



OZANAM NETWORK



Council General International - Society of St Vincent de Paul

CGI's Historic Board Meeting in Lyon



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message
2021

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Editorial

Brother Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th President General



It's Time to Come Back!

We all know that these have been tough times for humankind, as well as for the Church, the Vincentian Family and our beloved Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The pandemic has led Vincentians to follow different procedures to keep on serving the poor.

The health crisis exacerbated misery, individualism and selfishness. Many people cloistered themselves at home, immersed in their own world, with little or not contact at all with their neighbours, for fear, maybe, of dying, or simply a lack of trust in Divine Providence due to this turmoil.

This coronavirus-related social stigma based on “staying away from people to protect themselves”, while necessary, has been somewhat exaggerated; hence, getting back to normal is taking longer. Many are still reluctant to get back to school, to church or to face-to-face work. There is still fear, in many territories of the world where the Society is present, of resuming the activities of Conferences, Special Works and Councils.

Everything must get back to normal, and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul cannot stay at a standstill, because the poor depend, above all, on the charitable action of the Conferences and our Special Works. As Pope Francis exhorts us: Do not be afraid (Matthew 14: 22-33), because God is on our side.

To whom much is given, because of the countless blessings we have received, much will be required (Luke 12: 42-48). God expects much from us, SSVF members, now more than ever, in the aftermath of the pandemic -not to mention the unfortunate deaths-, which has given rise to devastating consequences for mankind, such as unemployment, mental illness and spiritual alienation from God.

It is time to come back. Do we really believe that the Conference is a place of faith, service, prayer and friendship? Have we exercised real charity or are we settling for virtual charity? “A Christianity without contact with those who suffer becomes disembodied, incapable of touching the flesh of Christ”, Pope Francis warned on Twitter, on September 27th, on Saint Vincent’s feast day.

Naturally, we must get back to normal, hand in hand with vaccines and medicines, respecting all health protocols, but we must get back. We cannot allow the Conferences to shut their doors, because the existence of Conferences in a parish is the certainty that the poor will not be left behind.

May we beware of being accused of all the unwanted things, especially in our demise: selfishness, individualism, greed and laziness. May 2022 be a year of resumption, with unshakable faith in Christ and steadfastness in the steps of St. Vincent.





Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th President General

Christmas Message 2021

Dear brothers and sisters!

May peace be with you all!

On behalf of the Council General International, I would like to wish you a holy and happy Christmas of the Lord, filled with many blessings, with your family.

The past year has been quite a challenge for all of us, SSVP members, because it called for additional strength to keep on undertaking the work of Conferences and special works.

The health crisis has touched us all, especially the most vulnerable, the refugees, the persecuted, the sick, the poor and the unemployed.

However, our message is one of greater commitment and hope for better days.

God always blesses us, and He also expects much from us.

The Child Jesus is walking with us on this journey to fulfill our Vincentian mission and our role as baptized Christians, giving witness to divine love; and He will never abandon us.

The Holy Family of Nazareth is the perfect light to show the way to holiness and forgiveness.

May 2022, the international year dedicated to cofounder Auguste Le Taillandier, bring more hope, faith and charity to this world, especially to the most needy.



This is the wish of the President General and the Council General's Board for the entire Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Vincentian Family.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2022!



The Council General Announces the Results of the International Contest for Jules Devaux Thematic Year

On the feast day of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, the CGI was pleased to announce the results of the international contest for Jules Devaux's thematic year, and also that 2022 will be devoted to Pierre-Auguste Le Taillandier

The President General International, Renato Lima de Oliveira, on behalf of the Council General International, is pleased to announce the results of the 5th International Literary Contest "the First Conference – International Thematic Year of Jules Devaux".

1st Prize: Njoku Kyrian.
Nigeria 1,000€

2nd Prize: Claudia Marcia de Freitas Pereira
Brazil: 750€

3rd Prize: Selvi Anita Mary Ganes.
India 500€

Special Honorable Mention:

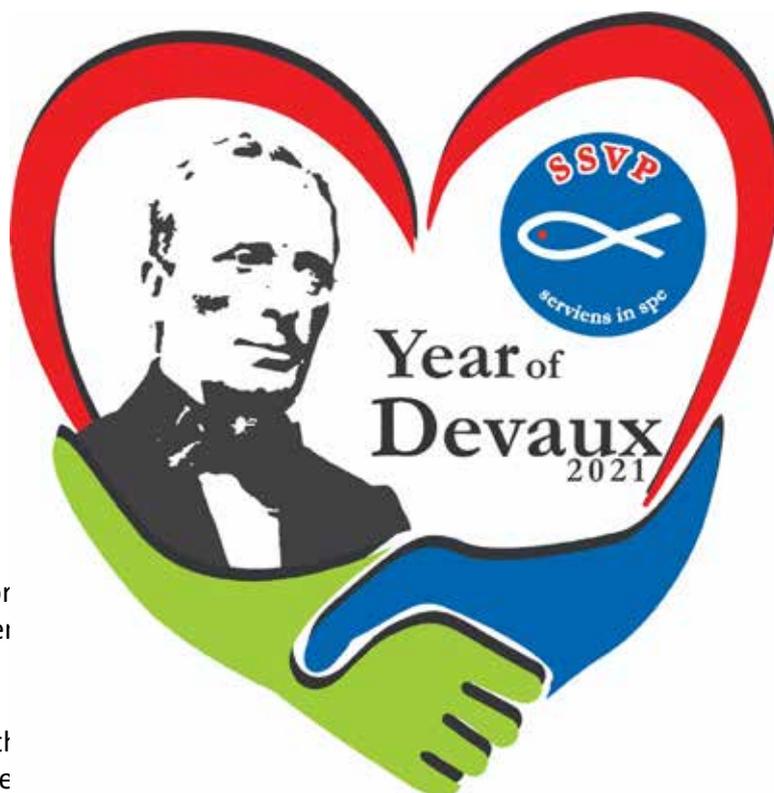
Philippe Menet. France
Oscar Valdés. Argentina

The SSVP's Council General International will also grant an equivalent amount to the Conference to which the author of the work belongs. The money granted to the Conference will be fully allocated to social work, activities or projects carried out by the Conference, represented by its President.

We congratulate all the participants and all those who have helped to organise this Contest. "The

organising Committee is impressed with the contents and presentation of the works, which are improving year after year. The Council General welcomes the interest aroused within the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in the Thematic Year project, which aims at further delving into the work produced by each of the seven young founders. The key goal is to ensure that the knowledge shared by everyone concerning the emergence of the first Conference and the subsequent development of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has an impact, that the history of the founders is known, that it is spoken about, that it is of value as an example, especially for the young people who are attending Conferences today. The seven founders collectively created our Society. For this reason, with respect and consideration, we remember the legacy bequeathed to us.", said our President General, Renato Lima

We would like to remind you that the upcoming 2022 International Thematic Year will be devoted to Pierre-Auguste Le Taillandier. Those fellow members who are interested in taking part of the contest, which will be launched on February 8th, 2022, can start preparing their submissions.



Mexico: an Unforgettable Visit!

Seven days, busy with activities and learning experiences

One of the main functions of the President General is to visit countries and territories belonging to the International Confederation of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, to convey a message of unity, service, hope and charity. These journeys are a chance to find out more about local work, and if necessary, offer fraternal advice about some situations which should be avoided, through counsel, guidance and suggestions.

Since Renato Lima de Oliveira was elected President General in 2016, despite the pandemic and his professional and family commitments, he has fulfilled this mission regularly, with great dedication and devotion. During the five years of his term of office, he has visited over 40 countries, a real miracle from God. The official trips by the President General allow the Council General to be better known and appreciated, bringing it ever closer to the Conferences, Councils, the works and to the members themselves.

