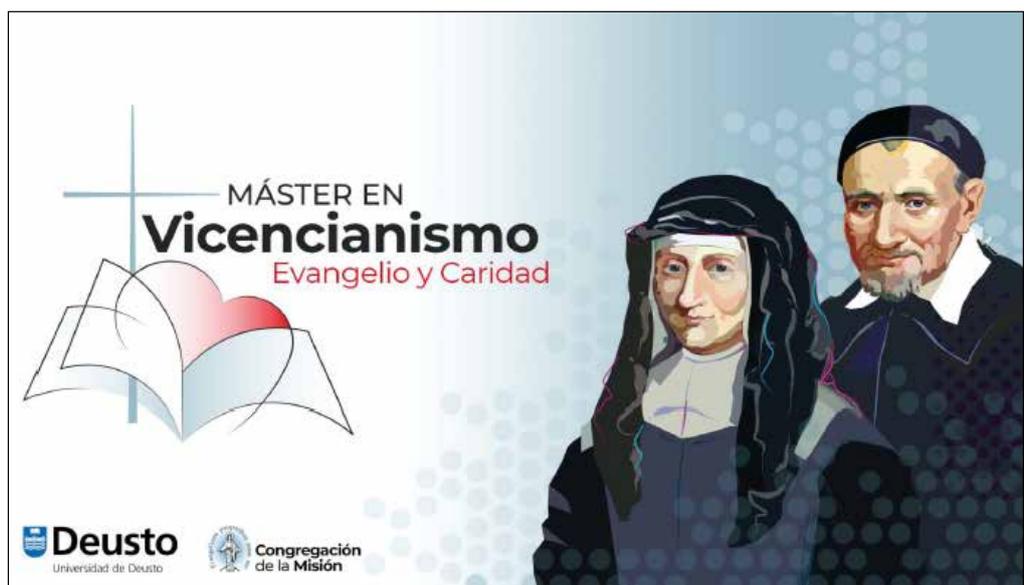
The first edition of the Master's degree will run from September 2021 to July 2023 for up to 30 students

A praiseworthy initiative, fully supported by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP): The Congregation of the Mission (CM), whose Superior General is our beloved Father Tomaž Mavrič, has announced a MASTER'S DEGREE IN VINCENTIAN STUDIES, an online course taught by experts, whose academic accreditation will be granted by the University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain).

In the letter submitted to all Vincentian branches, Father Tomaz explains that there are only 30 vacancies for the first edition of this Master's degree, from September 2021 to July 2023, which will be taught in Spanish. Candidates shall hold an official university degree, with a Spanish B2 level (CEFR). The Master's degree fee is 800€, which can be paid in monthly installments. The deadline for applications was June 10th, 2021. New courses will be offered for the upcoming years in other languages (French and English).

"We would like to praise this initiative launched by the CM, because every financial effort in education is welcome when it comes to enhancing the Vincentian work. We must fight so that both children and young people from vulnerable families have access to education; moreover, we must fight for boosting the education of members of the Vincentian Family, who need the know-how to better serve those in need," said brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General of the SSVP.

The course seeks to provide "a path that will enable them to study Vincentian history and spirituality", and the tools for a more committed Vincentian service to the poor. The studies program throughout the



four semesters of the course includes the following topics: "Life and work of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac", "Origins of Vincentian establishments", "Christology", "Vincentian Theology and Spirituality", "Theology of Holiness", "the Vincentian Charism" and "Social Doctrine of the Church".

"This is a golden opportunity to deepen their understanding of our spirituality and to share it with the various Vincentian groups. In the Church, such treasures should not be buried in the ground, but should be made known to everyone. This Master's degree in Vincentian Studies is an opportunity to do just that", Father Tomaz emphasized. The Course Coordinator is Father Corpus Delgado, from the International Secretary of Vincentian Studies (SIEV). For further information: siev@cmglobal.org.



[Father Tomaž Mavrič's letter on the Master's program](#)



[Conditions for registration](#)



Building houses for families in need in Malawi

The SSVP Society, within the framework of “13 Houses Campaign” Famvin initiative, promotes the construction of 15 homes

One of the main needs for the poorest population in Malawi is the lack of accommodation or, in their case, elimination of the substandard housing in which the most vulnerable families live. That’s why, the SSVP Malawi has set up a house building project for the most underprivileged.

Right now, the SSVP Malawi are in the first phase of construction for these houses, as they have erected 4 of the 15 houses planned.

In the video (see link below), you can see the work the Vincentians are doing, the unveiling of the houses which have already been built, testimonies from the beneficiary families and some of our fellow members, among whom, the national president of Malawi, Charles Kimu, who comments on the big step that these houses make to help beneficiaries have a dignified life, and to improve their quality of life, since they spend day and night without a roof under which to take shelter, enduring inclement conditions and lack of the basic facilities.

President General International, Renato Lima, has kept up with this great service from our fellow members and has dedicated the following to them: “It is impressive how the SSVP Malawi serves the poor, especially those



who are the most vulnerable and homeless. With few resources, but with the support of the Catholic church, the Vincentian family and good people, these houses are being built with a lot of love and care. May God bless them and be with them always, more so during this pandemic”.



[Video on the unveiling of the houses built by the SSVP Malawi within the framework of “13 Houses Campaign”.](#)



Vincentian Family's National Council is Established in Uruguay

The virtual event brought together Vincentian leaders from all the Uruguayan branches

On June 19th, a virtual meeting was held to found the Vincentian Family's National Council in Uruguay.

The meeting was a great success, and gathered leaders of the main branches of the Vincentian Family worldwide, including international guests.

The opening segment was conducted by Father Tomaz Mavric, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, with prayers and fraternal greetings to those present. Shortly afterwards, several Famvin speakers took the floor and delivered motivational speeches.

The SSVP was represented at the event. The National President, Sister Estrella Prendez, gave a beautiful speech on the history of Vincentian Conferences in Uruguay, and showed statistics and current challenges of the Vincentian action.

Renato Lima de Oliveira, the 16th President General, was also invited to the ceremony and remarked that the establishment of the Vincentian Family's National Council in Uruguay is the "pinnacle of the Vincentian work" carried out with the poor over time. "This new Council will strengthen the Family, increase mutual collaboration, bring forward common projects and enhance our communication and formation. To my mind, this is all positive, because together we are stronger, and, hence, we can better serve those in need," commented President Lima de Oliveira.

The SSVP is also part of Famvin National Council's Board, with members holding the offices of Secretariat and Treasurer. The following branches are also part of the Council: Congregation of the Mission (CM), Daughters of Charity (DC), Association of the Miraculous Medal (AMM), Vincentian Lay Missionaries (MISEVI) and the Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY).



From now on and thanks to the foundation of this National Council in Uruguay, the Central Office of the Vincentian Family, based in Philadelphia (USA), will focus its efforts in the Caribbean, where it is necessary to strengthen this type of organization. The SSVP remains at the disposal of Famvin to support this upcoming challenge.