The visit to Mexico, from 6 to 14 August 2021, was no different. The members there showed President Lima de Oliveira the work they are doing, the social projects and support they provide in three areas: León (Guanajuato State), Mexico City and Cuernavaca (Morelos State). Alongside the Vincentian schedule, there was a busy programme of religious commitments and meetings with the Vincentian Family.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul arrived in Mexico in 1844, founded by Doctor Manuel Andrade y Pastor. Currently, the National Council is formed of six regions, 12 Particular Councils and 40 Conferences, with a total of 500 active members and volunteers. There are five special works, located in different parts of the country. It should be noted that one of the SSVP's co-founders, Félix Clavé, spent 12 years in Mexico, while writing his book, *Vie et Portrait de Pie IX*.



Mexico City

In the Mexican capital, President Renato had the opportunity to visit several parishes in the historic city centre, many of them linked to the Vincentian Family, such as the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception Temple and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church. On the first day, various branches of the Vincentian Family in Mexico gave a warm welcome to Renato Lima at a meeting at the Templo de la Inmaculada Concepción, after Holy Mass celebrated by the Lazarist Fathers, Jesús Plascencia and Arturo Hernández, who also kindly escorted President Renato as he carried out his various engagements in Mexico City.

On the evening of 8 August, Renato gave a talk, by video-conference, to all the Mexican SSVF leaders (presidents of Conferences, Particular and Regional Councils, and the board of the National Council), and answered many questions from Vincentians all over the country. In the capital, Renato visited the offices of the National Council in Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, a masterpiece of the Spanish architect Félix Candela. At the offices, he gave an SSVF flag to the National President, as well as books and other souvenirs.

Another moving visit was to the Vincentian dining room opposite the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception Temple, run by the SSVF and several other Vincentian branches, with local government support. The dining room is carefully managed by Brother Marcelo Cárdenas, from the Congregation of the Mission, the true heart of this project. Renato and other Vincentians helped to prepare the food

which was served to the homeless people who were waiting for their lunch. Meals are distributed to some 200 people in need in this area every day.

Cuernavaca (Morelos)

In Cuernavaca, the highlight was the visit to the Vincentian Centre, where the area's four Conferences carry out their charitable activities. On this occasion, 250 bags of basic grocery items were being distributed to needy families. Later on, in Loma Esmeralda district, a library and computer room was opened at the primary school, sponsored by the SSVF and local service clubs, followed by delivery of basic groceries to the same local community. They are planning to build in this area the Félix Clavé Social Centre, a work that the Council General will certainly support. A visit was also made to Santa María Ahuacatlán community, with a delicious meal with the community there and distribution of baskets of basic commodities.

A pleasant coincidence was met with in Cuernavaca: five Vincentians from the United States, led by Steven Jenkins, were visiting the local works and activities, as there has been a very successful exchange programme in place since 1986 between Cuernavaca and Phoenix (USA). Twice a year the North American members visit Mexico, and vice versa, to strengthen the bonds of confraternity and friendship, as well as provide loving help to those most in need. A real example to follow!

León (Guanajuato)

In León, visits were made to Galilea migrant's house (Casa del Migrante Galilea), an SSVF initiative supported by several other non-governmental organisations, and to Ozanam House (Casa Ozanam) in Santa María district, which provides meals and educational support to the very poor community there. A visit was also made to Mary Queen Conference, in the Vincentian parish of the same name, where Mass was celebrated by Fathers Fernando Vallejo, José Solís and Luis Lusarreta (National Spiritual Adviser).



Representatives from other Particular Councils took part in the celebration, alongside the León Vincentians. On this occasion, a new member joined the SSVP, and everyone renewed their Vincentian promise. The Holy Hour, planned beforehand, was the only part of the programme which had to be cancelled, because of a fierce hailstorm which caused traffic congestion and prevented the Vincentians from arriving on time. Otherwise, the schedule planned by the Mexico National Council was completed in full.

One of the things which President Renato Lima most enjoys on his missionary trips (as well as personal contact with Vincentians) is to get to know better some of the people most in need through the traditional home visit. In Mexico, he did four home visits, as well as distributing food and personal hygiene items for protection against COVID-19. "It is in visiting the home of the people being helped that we can see whether the Conference work is being done well, if the members are really being useful to the families assisted, and whether Vincentian training is of good quality", commented Renato.

"We visited four battling women: Nereida Valencia, Ana María Contreras, Reyna Torres and Nancy Naves. Their faces showed their certainty that, with God, it is possible to face anything, whether it is illness or unemployment. Their eyes showed their happiness that their children are growing up with Christian values, and that they will be able to stand on their own two feet in future. Their words expressed their gratitude to God for graces received, and to the Vincentian Conferences for the goods provided. Their hands showed the marks of suffering in a life full of adversity and disappointment," observed the President. The protecting image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, patron of Latin America, was displayed in every little home visited.

Other activities

As well as the Vincentian schedule, the members of the National Council of Mexico went with Renato to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, a moment of deep emotion for our President General. In León, another highlight was the ascent of the Hill



of Christ the King, as well as the visit to the Cathedral and to the Expiatory Temple. The Mexican Vincentians also took President Renato to see the Aztec pyramids in the Teotihuacán archaeological site, as well as various historic buildings and monuments in all the cities visited. All the photos from the Mexico trip can be found on the Facebook page of the Mexico National Council, to whom the Council General is grateful for meeting all expenses during the days of the President General's visit.

In all the cities, the President General met the leaders of the Vincentian regions, and spoke to them about the work of Council General during the five years of his term of office. Renato Lima was accompanied everywhere by his companions, Lucha González (National President) and Gladys Herrera (Coordinator for Zone 1 - America 2), as well as by several SSVP leaders from the three cities. At various places, the President sang some Brazilian Catholic songs in Portuguese, and invited everyone to join in.

"The culture, food and history of Mexico are awesome. A President General cannot miss a visit to this great Latin American country, where the SSVP has grown a great deal both in quality and in numbers. I have found that the National Council is on the right path, organising Conferences, Regions, Works and Councils of great quality, with care and love. May they go forward, always expanding the strategic and institutional vision", hopes Renato Lima.

One important remark: due to the health crisis, during the days of the visit, all the protocols recommended by the health authorities were observed, in order to ensure the safety of everyone involved. "We have to gradually take up the life we had before. The President General's journeys are essential for greater unity with the SSVP. The pandemic will not prevent us bringing this message of unity, peace and charity, which inspires the Council General, to every part of the globe. Charity can never be held back. We trust in God to protect us always", said President Lima de Oliveira.





Talk Show with President General

A fraternal chat bringing the CGI's day-to-day work closer to all brothers and sisters

On October 30th, another live talk show with the President General, Renato Lima de Oliveira, was held. The event was a real success on Facebook's Ozanam TV, with Vincentians from all over the world asking questions about the future of the Society to the person who presides over the Council General International (CGI) and makes, on a daily basis, major decisions about the future of the conferences.

Main issues addressed revolved around Ozanam's canonisation process, Vincentian formation, the SSVP youth, the World Day of the Poor, the SSVP's presence in the world, the work undertaken by Conferences in times of pandemic, the Vincentian ministry and the global issue of homelessness and refugees. In this regard, the President General

gave first-hand information and made comments based on his experience.

With regard to Ozanam's canonisation process, he stated that this day is coming soon; that's why, he asks Vincentians to keep on praying for this cause.

During the talk show with President General, questions were raised about Vincentian formation; and Renato Lima took the chance to recall the importance of learning about the history of the SSVP and the life and work of the main founders. The CGI is striving to provide information thereof. As far as Vincentian books are concerned, a project is being developed to make the figure of Amélie Soulacroix Ozanam even better known, and the President General's new book, Vincentian Chronicles, has been published

to enhance the formation and charism of members.

As for youth, the President talked about the publication of the Guide for Creating Youth Conferences at Universities (available on www.ssvpglobal.org), and about the need to give youth their space so that they can reach out to the most vulnerable while exercising charity in a straightforward and imaginative way.

The President General also spoke about the World Day of the Poor and the need to always walk together with the Church, especially when it comes to such Vincentian issues. The spiritual advisor, Fr Motto, on behalf of the CGI, has produced a document (also available on www.ssvpglobal.org) on the importance of this event for our charism.

The Vincentian ministry in times of pandemic was another highlight discussed during the talk show. According to President General, there are two words encompassing the Vincentian positioning in these times: compassion and resilience. He also talked about the need to be close to those in need and to resume Vincentian works always respecting health and safety protocols. Furthermore, the Vincentian ministry was brought into focus, since it should be based on supporting poverty-stricken communities, not just by distributing clothes and food, but by going further: providing education and training so that they can ultimately get a job. This is the systemic change, which is the core mission of Vincentians: to provide, with faith and Christian commitment, real opportunities for social integration to those who can't get out of the poverty cycle.

...a project is being developed to make the figure of Amélie Soulacroix Ozanam even better known...

we must protect their rights and be their voices. The 13 Houses Campaign, a Famvin Homeless Alliance initiative, is a clear example of service to the homeless, an initiative that should be fostered and undertaken by members in our Society.

....the President talked about the publication of the Guide for Creating Youth Conferences at Universities...

Finally, Renato Lima called for the protection of the family, understood not only as the Vincentian Family, to which we all belong spiritually, but also as the pillar that underpins the social and personal stability of each one of us, a place where love grows and the focal point for living together and learning Christian values. The protection of the family is essential for human development, and Vincentians should safeguard it from all damaging external agents.

We would like to thank the Ozanam TV Team for the production and broadcast of this event, as well as the presenter, brother Rodrigo Santos, for his great work. Talk Show with the President General is an initiative, which was launched before the pandemic, and it is part of the goals set out in the CGI's strategic planning: transparency and dialogue with the grassroots.

...according to President General, there are two words encompassing the Vincentian positioning in these times: compassion and resilience...

Upcoming edition of this great experience with the President General is being held on April 24th, 2022.

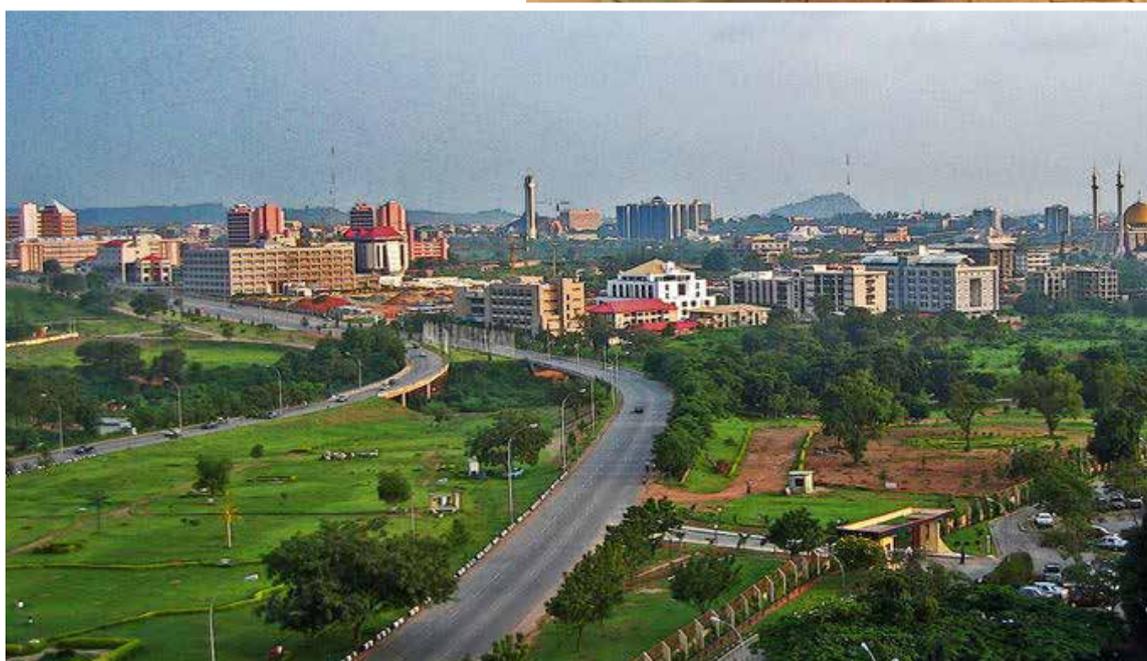
We look forward to meeting you again!

Recognition of the work of Patrick Ebhojie

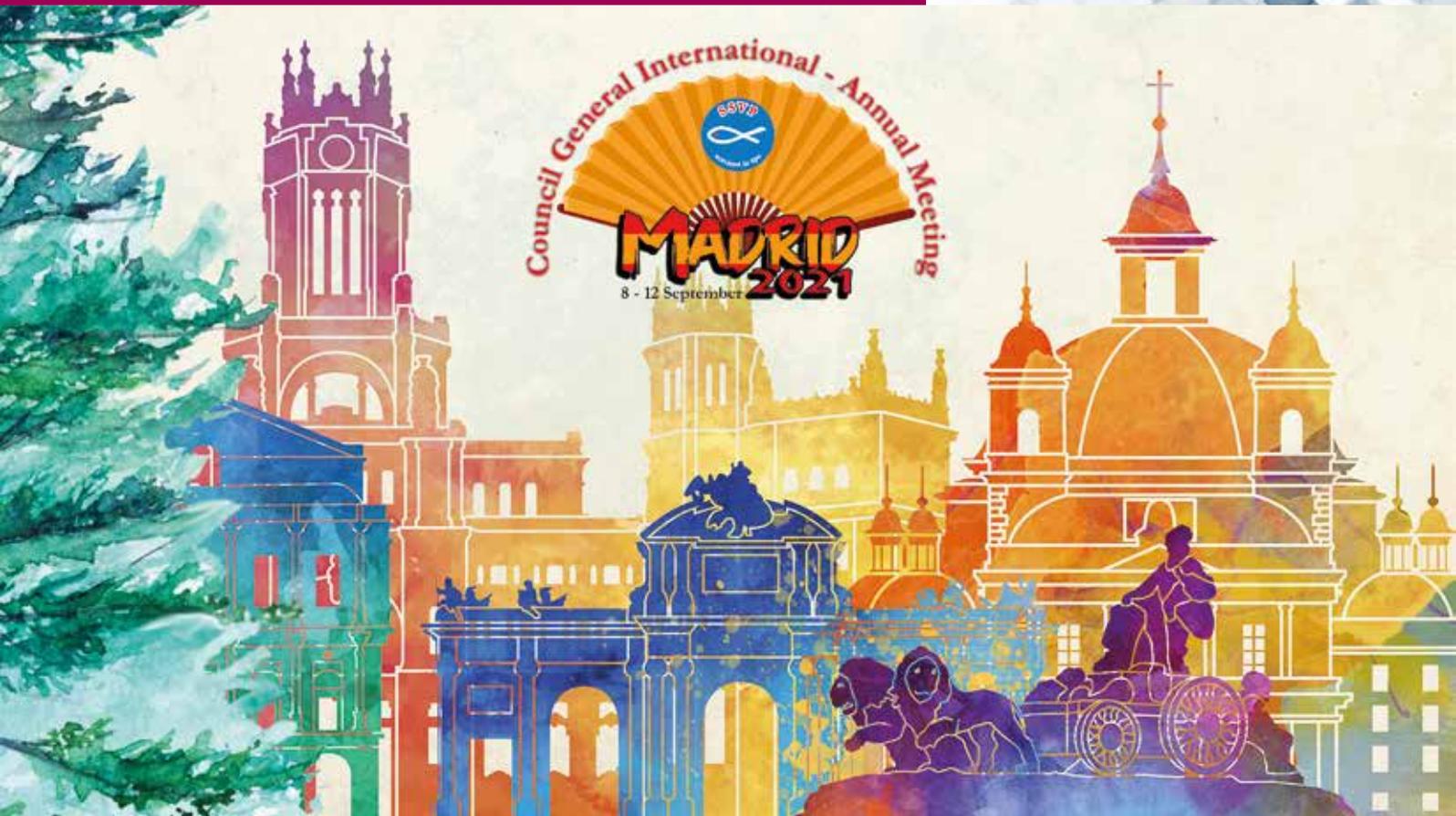
On September 12th, 2021, our dear brother Patrick Ebhojie, International Territorial Vice Presidente (ITVP) of the SSVP, was honoured with the 'Patron' award by the Catholic Laity Council of Nigeria (Lugbe Deanery, Abuja Archdiocese) for the services rendered to the Catholic Church in Nigeria and to all mankind.