May St. Vincent, Louise de Marillac and Ozanam help us open up all possible paths for the Vincentian Family to grow in quantity and quality. Let us pray.



[Sister Estrella Prendez's
full speech in Spanish.](#)



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

Vincentians as promoters of employment

Warm greetings to my dear brothers and sisters in the SSVP, companions in our utopias, illusions, dreams and daydreams. Above all, I want to thank you that, while I was suffering from coronavirus, you supported me with your prayers and affection.

Thank you again.

So, let's get to our subject. Let us recall that much of the 19th century was marked by huge labour struggles. In this context, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam said his famous words: "Social order rests on two virtues: justice and charity". Without doubt, promoting the dignity of work is a duty of justice and charity.

The issue of unemployment is becoming worse today. Especially since the coronavirus pandemic has caused and is causing a serious increase

in layoffs. I believe that among the many ways the SSVP has of helping those in need, is that of helping people stop being poor, and have dignified employment. With a stable and dignified job, someone can become independent and capable of planning their future.

Let's review some basic ideas about work. One of the things which defines work is the intention of the producer in producing their product. The economist Marshall noted that something is work when one is seeking some good other than the direct pleasure of the work itself.

Work is precious because it allows us to meet our own needs and those of our family: working because by doing it, we do not lack food, clothing, somewhere to live, education, independence, some capacity to save for the future, etc.



We also work to improve the life of another. My work should produce some benefit for others. Finally, through work (in an ideal context) one feels useful and even creative: people work to leave some mark of their passage through the world, which is often done through their work.

I want to speak now of the most common form of work: Most people work in a dependent relationship. This is the employed status. The salary is a contractual payment, more or less fixed, received by the worker in exchange for providing their working efforts for a period of time. The sum is generally paid by the week, the fortnight or more usually by the month.

With a stable and dignified job, someone can become independent and capable of planning their future

The difficulty is not only when someone lacks work, but also when payment is small, is unfair, is insufficient to live a dignified life. In times of unemployment, it is not unusual to find some employers exploiting their workers. It is worst when the State is not or does not want to be involved.

As Vincentians, we are called to live intensely the attitude held by the Good Samaritan.

An attitude which Jesus asks of those who want to be his disciples. Today, one way of being “Good Samaritans” is to help people in need continue to work. Looking for ways on the one hand, of strengthening the worker, and on the other, for salaries to be fair.



I love the cinema. Like you, I recall a great film I saw, called Metropolis, by Fritz Lang, from 1927. Various labour struggles are shown in that. The female lead says at the end “the mediator between head and hands must be the heart”. That is, the social question is not resolved only from the statistics and the efforts of people, but from lived fraternity.

I will end with three questions:

1. Have you recently helped someone to continue to work?
2. Are we supporting our fellow SSVP members who have lost their job recently?
3. As a member of the SSVP, as well as the practical ways of helping the poor, are we considering encouraging cooperatives or micro-businesses? As always, thank you for listening, and for all you do for those forgotten by history.

Today, one way of being “Good Samaritans” is to help people in need continue to work

Portugal's Council Organizes a Webinar

This event replaced the annual Fatima pilgrimage due to the pandemic

Last April 24th, Portugal's Superior Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) organized a webinar to answer the question: What are the paths of the SSVP today?

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the event was held virtually and replaced the traditional Vincentian Pilgrimage to the city of Fatima, which is held annually around the anniversary of Ozanam's birth (April 23th).

Approximately 200 Vincentians took part in the webinar on the available social networks. The 3-hour event was chaired by the National President, sister Alda Couceiro. One of the issues addressed was the presentation "Paths to be followed by the SSVP in times of pandemic". The speaker, seminarian Antonio Clemente from the Congregation of the Mission (CM), focused on seven action verbs: PRAY, FORM, ACCOMPANY, VISIT, RENEW, COLLABORATE and BE A WITNESS. After the presentation, the floor was opened to all and several testimonies were recorded.

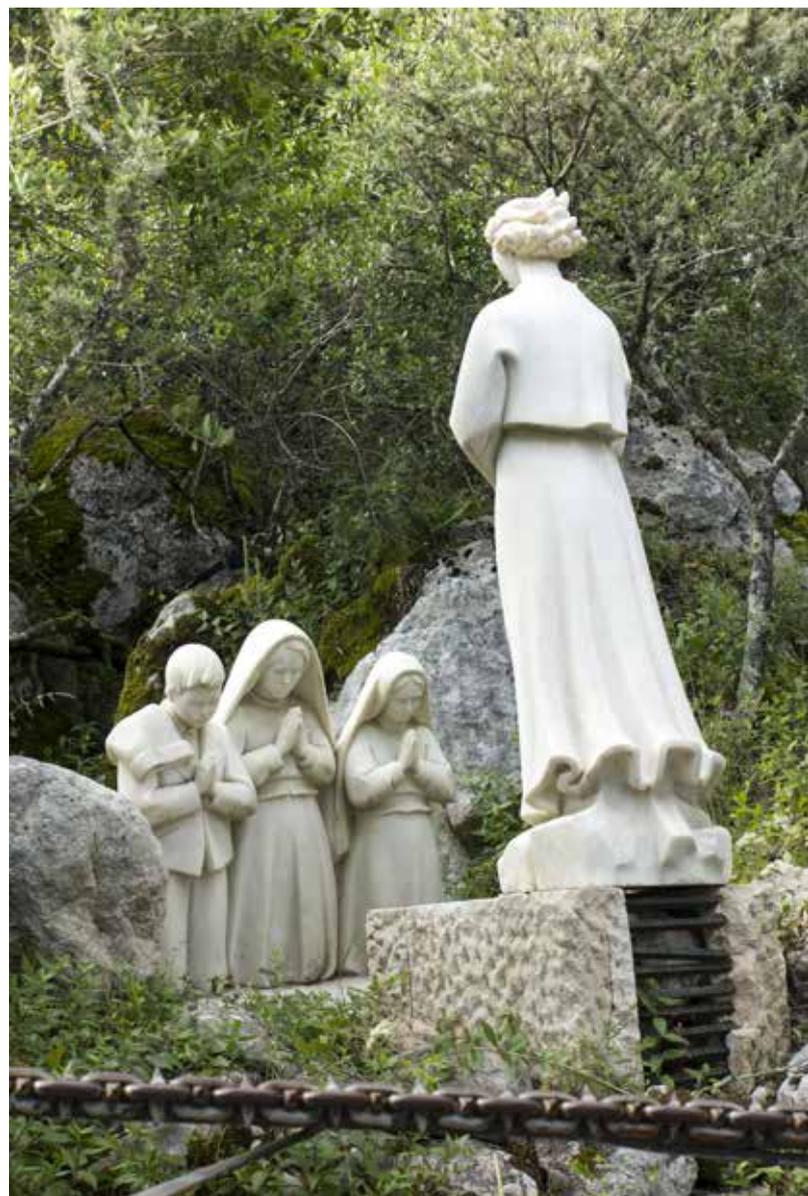
Furthermore, Father Nelio Pita, spiritual advisor at the Superior Council, reflected on the importance of liturgy and the sacramental life, especially in times of pandemic; and Brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General, addressed words of hope to the Portuguese Vincentians.