Our dear brother tirelessly serves the Church and the SSVP. Over the last years as a ITVP, in addition to promoting and being engaged in projects undertaken in Nigeria, he has coordinated the Vincentian service in countries belonging to his zone, and supported and worked hard to re-establish the SSVP in Tanzania, which is currently made up of several Conferences.

Herewith, our most sincere congratulations on this recognition for the work of a member committed to his faith.



Abuja, capital city of Nigeria



Council General International's Annual meeting Madrid 2021

On 11th and 12th September, the annual CGI meeting took place, with full participation and approval of all the resolutions submitted

This event incorporated two important meetings, that of the Permanent Section (PS), and that of the International Executive Committee (CEI). The accounts and management reports for 2020 were approved, as well as another 16 resolutions. There were also two special presentations: one from Ralph Middlecamp, addressing international solidarity, and one from Julio Cesar Marques de Lima on the expansion programme of conferences, the SSVP Plus. The international structure of the CGI also welcomed the following members: Jean-Marc Ossogo (France) - Assistant Secretary General, Redemptorist Fr Frederico Hozanan de Pádua (Brazil) - Assistant Spiritual Adviser, and José Manuel Gredilla - Assistant General Treasurer.

This major Vincentian event was broadcast live, in 4 official languages, on the Ozanam TV Facebook channels, in order to bring the Council

General International closer to every Vincentian member and collaborator, as well as to promote transparency in the dialogue and management of our organisations.

This main agenda was accompanied by many other activities and meetings. In fact, two important events were held within the planned schedule: On the one hand, signing of the collaboration agreement with the Secular Vincentian Missionaries (MISEVI), and on the other hand, award of the Charity in Hope medal to ACN International (Aid to the Church in Need). In the days beforehand, an ITVP meeting was held on 10th September, and the regular Board meeting was held on Ozanam's feast day, on 9th September.

During these days, the Eucharist was celebrated on two occasions: the first one on September 9th, the feast day of Frédéric Ozanam, at La Milagrosa parish



basilica; and the second one, at the Royal Basilica of San Francisco el Grande, on Sunday, September 12th.

After these intensely busy days, the President General's work continued with the visit to the International Secretariat of Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY), in Madrid, and visits to various social projects of the Spanish conferences: a support centre for young immigrants in Seville, a training centre in Cordoba, a shelter for homeless people in San Fernando (Cadiz), and the work of the Jerez Conferences (Cadiz) for the most vulnerable families. He also visited the south of Spain and met Vincentians from Gibraltar.

During his tour of Spain, the President General commented: "I would like to offer my greatest

thanks to all the brothers and sisters of the National Council of Spain, in the person of their very able National President, Juan Manuel Buergo, for the enthusiasm and kindness put into every detail of the organisation of this exceptional annual meeting we have experienced in Madrid, an event which was attended virtually by many member countries, with the unanimous approval of the planned resolutions. I am very happy with the results of the meetings. I am madridista in my heart; that's why, I consider myself the second President General with Spanish roots. Here I feel at home".



[Click here to read President General's full speech at the CGI's 2021 Annual Meeting in Madrid.](#)



Mass celebrated on the feast day of Bl. Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam



Mónica Villar (in the middle) on behalf of MISEVI International at the signing of the agreement

Fostering Collaboration with MISEVI and Recognition of the Work Undertaken by Aid to the Church in Need

On September 11th, the pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) was awarded the 'Charity in Hope' Medal, distinction bestowed by the CGI

The purpose of this award is to forge closer ties with people and entities with whom the SSVP share common goals and projects, in recognition of their charitable actions and service.

In this 2021 edition, ACN was recognised for its outstanding humanitarian work, supporting the Catholic Church in its mission, primarily in the most needy, oppressed and persecuted communities around the world, with over 5,000 pastoral and humanitarian projects in more than 140 countries. Mr. Antonio Sainz de Vicuña y Barroso, President of ACN Spain, received the medal on behalf of the institution.

In previous editions, this award was given, in recognition of the great work, to Rotary International

(2018), to the World Organisation of Scout Movement (2019) and to the Jesuit Refugee Service (2020).

On September 12th, the SSVP signed a cooperation agreement with MISEVI (Vincentian Lay Missionaries), represented by its International President, Ribel Elias. This agreement seeks to “accomplish the mission of the Vincentian Family: responding to the needs of poor people”.

Present in 13 countries, MISEVI’s work is focused on human and spiritual promotion of people, the fight against poverty and its active commitment to it. It carries out projects to support families and children related to formation and promotion, health and social relationships, and coordinates networks to fulfill its missionary work.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Fostering Collaboration with MISEVI and Recognition of the Work Undertaken by Aid to the Church in Need

Since 2016, the Council General International (CGI) has signed two other collaboration agreements with entities belonging to the Vincentian Family: The Religious of Saint Vincent de Paul (RSV) and the International Vincentian Formation Center (CIF). The goal of these two agreements is to comply with Item 5 of the CGI's Strategic Plan: a permanent, close collaboration with the Vincentian Family.

The President General International stated that "the agreement signed with MISEVI is beneficial to both parties. The SSVP can learn a lot from their missionary work, thus strengthening bonds with those territories with a weak presence or where

the Society is not present." As for the medal, he highlighted ACN's humanitarian and pastoral work around the world and stressed that "no public award is enough to recognize the great work they do for the most vulnerable, an exemplary role model for the SSVP and the whole Vincentian Family".



[Read full speech \(in Spanish\) of our President General \(Charity in Hope Medal\)](#)



[Charity in Hope Medal Regulations](#)



Antonio Sáinz de Vicuña - President ACN Spain

President General Visits Gibraltar

For the first time in the history of the SSVP, a President General has visited Vincentians in Gibraltar

On September 18th, 2021, the Vincentians in Gibraltar received a visit from the 16th President General, brother Renato Lima, who was accompanied by brother Juan Manuel Buergo Gómez, the third Vice President General Deputy and President of the Superior Council (Spain).

During his day in Gibraltar, the President General met with local SSVP leaders who explained in detail some of their most important charitable projects. The visit passed in a spirit of fraternity, friendship, and great interest on all sides.

There are currently two active Conferences in Gibraltar: Saint Mary Conference, made up of 20 members, is headed by sister María Teresa Pitto; and Saint Bernard Conference, comprising 10 members, is headed by brother Charles Avellano.

The first Conference in Gibraltar was founded in 1860; since then, our brothers and sisters have worked tirelessly to help the people most in need. They currently manage a soup kitchen and visit the poorest people in their homes as well as caring for prisoners and homeless people.

Just a few months ago, on September 24th, the SSVP Gibraltar launched a social project on the streets of Gibraltar to help the poorest people in the country. It is an

example of wholehearted dedication to those preferred by God.

The Vincentians in Gibraltar took the opportunity to ask the Council General for formation material, the Rule of the SSVP, information concerning the seven founders and other documents which will be of great use in the work of the Conferences.

Albeit brief, this visit was the first one made by a President General in the history of the SSVP. "During my visit to Gibraltar, I experienced moments of deep emotion. I was impressed by the spirituality of the brothers and sisters, and felt it was a very positive sign that our Society will carry on being of service with charity", commented President Renato Lima



The CGI Donates 1,000 Miraculous Medals to South Africa

Father Miguel de Lemos is organizing a spiritual campaign to fight the pandemic

November is the month devoted to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, whose feast day is on the 27th, when the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Labouré, Daughter of Charity. To reinforce this devotion, the Vincentian priests (CM) in South Africa are organizing a spiritual campaign to fight the pandemic by distributing Miraculous Medals.



The campaign is the brainchild of Father Miguel de Lemos with the operational support of Brother Aldo Leone. “Spreading devotion to the Miraculous Medal, especially in these times of pandemic, will contribute to reducing the number of cases. Our country has faced three waves during this terrible health crisis. We ask the Blessed Virgin for her spiritual protection so that we can overcome this very critical moment for all of us,” said Father Lemos.

The Council General International – SSVP is joining the South African Vincentian priests in this worthy initiative by sending 1,000 medals directly to St. Anthony’s Catholic Church, located in Crown Mines (Johannesburg), where the Vincentian priests work.

According to Brother Aldo, this campaign is going smoothly: “To date, some 2,000 medals have already been distributed. In addition to distributing medals to the faithful, the parish is organizing, in October and November, other spiritual activities, such as masses, rosaries, processions, novenas and lectures. The ultimate goal is to distribute as many medals as possible so that devotion increases and graces may be obtained”, commented Aldo.

In 2018, Bro. Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General, along with Bro. Joseph Makwinja, had the joy of visiting St. Anthony’s Catholic Church and learned about the charitable work carried out by the religious who exercise the Vincentian ministry there.

As for donations, medals shall be sent using private courier delivery services (like DHL) because public courier services are experiencing many operational problems:

*Father Miguel de Lemos
26 Church Street
Crown Mines
Johannesburg 2001
South Africa*

For any question or further information, contact Brother Aldo Leone (aldoleone.herauten@gmail.com).





President General Meets with the Vincentians in Paraguay

The meeting took place in Ciudad del Este, adjacent to the border with Brazil

On November 8th, the 16th President General of the SSVP, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, travelled to Ciudad del Este, one of the most outstanding places in Paraguay. There, he took part in two important meetings for our Society at the headquarters of Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of Zagreb, near Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, in the area of St. Joseph the Worker Parish.

The first meeting was held with leaders of Paraguay's National Council, currently under the presidency of brother Osvaldo Javier Hidalgo Viveros. Relevant topics were discussed: the representation of the National Council before public governmental bodies, strategies for the expansion of the SSVP across the country, twinning and ideas for youth recruitment. Sisters Norma Beatriz Hidalgo Leguizamón (national officer for

training and formation) and Susana Mabel Ruiz Ramos (national secretary) were also present at this meeting.

The President General, brother Renato Lima, then attended the ordinary meeting held at St. Louise de Marillac Conference, chaired by sister Erme Oilda Franco Benitez. Currently, the group is made up of 22 members, with future plans to split itself to better serve the parish's regional area. "God willing, a Zone Council will be established in the near future in our city," said Erme.

On this date, the Conference was commemorating its second Vincentian anniversary. For the occasion, in addition to the thanksgiving prayers for this Conference which operates at Our Lady of Fatima Chapel, a delicious snack was served.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES



President General Meets with the Vincentians in Paraguay

Sister Mariela Centurion Cabrera Maria Alba, who promotes the SSVP at other parishes in Ciudad del Este, also attended the meeting.

Finally, brother Renato answered questions raised by Paraguayan members, especially those regarding the day-to-day Conference life, Ozanam's canonization, the new headquarters in Paris and the importance of Vincentian formation. The President General gave some gifts during the meetings, such as books, flags, pictures of the seven founders, music CDs, Vincentian crosses, and rosaries. The highlight of the meeting was the

donation of a relic of Blessed Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam to be kept at the National Council's new headquarters.

With this trip to Paraguay, the President General has visited seven countries in 2021: Brazil, France, Portugal, Spain, Gibraltar, Paraguay and Mexico. Hopefully, in 2022, with a decreasing cumulative number of reported COVID-19 cases, the missionary trips of the President General and the visits of Territorial Vice Presidents will be, God willing, duly resumed. Brother Renato is expected to attend the National Assembly in Paraguay in 2023.



President General International along with Paraguay's National President



Board meeting in Lyon

CGI's Historic Board Meeting in Lyon

The gathering also included visits to places associated with Ozanam's life

On December 4, the fifth meeting of the Board of the Council General International was held at the Centre Jean Bosco in Lyon, France. Some of the members attended in person and others, due to

travel restrictions between countries during the pandemic, participated online. Holy Mass for the event was celebrated in the Basilica of Our Lady of Fourvière, next to the Centre Jean Bosco.



Attendees of Lyon's online Board meeting



Saint Nizier church

The meeting was full of interesting topics and several decisions were taken. The President General, brother Renato Lima, presented a summary of the activities carried out, highlighting the trips to Spain, Gibraltar, and Paraguay. The Secretary General, sister Marie-Françoise Salesiani-Payet, spoke about the General Headquarters, which will be officially opened on April 23, 2022. The Treasurer General, brother Larry Tuomey, gave a financial report on the budget for the coming year. All the other Vice-

presidents and those responsible for the several services of the Council General took the floor and read their reports, showing great dedication and hard work.

One of the topics discussed was the question of the logo of our Confederation, whose special commission has finished its work and presented its final report with recommendations. The President General will write a letter to all countries



Plaque commemorating the wedding of F. Ozanam and A. Soulacroix



Board members in Lyon

informing them of the next steps regarding the logo. In the area of international solidarity, the 25 poorest countries in the world were defined using technical criteria, which will receive special attention throughout 2022. Regarding next year's international events, the Board discussed many possibilities and locations, but is still waiting for the pandemic to subside before resuming the calendar.

The next CGI Board meetings will be on March 5 (online) and April 24 (Paris).

Other activities

The following day, the members of the Council General, accompanied by the leaders of the SSVP of Lyon, participated in a historical pilgrimage to significant places in the life of our Blessed Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam. Among the places visited were: the house



Jean Bosco Centre, headquarters of the Board meeting



Visit to Lyon's archbishop, Mr Olivier de Germay

where Ozanam lived with his family on Pizay Street (historic centre of Lyon); the Church of St. Pierre (where he received his first holy communion); the Royal College (where he studied for many years); and the Church of St. Nizier (where he married Amélie Soulacroix). "We would like to thank the Vincentians of Lyon for their kindness in taking us to these places that are very important for the life

of our Society. It was as if we had participated in a spiritual retreat," commented Marie-Françoise.

On another occasion, brother Renato Lima visited the Archbishop of Lyon, Monsignor Olivier de Germay. The President was accompanied by sister Marie-Françoise and Father Andrés Motto (international spiritual advisor), as well as by



Meeting with members of Lyon's Zone Council at the Mother House of Daughters of Charity

sister Geneviève Bussac (president of the Lyon Particular Council), Father François Christin (local spiritual advisor) and some Vincentians from the city. Monsignor Olivier was very pleased with the progress in the process of Ozanam's canonization and said that prayers for this cause should be intensified.