[Antonio Clemente's full speech, in Portuguese](#)



[President General's full speech, in Portuguese](#)





Italy Nuclear Weapons



The SSVP Italy and 38 Other Associations Condemn the Possession of Nuclear Weapons

The President of the SSVP’s Italian Federation, Antonio Gianfico, along with 38 other presidents and leaders of many associations in the Italian Catholic community, have launched an appeal to the Parliament to ratify the UN’s Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The treaty was adopted in July 2017 by 122 States, and includes a set of prohibitions including undertakings not to develop, test, produce, acquire, possess, stockpile, use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.



“Our country —the document reads— did not sign the treaty at the UN or ratified it at a later date. However, the Holy See is one of the first signatories”.

Nuclear weapons are weapons of mass destruction, therefore, as such, ethically unacceptable, as Pope Francis also recalled during his apostolic journey to Japan on November 24th, 2019, in Hiroshima: “With deep conviction I wish once more to declare that the use of atomic energy for purposes of war is today, more than ever, a crime not only against the dignity of human beings but against any possible future for our common home. The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is immoral, just as the possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral, as I already said two years ago. We will be judged on this. Future generations will rise to condemn our failure if we spoke of peace but did not act to bring it about among the peoples of the earth”.



The appeal concludes with Pope Francis’ words: “The pandemic is still spreading, while the social and economic crisis remains severe, especially for the poor. Nonetheless –and this is scandalous– armed conflicts have not ended and military arsenals are being strengthened. That is today’s scandal” (Pope Francis’ Urbi et Orbi message, on April 4th, 2021, Easter Sunday).



[Appeal to the Parliament \(Italian\)](#)



Michael Nizankiewicz
ITVP, América 1

Haiti

A Dream Coming True

Haiti is arguably the most impoverished country in the Western Hemisphere

In late February 2020, I visited the last Superior Council in Haiti before the Covid pandemic shut down the world. I was given a very warm and humbling welcome by Haiti's Society leadership and spent several days with them visiting a DC convent and other noted places that work with the Society there. I also participated in a Council Board of Directors meeting led by President Vital Hugues.





At the conclusion of the meeting, Vincentian Charles Pelistin, president of the Society's Northeast Region of Haiti, presented me with a proposal to develop a rice farm, which would ultimately provide food for the poor and some revenue for the Council. The proposal called for the purchase of five acres of land plus materials for this special project, and asked for my help in securing funds for the endeavor.

The Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD) was interested in supporting the rice farm. As a matter of fact, the CIAD provided a series of detailed questions to the Haiti leadership to ensure the money would be used successfully. Some 15 months after the submission of the initial proposal, the CIAD transferred \$28,000 (U.S.) to the Society's bank account in Haiti to purchase five acres of land and other initial start-up costs for the rice farm.

The Vincentian leadership of Haiti is most grateful to CGI and CIAD for their support, as well as to the councils of the United States and Canada for their ongoing twinning support.

In the Dominican Republic, Haiti's neighbor to the East, the Society has been operating a successful rice farm for many years: some 200,000 pounds of rice produced each year and the crop is shared with their five regions. In addition, some of the rice is sold to pay for annual maintenance costs.

In February, 2018, I visited the Council of the Dominican Republic with my esteemed predecessor, Ed Keene, and had the opportunity to visit their rice farm (see picture below).



The SSVP Honduras Facing Hurricanes Eta and Iota

Camas Project distributes mattresses to over 60 families

The SSVP Honduras is battling the natural disasters that have hit the country in recent months. Hurricanes Eta and Iota have adversely affected the population, leaving many without the basics.

Camas Project is one of the initiatives undertaken by the Honduran SSVP to help the victims of the natural disasters, which is aimed at distributing mattresses among families that do not even have a bed and a mattress to sleep on.

Mattresses have been distributed to a total of 60 families in two locations, San Pedro Sula and Puerto Cortés, with a budget of around 5,000 US dollars. These funds come from the General Council International, via the Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD), the SSVP Spain's National Council and Honduras' National Council itself.





Gambia Education: a Door to Hope



The SSVP's Education Support Project in Gambia changes the lives of many children and teenagers who need someone to believe in them and invest in them

In this small country with fewer than two million inhabitants, the SSVP has undertaken charitable projects with the support of the SSVP's Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD) and the SSVP Ireland. These projects are rice cultivation, fishing boats, sowing by tractor, rice husking, vegetable growing, a housing rental assistance programme and educational support.



In fulfilling this work, the Vincentians have the privilege of being recognised by the Gambian Head of State and the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Banjul, always offering them the possibility of participating in the delivery and distribution of donations of various material goods at a national level.



The SSVP Gambia is very conscious of the importance of offering resources to those in the population who are on the street, with no training or employment, firmly believing that it's necessary to invest in these people to get them out of this situation.

The Vincentians in Gambia have good examples of many who have benefitted from the opportunity for training. Fellow member, David MS Gómez, their current project manager, was once a beneficiary of the SSVP's help. He is now a teacher by profession and headteacher of various schools. Who knows what his future would have been like if he had not had the SSVP's support? He is an example of the role of financial investment in education. The innumerable pupils who have passed through the schools which he runs, and who know him by the nickname of "Mr Discipline", ensure that the living witness of this man is a source of real pride for the SSVP.

There are other examples of students who are part of this education project run by the SSVP Gambia and who have continued their studies in Europe, China, and the USA. It is worth mentioning the achievements of Marie Adams Njie, another beneficiary of this education project, who works with the UN in Gambia. There are also three students currently studying law at the University of Gambia, two doing medicine and various other students training in finance, marketing, and architecture, to name but a few examples.

Let us now consider the case of Marcel Chipaapa Jarju, the youngest of five children, who is another example of how a life can be changed through

studying. His uncle asked his father to let him go to the farm and the SSVP's school so that he could continue his education. Initially, his father was reluctant, commenting that Chipaapa did not usually make the best of his time at school and that they were possibly going to waste their money. Having completed his education, he now designs houses and has a job and a car.

The SSVP Gambia is proud to be able to influence the lives of these people classified as "poor" in academic terms and to whom nobody would give an opportunity. Furthermore, the Vincentians are forcing a positive change in the education process. The number of students they have sponsored has contributed to an increase in school admissions. This has led to an increase in the number of teachers in schools as well as additional classrooms and new facilities put in place for students.

It can be said that, through this programme of educational sponsorship, the SSVP Gambia has trained people who now hold posts of responsibility in various institutions but, above all, "it has given hope to those who were on the road to failure".





Youth celebrates Joy through Social Friendship

Two encouraging letters have been published on the CGI's website for the youth

On 4th July, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) celebrated the SSVP's International Youth Day worldwide.

This year's theme was "Vincentian Youth: celebrating the joy of serving through friendship together", inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical letter Fratelli Tutti.

The SSVP's International Youth Day was set for July 4th by the SSVP since on this day the Catholic Church remembers Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young member who belonged to a Vincentian Conference in Italy. He was a boy filled with virtues, and an example for today's young people.

To mark this date, the Council General (CGI) has published this year two official letters on its website (www.ssvpglobal.org).

The first letter, written by Willian Alves, International Vice-president for Youth, Children and Teenagers, describes all the plans and progress made by the CGI since 2016 for youth, as well as proposals for actions up to the end of this term of office. We would like to highlight a beautiful paragraph from Willian's letter: "[...] we have been chosen by God to be beside those in need, to walk with them and together with them find effective ways to relieve them from their social vulnerability, and restore their dignity. And it is through this call that we can achieve holiness".

The second letter, written by the 16th President General, Renato Lima de Oliveira, sets out the importance of young people to the SSVP, since its foundation by the seven young people, up to today. The text quotes four bible passages which apply





to young people, and is divided into three parts: “Challenging times”, “Creativity and resilience”, and “Commitment to youth”. We highlight here one section of President Lima de Oliveira’s letter: “My message to you is direct and very clear: Remain steadfast in your Vincentian mission, strong in faith, pray a lot and do not be afraid. As Jesus said: ‘Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid’ (Matthew 14:27). Let us trust in Divine Providence, because God is on your side. In his infinite goodness, he will fill us all with the strength to do good, to save souls, to help those in need, to flee from the snares of evil and to bear witness to his Word. God is with the young, keeping them safe and strengthening them”. At the end of the letter, Renato Lima makes two official announcements: the virtual SSVP international youth meeting for young coordinators of Youth Committees of National Councils, in October; and the international Vincentian youth competition to select one young Vincentian for each continent to go to Lisbon (Portugal) for the Youth Days with the Pope in 2023, all expenses paid.

We hope that these two letters will be widely shared among all Councils, special works and conferences around the world, as well as with the Vincentian Family, particularly the youngest members of our organisation.

The creation of the SSVP’s INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY on July 4th is among other initiatives by CGI, with commemorative dates such as the INTERNATIONAL SSVP WOMEN’S DAY, on August 14th, and “FAST DAY FOR OZANAM” SPIRITUAL CAMPAIGN, on the 23rd of every month.

Click here to read the two letters:



[Letter by Willian Alves](#)



[Letter by Renato Lima](#)





Joseph Bege Shemang (Nigeria)
Youth territorial Delegate Africa 1

What do you see?

Appearances can sometimes give us the wrong perception and make us pass verdict or make judgments without having the full knowledge or getting a better picture. We find ourselves compromising and judging by what we see, with a feeling that it is a just action given the circumstances in question

There is a true story of a catholic priest who dressed like a mentally unstable man. He looked shabby disguised in dirty clothes and rags. He sat at the entrance of his own church to beg for food. The congregants ignored him to attend his church instead. Trying to get their attention, he went round the premises to solicit for food but was chased and mocked by many; he eventually revealed his true identity and was fully accepted by his congregation. He then talked to his members about love, care and the importance of helping those in need regardless of how they appear.

How many times have we passed at a chance to do the right thing? Because we're not certain if it's the right thing to do and yet make out excuses to justify our actions. It is easier to look the other way and mind your business especially now that the world is being ravaged by the global pandemic, which has left behind trails of death, bad economy, unemployment and increased poverty. We now have more poor and needy people amongst us. Are you of the opinion that it's too big of a task to handle and thinking of sending those in need away like the disciples? Or stepping up with faith like the little boy in the bible

with two loaves of bread and five fishes? Jesus always identified with the poor and needy during his time on earth and encouraged everyone who said they love God to do the same. From being born in a manger, an unlikely place for a man of his status, to feeding the hungry and dining with the outcast. And that does not in any way reduce his position or make him less of a God than he is. He never used his power to dominate or gain advantage over anyone but rather to subdue and set free from bondage those things that held us captives. Welcoming anyone who comes to him regardless of how the society classifies them.

We do possess the power to perform miracles like Jesus even if we don't notice it. I know a lot of people will say; I can't walk on water, make the blind to see, lame to walk or multiply two loaves of bread and five fishes. But we still perform miracles everyday. When you give a cup of water to someone who is thirsty, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, make a suggestion or contribution that will help those in need or even help an elderly person to cross the road. These are miracles we see everyday that the world did not quite celebrate

But we still perform miracles everyday. When you give a cup of water to someone who is thirsty, feed the hungry, clothe the naked,...



and all we need is love to be able to do that. When love takes the center stage instead of I it sees you, instead of me it sees us, instead of I can't it will say I'll try. I've never seen a chapter in the bible where it was mentioned that those who walked on water or cast away demons will inherit the Kingdom of God, but a simple act of kindness like giving a cup of water to someone who is thirsty can make you inherit the kingdom of God.

There are things that don't seem to make sense when seen from a human perspective until the benefits begin to manifest. It seems out of place for Jesus to use a man like Peter who denied him three times to build the foundation of his church, or Paul who first persecuted the church to preach to the gentiles. If Jesus did not judge this men by their initial actions but give them an opportunity to redeem themselves regardless of how their sins appear before him, then who are we not to extend that hand of love and friendship to those around us, we might not have helped another St. Peter to fulfill his calling or help another Paul find his true path, but our simple acts of love and charity have made the world less sad and give another person hope for another day and that is

more than enough. Our humanity should speak more loudly than our personality and diversity should provide us with variety and not diminish our abilities.

Six young boys and a lecturer from different families and backgrounds came together in Paris. Defying the odds, they stood united and took up a challenge to live their faith through actions. What they saw around them was chaos, sickness, poverty and sufferings but that did not deter them from breaking the barriers despite the challenges. Their actions have lived through decades and inspired generations of men, women, boys and girls from different countries, background and works of life, to be joined in one vocation widely known as "Society of St. Vincent De Paul" which to this day is still touching lives and making a difference in communities across the world by providing for the poor and needy.

At the end of the day, it's not what we see that defines our actions but how we see it. Our visions can be blurred by sentiments, pride or fear or our eyes can be opened by love, charity and kindness. Going forward, what do you see?



Veronica Eimon
National Youth Delegate in Myanmar

Spirit of Myanmar's Young Vincentian

“Christ is alive and He wants you to be alive”, the most inspiring words for my soul and also the words that Pope Francis addressed to the Young Christians in the Apostolic Exhortation named “Christus Vivit”

When I was 20 years old, I started to carry out the activities of youth ministries as a volunteer. I believe that those times helped me find my vocation: “to hear the voice of God” to be a youth minister in church activities. Then, in October 2017, I became a young Vincentian Coordinator with the appointment of the SSVP National President, Mr. Alphonse Kyaw Min.