The President General also met with fellow Vincentians during his visit to the headquarters of the Daughters of Charity, whose superior is Sister Monique Javouhey. During the meeting, about 50 Vincentians from the 17 local Conferences came to embrace the President General at a very pleasant and fraternal cocktail party. During the event, brother Renato answered numerous questions, with simultaneous interpreting provided by Father Motto. "I was very touched by the affection of the Vincentians of Lyon. They are very gentle and kind. I am sure that Ozanam is also very happy," stressed our president.

Félix Clavé

Once the busy activities in Lyon were over, a small delegation of members of the Board of the Council General travelled to the cities of Pau, Hoghes and Tarbes, important places for the co-founder Félix Clavé, where he was born, lived

and died. Then there was a quick visit to the Shrine of Our Lady in Lourdes, when the CGI delegation asked the Blessed Virgin for protection for all the sick of the world, and especially for all the members of the SSVP, as well as for the volunteers and staff of our special works and headquarters. More details on these other events will be published in the next issue of Ozanam Network magazine.



Holy mass in the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Fourvière



Vincentian Reflection on the World Day of the Poor

Father Motto has prepared an excellent reflection which will be very useful for all members of our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, and for all the other branches of the Vincentian Family

It is not lengthy, but is a very profound and knowledgeable piece. Going from the Introduction to the Conclusion, it is divided into three, very well-written parts: Jesus and the poor; Vincent and

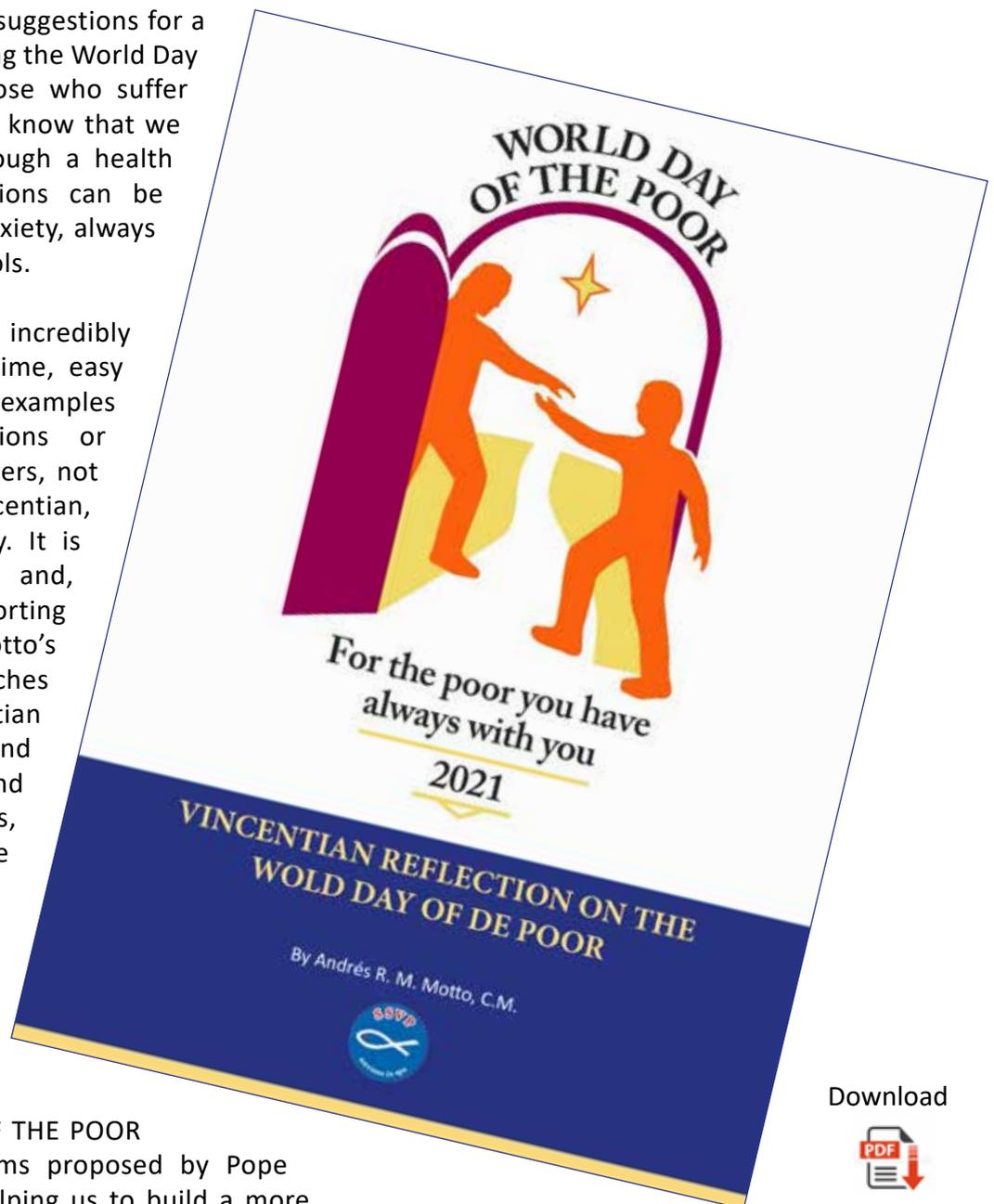
fraternal, fairer civil society, since the poor you will always have with you (Mk 14:7).

Brother Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th President General

the poor; Ozanam and the poor. At the end, there is a list of 10 suggestions for a more focused way of living the World Day of the Poor, serving those who suffer in more practical ways. I know that we are presently living through a health crisis, but the suggestions can be implemented without anxiety, always respecting safety protocols.

Father Motto's text is incredibly rich, but at the same time, easy to understand, full of examples with scripture quotations or references to major writers, not just Catholic and Vincentian, linked to human history. It is pleasant, encouraging and, above all, very comforting to read Fr Andrés Motto's words. He always teaches us to live our Vincentian charism with prayer and action, like St. Vincent and our leaders and founders, through Ozanam. We can never lose sight of our servants, our loved ones, our friends and our masters -the poor- who open to us the gates of Heaven.

May this WORLD DAY OF THE POOR help us achieve the aims proposed by Pope Francis in this world, helping us to build a more