Before being a young Vincentian, I myself and many young people thought that Vincentian works

were carried out just by older people. Perhaps, there may be some young volunteers in some conferences, but very few. However, the guidelines and accompaniment provided by elderly members, as well as the experience enjoyed at the SSVP's 2nd International Youth Meeting (Salamanca 2018), and the courses on Systemic Change prompted me to organise courses for young people, thus undertaking charitable works with senior members and celebrating the SSVP's International Youth Day in many dioceses.



Our courses for young people are aimed at:

- 1) Finding Jesus in the poor;
- 2) Feeling alive;
- 3) Learning about the Vincentian Spirituality;
- 4) Being knowledgeable about SSVP activities.

In 2019, we developed Laudato Si' programmes in many dioceses, with many young volunteers getting engaged in conferences. As of March 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been organising online courses and meetings.

Despite this difficult situation, with the blessings of God and St. Vincent de Paul's help, we set up the National Youth Committee on October 25th, 2020, and I began the mission as a National Youth President.

Now, there are 350 young Vincentians in 10 Dioceses. Looking ahead, we are planning to provide more formation for Vincentian youth as well as youth empowerment programmes for effective outreach to the poor and the needy.

Currently, Myanmar people are hit by the political upheavals in the country. My hope is that all Vincentians can accomplish their mission to bring relief and comfort to our suffering people. Hence, I would like to kindly ask you all to pray for Myanmar, so that this terrible situation will be brought to an end, that justice will prevail and that the necessary assistance will be delivered.

To conclude, I would like to say that I will pursue my SSVP mission, with a lively spirit, collaborating with senior members and embracing the young people, with the help of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frédéric Ozanam.





ITVP for America 3: Meeting on the Work of Vincentian Youth

The meeting revolved around the setting-up of National Youth Committees

Amidst this pandemic, the CGI's International Territorial Vice-presidency for South America (ITVP for America 3) has made the most of digital communications to hold online formation-related meetings with the National Councils of this region, focused on the CGI's strategic goals. Some of them have already been organized, such as that of "The CIAD and Special Projects" and that of "International Formation Modules".

On June 19th, the "Formation of National Youth Committees" meeting was held, attended by National Presidents and Youth Coordinators from the National Councils. In his opening speech, the ITVP for America 3, Júlio César Marques de Lima, urged the National Presidents to include organisation and support to young Vincentians in the list of priorities, giving them latitude and responsibility.

The Territorial Youth Coordinator, fellow member Arturo Antezana, encouraged youth coordinators at the meeting to take on the role of the Vincentian youth, assuming responsibilities and striving to recruit other young people for SSVP Conferences.

The main presentation of the event was made by the CGI's International Vice-President for Youth, Children & Teenagers, Willian Alves, on "How to set up a SSVP National Youth Committee". Therein, fellow member William emphasised the role of facilitator at the National Youth



Committee, made up of 3 to 5 young people, in charge of nationally organizing and monitoring the issues related to the Vincentian youth. He also highlighted that the coordinator of the National Youth Committee is a member of the National Council's board and must take part in all National Council meetings.

According to fellow member Arturo Antezana, Territorial Youth Coordinator at the ITVP for America 3, the existence of a National Youth Committee is key to the renewal of SSVP conferences: "...setting up a National Youth Committee is very important to encourage and support young people, being the link between National Councils and the Vincentian young members of each country."



Appeal of the month

A New Way to Help

Each month, CGI's COMMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL AID AND DEVELOPMENT (CIAD) selects a particularly worthwhile Society project which is badly in need of funds and invites the Society throughout the world to support it directly.

Normally, the CIAD would support much-needed projects itself; but with Covid-19 and other demands on its limited funds, the CIAD cannot assist all worthwhile projects presented. We are, therefore, providing an opportunity for selected projects to appeal for the support of the international community of the Society through the medium of CGIs website with the full endorsement of the CIAD. Thank you for your generosity.

For further details on how to donate, please email: cgi.ciad@ssvpglobal.org

APPEAL FOR MAY DRINKING WATER FOR ALIGAMBAY (SRI LANKA)

Background: A forgotten and poor village

Aligambay, in the Diocese of Bataloa (Sri Lanka), is a remote poverty-stricken village in a jungle area, far away from any kind of governmental and economic reality, where many families settled in the aftermath of the ethnic war. These people have been living for many years in appalling conditions and, unfortunately, they have been neglected by the government and NGOs.

Now, with around 370 families and 1970 people in the village, the government gives small grants as subsidies (around € 200) to build 200 houses. The rest of the money, though, has to be paid by these poor people who beg for alms and eat only one meal a day.

The appeal: Drinking water for Aligambay (Sri Lanka)

There is no access to safe drinking water in the village. Many of these people are sick due to the unsafe water they drink: kidney problems, children suffering from water-related diseases, increase risk of miscarriage and many other health problems.



Some drinking water is brought by tractor, but it is insufficient. The closest water supply point is 20 km away.

“If anyone is thirsty, come to me and drink” (John, 7:37)

Water is essential for these people, and, in response to the parish priest’s appeal for help, the Society of St Vincent de Paul in Baticola would like to help digging a well equipped with an electric pump and an overhead tank, in an area of the village where drinking water has been found.

How to help:

The cost of the well, the tank and plumbing amounts to € 3,500, plus € 6,500 required to equip it with a filtering system. The Society of St Vincent de Paul in Sri Lanka would like to support this project, but has no funds.

After closely reviewing the budgets presented, the CIAD is willing to do its best to support this initiative, but has no funds either.

APPEAL FOR JUNE ASSISTANCE FOR POOR FAMILIES IN MACEDONIA

Background: One of the poorest countries in Europe
Being a small country in the Balkan peninsula, Macedonia is one of the poorest countries in Europe, with an average monthly salary of less than 400€, and an unemployment rate of 20-25%, especially for the youth. It is also a war zone, and Covid-19 is hitting the country hard, thus exacerbating the immense poverty and the already high unemployment rate.

The appeal: Assistance for Poor Families in Macedonia

The only Conference in the country, located in the city of Bitola, is facing great difficulties in conducting its Vincentian mission. Every day, 180-200 families come to the Convent of Sisters of Charity and ask for the help from St. Vincent Conference. These are numerous families in danger, in the grip of hunger and thirst, who live on the outskirts in dire conditions. Conference members regularly visit those families.



How to help:

The annual support provided by the SSVF Mozambique to the aforementioned families amounts to €25,000. The CIAD has already sent €10,000, but no further funds are available, and Mozambique's Superior Council has no regular income either, so it cannot help. Without external funding, the much-needed support for these extremely vulnerable refugee families cannot be provided.