Download



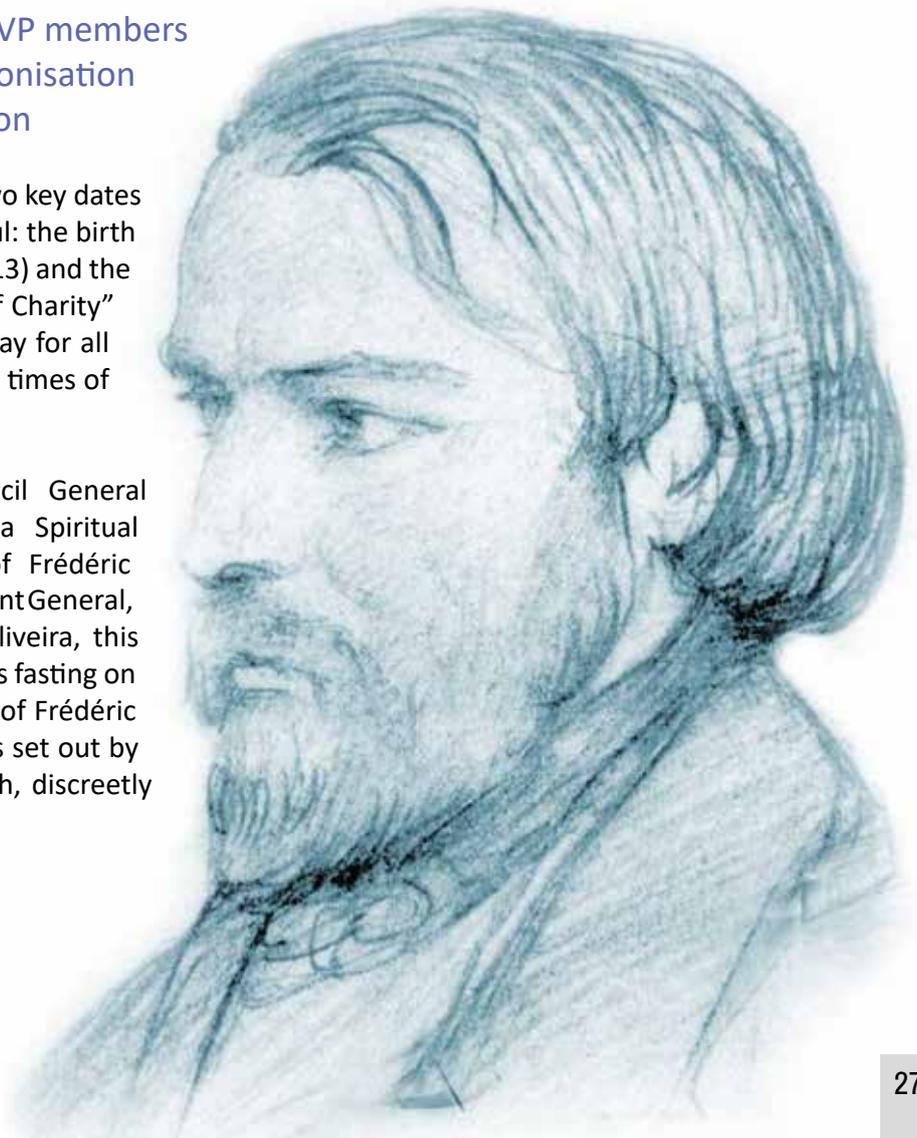


Fasting: Council General Launches Campaign for Canonisation of Bl. Frédéric Ozanam

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).





Fr Guerra (left) along with Stéphane Joachim and Fr Motto

The Postulator of Ozanam’s cause visits the headquarters of the Council General

Last October 12, the headquarters of the Council General International, in Paris (France), received a very illustrious visitor. We are referring to Father Giuseppe Guerra, of the Congregation of the Mission, postulator of the cause for the canonization of Blessed Antoine-Frederic Ozanam before the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome.

Father Guerra visited all the facilities of the headquarters and was welcomed by Father Andres Motto, CM, International Spiritual Advisor, and by the staff. “The new international headquarters of the SSVP is modern and very appropriate. The Council General is to be congratulated for this acquisition”, said Father Guerra. In front of the bust of Ozanam and in the chapel, fathers Guerra and Motto prayed for all the SSVP members of the world, and also for the end of the pandemic.

As for the canonization of Ozanam, the Lazarist priest was encouraging. “The process is at a very advanced stage of analysis by doctors and Vatican

specialists, regarding a second possible miracle attributed to our dear Antoine-Frederic. I am very hopeful. We must continue to pray and ask God to obtain this grace”, stressed Father Guerra.

Father Andres Motto was very happy with Father Guerra’s visit to the international headquarters of the Society. “Our beloved companion, Father Guerra, is a noted expert of the canonical procedures related to beatification issues. He has been working on this case since the 1990s, when Ozanam was elevated to the category of blessed. So we are sure that everything will go well, in a short time”, Father Motto believes.

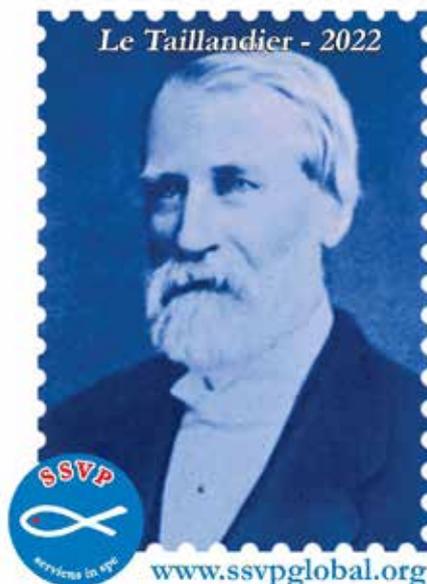
“On behalf of the International Board and the Paris’ staff, we thank Father Giuseppe Guerra for his visit to the Council General headquarters. They were very pleasant and fraternal moments. May God bless you abundantly, dear Father Guerra, and may the Good Lord give you good health”, wished the 16th President General, brother Renato Lima.



Le Taillandier: 2022's Protagonist

The international literary contest on Le Taillandier is being launched on February 8th

One of the highlights of the current term of office of the Council General International (CGI), under the general presidency of brother Renato Lima de Oliveira (2016-2023), is the focus on the life and work of the seven founders. For many members, Bl. Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam is the best known of them, the other six playing a secondary role. This is a misconception, since all of them are protagonists. Ozanam himself, on several occasions, rejected this comment and was always very fair to his colleagues: "There were seven of us," he used to say.



Le Taillandier would give religious speeches to prisoners and to apprentices at the Conferences during home visits.

Fun fact: Le Taillandier adamantly opposed the division of the "Charity Conference", since he thought that the entity would succumb by this decision. He was remembered as having wept during the debate about doing so in December 1835. The other founders convinced him that it was necessary to allow new members to join the Conference to reach out to a greater number of poor people in Paris.

However, even today little is known about the other founders of the First Conference of Charity established on April 23rd 1833. Hence, the CGI came up with the idea of launching the "International Themed Years" in order to bring the life and work of the seven founders to light, which has been a success ever since. This project includes the literary contest, a stamp and a special logotype featuring the themed year's founder: 2017 was dedicated to Bailly de Surcy, 2018 to Lallier, 2019 to Lamache, 2020 to Clavé, and 2021 to Devaux.

Furthermore, this project entailed the launching of a film festival and the international cultural competition for The seven founders song in several languages. Another initiative, which was also part of this project, was the annual visit to the tombs of all the founders made by the CGI's Board.

2022, dedicated to founder Pierre-Auguste Le Taillandier (1811-1886), will be no different. This founder was born in Rouen (France). He and his family moved to Paris, and there he pursued his studies. He met Ozanam and joined the "Conference of History". In 1833, he was actively involved in the foundation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Having left Paris in 1837 to go first to Le Mans and then to his home city of Rouen, Pierre-Auguste was the first of the young founders to marry. He wed Marie Baudry on August 7th, 1838. The couple bore four children, three daughters and one son. In Rouen, he became director of an insurance company and a local hospital. There, he founded a Conference in 1841 and became its president. He was very popular among his Conference brethren. As a mark of gratitude, the members, assembled in Rouen's St. Godard Church, presented him with the gift of a stained-glass window featuring his portrait. Le Taillandier was awarded many honorary titles in his city, but he always dedicated them to the poor.

The literary contest on Pierre-Auguste Le Taillandier is being launched on February 8th, 2022, but those Vincentians who are interested can do some research thereon, following the rules of previous contests, which will be the same (length, structure of the text, bibliographical sources, accepted languages, etc.). All the information is available on the CGI's website (www.ssvpglobal.org). The themed years have made it possible for us to learn much more about our founding fathers.



175th Anniversary of the SSVP in Canada

On November 13th, the Vincentians from Canada marked the 175th anniversary with a commemorative mass at the Augustinian Monastery in Quebec

The SSVP Canada is currently made up of 13,000 members who, on a yearly basis, help 350,000 people, make over 248,000 home visits, and undertake charitable projects and provide support to the elderly, the sick, families, and children in poverty.