APPEAL FOR AUGUST MADAGASCAR – SSVF RESPONSE TO HOUSING CRISIS FOR DISASTER VICTIMS

Background: Madagascar, one of the 10 poorest countries in the world

Madagascar, located in the heart of the Indian Ocean, is the fourth largest island in the world, larger in size than France. Being one of the 10 poorest countries in the world, with an income per capita of \$ 1,660 a year, it is highly exposed to natural disasters and severe weather. Cyclones occur every year, as well as floods and drought, causing damage and destruction to the homes of the poorest.

The appeal: Madagascar – SSVF Response to Housing Crisis for Disaster Victims

The Society in this country is very active, with over 150 Conferences and 3,000 members who strive all year long to share love and bring assistance to those in need. Each time a natural disaster strikes, Vincentians do their best to support those affected



with emergency basic assistance as well as with home repair/reconstruction (a long term objective).

How to help:

The National Council of Madagascar has spotted 17 families, whose houses have been burnt, partially damaged or totally destroyed. The home repair/construction amounts to € 58,500.

Even though the CIAD has supported Madagascar with a small emergency grant earlier this year; it does not have the resources needed for this repair/construction work and the provision of food and household essentials.



Appeal of the month

A New Way to Help

Canada answers the march appeal for help

Each month, the Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD) of the Council General International selects one of the Society's projects that is in need of funds and invites the Society throughout the world to support it directly

The project chosen for the month of March was "A Healthy Start", a daily breakfast program for pre-primary school children in Grenada.

Three Canadian conferences twinned with Grenada, as well as one Vincentian, through a personal donation, covered the entire project. The funds were sent to CGI and then forwarded to the SSVP in Grenada that is managing the project.

Council General International thanks the Vincentians of Canada for this beautiful gesture of solidarity.





María Luisa Téllez
International Vice-President
for Formation and Training



Life project

Throughout this year and a half of Covid-19 “deaths”, many governments have raised the death toll by passing two anti-life laws allowing abortion and euthanasia.

Many years ago, when euthanasia was not a controversial issue but abortion was, I wrote the following lines, published on Ozanam, the Spanish magazine, which are shown below. I will, God willing, write about euthanasia in the next issue.

Life project

You were so little and unique, so fragile and yet so strong. From the very moment of your conception, you were ‘you’, a man-to-be, who came true through laughter, tears, love, heartbreak, struggles and peace.

At that time when you were, as the poet said, “smaller than a grain of sand”, a heated debate arose about your rights to live or not. Some people talked about consciousness at the foetus stage or about the moment when that matter, made up of a tiny bunch of foetal cells, merged with the soul. And so we were, without noticing that you were a future, while real, life Project, that eliminating you entailed eliminating a man.

Had you found out, you surely would have shuddered in that cozy cradle where you were. You would have cried out to be given the chance to live, the chance to get to know you before being turned away.

That you had the same rights as each and every one of us.

That the hostile, violent, unsupportive world, frown upon by your mother and many other mothers, would be fixed.

You were asking for peace to prevail over violence, for violence not to be exerted against you, defenseless, vulnerable, tiny.

Hope prevailed; fear and selfishness were vanquished; and you came into the world.

You set out on your journey as a man. As a child, your caresses and your smile greatly made up for the anguish of doubt, already settled with your existence.

Your playfulness and, above all, your innocent eyes fixed on your mother gave her the strength to overcome any hurdle.

Then came adolescence, and the world became bittersweet in a first love. At some point, you wished for your non-existence, but promptly dismissed that thought when you beheld the beauty of a sunset and the prospect of conquering the world of tomorrow.

Now you are a grown-up, you have enjoyed, suffered and shared the hardship of “existence”. However, the choice of love and courage have made you become a man.



Rewatch the Webinar Pandemic, Poverty and Future

A learning session fostered by the International SSVP, focused on the global challenges faced by the institution in the aftermath of the pandemic

On May 23rd, the SSVP's International Vice President for Formation and Training, María Luisa Téllez, organised the webinar Pandemic, Poverty and Future.

During the session, the SSVP tackled the issue of the role of our institution in a world hit by the pandemic, which has changed the rules of the game and social interactions, thereby giving rise to a serious financial crisis. Yet, the vulnerable people have been hardest hit by the economic fallout: job loss and unemployment, lack of resources and healthcare access.

The speakers' presentations addressed topics such as the resilience of the SSVP in the face of new challenges; the SSVP's Rule as a framework document in tough times; the need to take care of and work on the structure of our entity, reinforcing the role of Councils to support the work of the Conferences; the types of Vincentian ministry amidst the pandemic; as well as the good results obtained in many SSVP's special projects which, notwithstanding the difficulties, have stepped up support to coronavirus-stricken communities.

The next webinar will take place on 28 November 2021 on the same topic and different speakers.

Webinar

Pandemic, Poverty and Future

Sunday, 23rd May 2021,
1 p.m. Paris (UTC+2)
 Brasilia (UTC+3) 8 a.m. / New York (UTC+3) 7 a.m.
 Sydney (UTC+10) 9 p.m.

SSVP
 ACCIONE IN SP

MODERATOR

Maria Luisa Téllez
 International Vice President for Formation & Training SSVP

SPEAKERS

Mayleen Bernardino
 Vice President / Head of Internal Affairs
 SSVP Philippines

Maria Lidón López
 Territorial Delegate for Formation & Training
 Europe 1 SSVP

Julio César Marques Lima
 Territorial Vice President
 America 3 SSVP

Ralph Middlecamp
 International Vice President for Solidarity
 & Special Projects SSVP

Marie Bernadette Raharisoa
 Territorial Delegate for Formación
 & Training Africa 3 SSVP

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OzanamTV

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[Watch the webinar on Facebook](#)

[Presentations are available on www.ssvpglobal.org](http://www.ssvpglobal.org)



The SSVP and Politics: Some Reflections of Italian Sisters and Brothers



Maurizio Ceste

In recent times, the Italian SSVP has requested all its members to reflect on the political dimension of charity and on the relationship the Society and its members have with politics

The request began with the publication of the volume of Frédéric Ozanam's social and political writings, edited by brother Maurizio Ceste, member of the Historical Studies Committee of the Council General International. The volume *The highest form of charity*, published in 2019 in Italy, quotes the famous sentence of St. Paul VI, which refers to politics, and compiles letters, extracts from historical studies, university lectures, as well as all the journalistic articles taken from *Le Correspondant* and *L'Ère nouvelle*, focused on social and political themes. It is the first time that these articles have been collected and published all together. Many of them, still dusty, have never been published, not even in France, and are preserved in the rooms of the National Library of France.

Following this publication, the Italian SSVP held two webinars via YouTube watched by over 3,000 people. The former in September 2020, Ozanam, apostle of modern times; and the latter in April, Is the social and political message of Ozanam still relevant?.

This last webinar, attended by our International President, Renato Lima de Oliveira, aroused much interest precisely because of references made to current events, which are still concealed in Ozanam's writings.

The speakers stressed how the birth of the Conferences was revolutionary, prophetic and political: students and citizens decided to take the side of the weakest, the poorest, in the name of charity, challenging the righteous, the class division, the indifference of the state and the majority of the clergy, and the exploitation by the emerging industry. Unfortunately, this situation remains unchanged today in many parts of the world.

However, we are still in time: Let's coin Ozanam's famous appeal in *L'Ère nouvelle*, dated September 16th, 1848: "Aux gens de bien". Those good people are also us, 21st-century Vincentians, who, just by pooling efforts and seeking the collaboration of all good-willed people, can tackle poverty and make justice prevail. A real political deed.





The President General Launches his Fifth Book on Spiritual Readings

Suggested reading book for formation of our members

Crónicas vicentinas 5 (The Vincentian Chronicles 5), written by our 16th President General, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, has just been launched. The fifth book of this series is only available in Portuguese.

Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea-Bissau, East Timor and Cape Verde. The book is not under copyright, so it can be translated by National Councils at their discretion.

Since 2006, when the first book was published, the author has specialized in chronicles, a style of writing which consists of analysing everyday life by means of short texts. The books are primarily resources to enhance the SSVV members' formation.

In Brazil, all proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to an elderly care home which has been operating for over 100 years, located in Luziania, near Brasilia, where the President General lives.

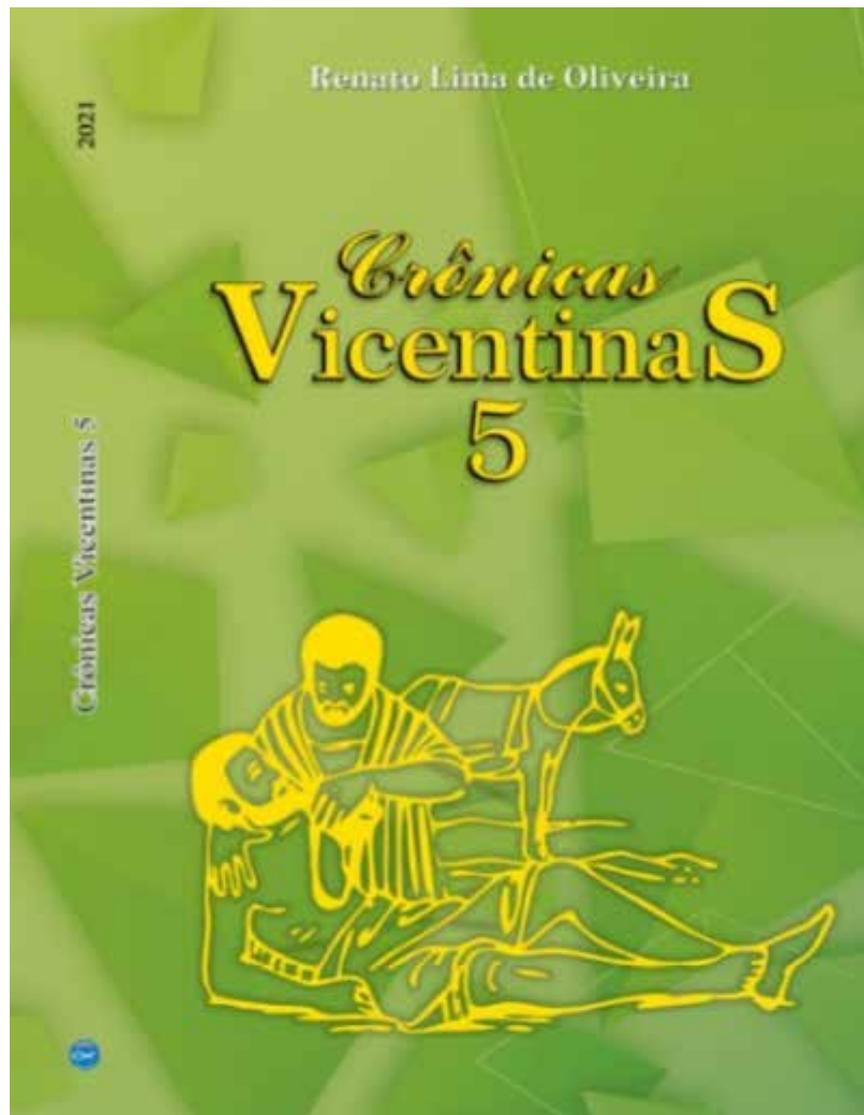
The book is made up of 84 articles on spirituality, divided into seven chapters that make reference to the seven founders of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

- Chapter 1: The Legacy of the Seven Founders
- Chapter 2: The Council General is Moving Forward
- Chapter 3: Facing Challenges
- Chapter 4: Learning More About the SSVV
- Chapter 5: Going Above and Beyond
- Chapter 6: Unanswered Questions
- Chapter 7: Everyday Vincentian Life

The articles can be read as a spiritual guide at Vincentian meetings in Conferences and Councils, and can also be used by the Vincentian Family. The foreword was written by the President of the National Council in Brazil, brother Cristian Reis da Luz.

"I would like to thank my friends who have always prompted me to share my Vincentian experiences by means of chronicles, especially to the Brazilian brother Gesiel Júnior, who has always believed in this literary project," emphasized President Lima de Oliveira.

The first edition will be entirely distributed in Brazil; subsequent editions, to other Portuguese-speaking countries of the world: Portugal, Angola,





Julio Cesar Marques de Lima
VPTI América 3

Digital exclusion

Point 1.3 of the International Rule of the SSVP summarises the spirit of the Society with regard to its action on behalf of our brothers and sisters in need:

“1.3 No work of charity is foreign to the Society. It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions.”

This means that any work of charity falls within the scope of Vincentian action, through the collective work of a group of friends that we call the Conference.

So this means that every Vincentian must be able to recognise the many faces of poverty, and understand that this changes over time. The sufferings of those in need in the 20th century are not precisely the same as those which Vincentians have to deal with

in the 21st century. For this reason, the work of our Conferences has to go far beyond the traditional help with food, for example. We have to invest in education, and work to help offer true support to the families who depend on us for their development, especially their youngest members.

One of the most serious forms of poverty in our time is the so-called “digital divide”. This is defined as inequality of Internet access and access to other forms of information and communication technology. The figures for 2020 show that the digital divide affects 52% of women and 42% of men worldwide. In fact, almost half the planet’s inhabitants, some 3.6 billion people, do not even have access to the Internet, as the United Nations Organisation warned at the end of 2019. Such inequality can be appreciated more when we compare the percentage of people with access to these technologies by continent.



Journalist and Servant of the Poor

Luis Manuel Larrosa was President of the Superior Council in Argentina

The path of the poor was taken by brother Luis Manuel Larrosa. He would seek out and care for them with material and spiritual support. His service, though, went above and beyond: as a faithful Vincentian, he pondered on the words of Bl. Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam: “Prior to saving their souls, we should arouse in them an inner emotional urge stemming from deep within them, their soul”.



fact, in public and private speeches, he would evoke Bl. Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam, depicting him as an outstanding role model for Christians. His book *In Love with God* summarizes how he was bound to Our Father Creator.

He married Ana Maria, his friend and companion for over 70 years. He was a loving and caring father and grandfather to his two children (Alejandro and Gabriela) and to eight grandchildren.

He was born in 1924, at a time when the poor had urgent and pressing needs for help and support. He grew up in this context and had a keen eye, as a “servant of charity”, for future Vincentians he barely knew. Mindful that the Good News of Christ had to be brought everywhere, he turned his profession as a journalist into a generous service to make God’s love known. He became an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion to the sick as a divine relief.

He had a deep love for the indigenous peoples of Argentina, even though he was well aware that their welfare relied on the State. However, as a Vincentian and 14th President of the Superior Council, he understood that the SSVP should be present in the daily life of these peoples, helping them to bear the cross of discrimination. His main goals were literacy and quality education, which he regarded as “the key to open the door to equality”.

Hardly had this Vincentian brother asked someone to minister in far-off places than he was already there and got down to work with the enthusiasm of an apprentice. If someone did not know him, someone else used to say: “His smiling face is unmistakable”.

Spiritually enlightened, he had an in-depth knowledge of the Vincentian saints. As a matter of

As a SSVP President for 10 years, he always served the Society selflessly, young at heart. Indefatigably, he would go to and fro to reach out to those in need. No one would have guessed he was 97 years old. That is why, his favorite quote was: “I just can’t fathom why God made me to do nothing”.

Born to the Vincentian life within the Conference Our Lady in Buenos Aires, he sent a video a few days ago to be shared by all Argentinean members. He recorded this video, packed with his good spirits, to greet a friend, who brought the Holy Communion to him every week, and said: “I am very happy, on my way to the Holy Kingdom. I don’t know when or how, but I’m going to get there, even if it’s on crutches. A huge hug”. On June 5th, he departed for the Lord’s House in a state of grace.

On behalf of the poorest and the Argentinean members, we would like to express our gratitude to his widow, his children and grandchildren for the generosity with which they shared Luis with us. Let us pray together: “Dear President, Luis Manuel Larrosa, may you rest in peace. You deserve it. You were a great man and a great Vincentian role model”.

Celeste Godoy, Argentina



Our Heartfelt Condolences on the Passing of Correia Saraiva (Portugal)

After coping with cancer for several years

It is with deep sorrow that the Council General International (CGI) of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) receives news of the passing, on May 20th, of our dear fellow member António Correia Saraiva (1946-2021) at the age of 74. He passed away at the Hospital of Saint Mary, in Lisbon, where he had been hospitalized for cancer treatment.



Married to Mrs. Maria Celeste Correia Saraiva, our brother was a bank employee (retired). The couple had a son (Pedro António) and a daughter (Ana Catarina), and four grandchildren (Ana, Inés, João and Maria), and lived in the city of Covilhã, 300 km away from Lisbon.

Correia Saraiva worked hard for the expansion of the SSVP, devoting his whole life to this cause. In his lectures he always thanked his father-in-law for inviting him to participate in a Vincentian Conference in 1973. He was currently an active member at St. Peter's Conference in the city where he lived.

He held several positions at the SSVP structure: Conference president, president of Covilhã Zone Council, president of Guarda's Central Council, president of several Vincentian associations and president of the Superior Council in Portugal (2010-2016).

The CGI recalls the outstanding role played by Correia Saraiva in two important events held by the SSVP Portugal: the 1st SSVP Lusophone Countries Summit (2013) and the CGI's Annual Meeting

(2014). In all annual CGI meetings he attended, Portugal was always very well represented during the six years of his presidency at the Superior Council.

The note, published on social networks by sister Alda Couceiro, the current president of the Superior Council in Portugal, shows a deep sorrow on the passing of fellow member António Correia Saraiva: "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Portugal was impoverished by the passing of brother Saraiva. He was a man of God and a friend to all of us, both our fellow members and those we welcomed. His death has left a very strong mark on all of us", said sister Alda Couceiro.

At this time of sorrow, the CGII expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of President Correia Saraiva and to Portugal's SSVP members. The 16th President General, Renato Lima de Oliveira, who was also a personal friend of brother Saraiva, asks all members to pray *De profundis* at all Vincentian meetings for the soul of the deceased.

"Our dear brother Saraiva was regarded by his friends as a man full of human and Christian principles, an example for all of us for his wisdom, humility, spirit of conciliation, testimony, Vincentian spirituality and love for the poor. We are very sorry for his absence. May God comfort the hearts of his widow, children and grandchildren, and may the Lord receive him in the Celestial Conference", said President Lima de Oliveira.



Our Most Heartfelt Condolences on the Passing of our Brother Poli Kefu

He was the National Youth Coordinator in Tonga

The Council General International (CGI) of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) expresses its deepest condolences to the family and friends of our dear fellow member Polikalepo Kefu (fondly known as Poli), who passed away on May 1st in Tonga.

Poli Kefu actively took part in several social rights organizations in Oceania. Member of the Red Cross in Tonga, he also participated at UN human rights councils. In other words, he was a Vincentian fellow member, as well as an advocate for human and social rights.

Moreover, being a very active member, he acted as the National Youth Coordinator at the SSVP's Superior Council of Tonga. He attended the panel discussions and training sessions organised by the Territorial Vice Presidency of Oceania in Brisbane (2019), and the 2nd International Youth Meeting in Salamanca (2018).

In the words of brother Luke Brouwer, Territorial Youth Delegate for Oceania, Poli Kefu was a kind, loving and courageous Vincentian, an advocate for the rights of the poorest.

Upon hearing this sad news, the President General, fellow member Renato Lima de Oliveira, asks Vincentians around the world to unite in prayer for the soul of brother Poli Kefu.

"Poli's Vincentian virtues are inspiring for young Vincentians around the world so that they may continue to bear witness to holiness, by being kind, caring and courageous, always advocating for the rights of the neediest," said President Lima de Oliveira.

The CGI kindly requests all the members to pray the Lord's Prayer for the soul of Poli Kefu. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.





MISSION

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

VISION 2023

TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A WORLD
WIDE ORGANIZATION, WHICH
PROMOTES THE INTEGRAL
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF
THOSE MOST IN NEED.

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

Building a global network of spiritual and material support

4

Expansion

Presence in all countries

5

Vincentian Family

Permanent and closed collaboration

6

Solidarity

International and local partnerships

7

Global Aid

Revamping fraternal aid and development

8

Communication

Renew with the use of world-class technology

9

CGI Structure

Constant search for accountability and efficiency

10

National Councils

Support to maximize effectiveness



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