The first Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada was founded by Dr. Joseph Painchaud in 1846, in Quebec City. Inspired by his time with the Society while studying medicine at university in Paris, he returned to Canada to discuss the founding of a Conference in his parish. During this period in Quebec, needs were vast and visi-



ble. Epidemics frequently broke out with the arrival of immigrants. Economic depressions called for the establishment of savings banks or banking co-ops to encourage the poor to save money.

In 1848, a few days after the foundation of the Society in Montreal, the members visited a prison and immediately afterward prepared a report for the government suggesting important reforms to the management of the prison.

During his lifetime, Dr. Painchaud founded 12 Conferences, and from these would grow the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Canada.

Our Impact

Love thy neighbour.

Our work at the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is grounded in love of neighbour and justice. Our volunteers work in their own communities and are best placed to respond to local needs.

[Click here to view pictures of the 175th anniversary.](#)



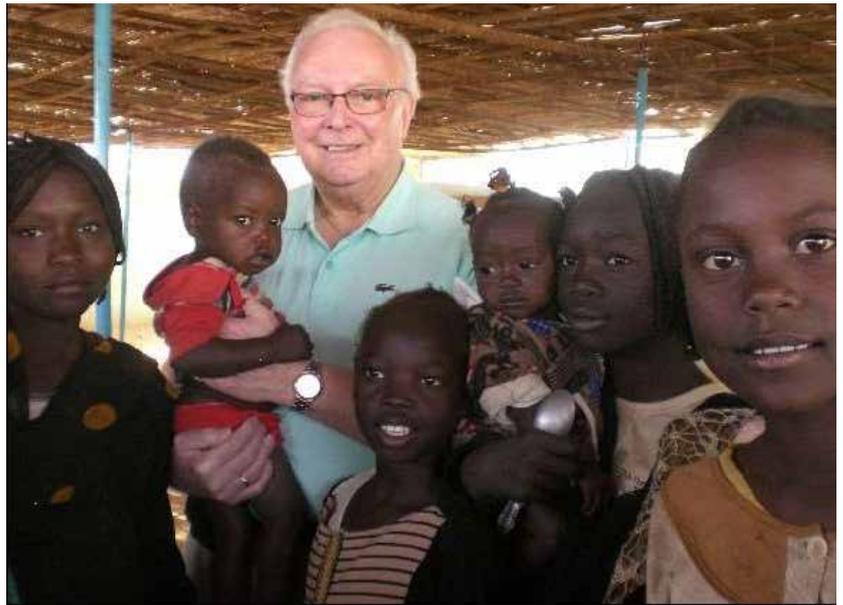
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Sudan

The story of the charitable work of the SSVP Sudan by Ian Mawdsley, Ambassador from the SSVP England & Wales

“I will never, for the rest of my life, forget those small children, holding out their bowls in anticipation of the food they were about to be given. Their wide eyes were pleading for food. Some of the newer arrivals had swollen bellies – a sign of malnutrition. In the feeding area, children scrambled and cried, whilst at the back, the school children sang. The food they are given looks like chocolate blancmange and is full of highly nourishing ingredients. The nun told us that although some were little more than babies, they would not eat all of their food, but save some to take back to other members of the family, including grandparents who had no food at all. While we were there, it was reported that a small child had died of malnutrition. A visit to the home had revealed that there were another five close to death. For the first time, I found it difficult to remain standing because of shock. If I am finding it difficult to write this, how am I going to be able to go home and stand in front of people and tell them what it is like? but my pain is little compared to the suffering of these little children.” (Extracts from Ian Mawdsley’s diary)

“Confronted with the sight of 500 babies and children clamouring for food with arms outstretched I could not hold back the tears. As I watched a little girl, no more than six years old, refuse to eat until the baby in her arms had stopped reaching out for more food, I was completely and utterly overwhelmed.” (Testimonial by Kate Bretherton, member of the SSVP England & Wales)

The SVP was formed in Sudan in 1934. After varying degrees of success, Dr Tadros Samaan resumed the work of the society in Khartoum in 1973. Emile Mikhariz started the first conference in Omdurman,

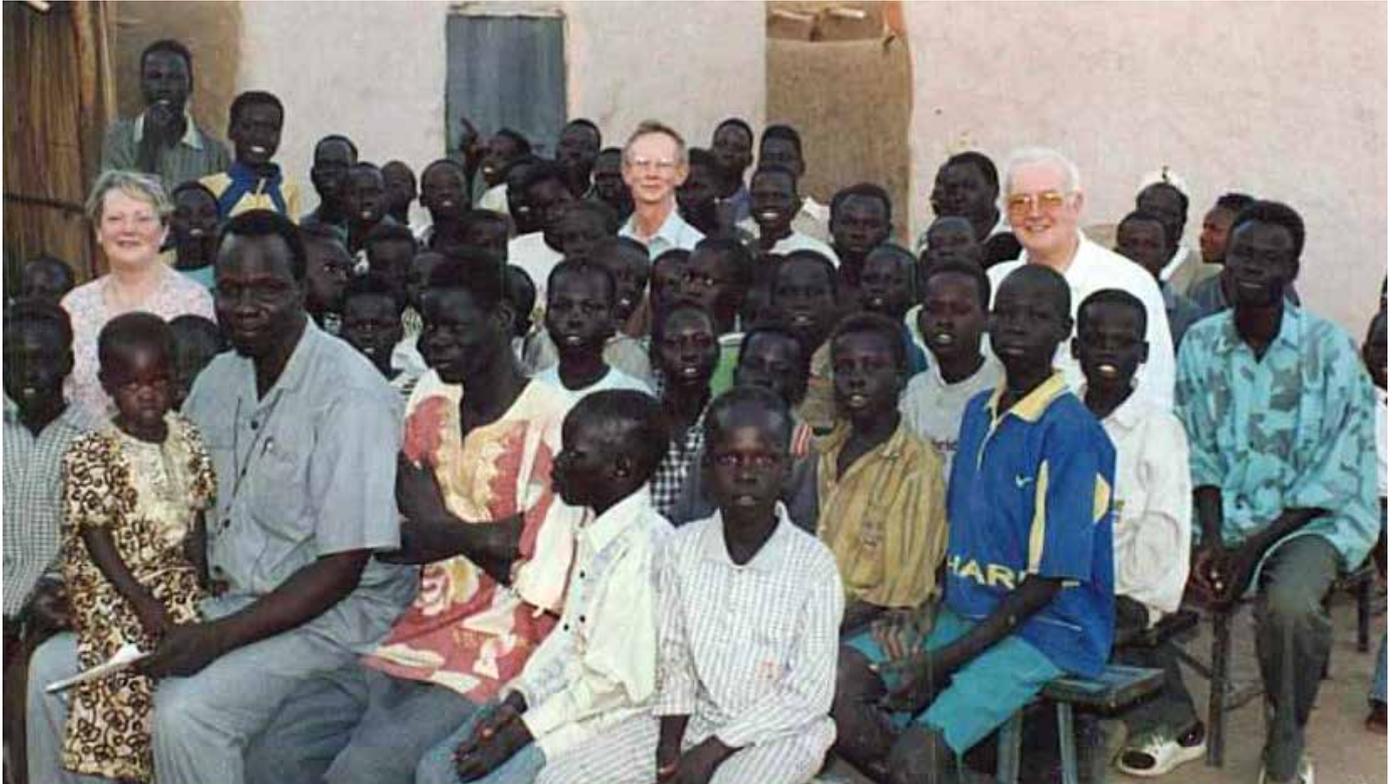


Ian Mawdsley, ambassador SSVP Sudan & South Sudan (1998 - 2021)

Masalma in 1974. The SSVP undertook a wide range of programs to help the most vulnerable in a country severely hit by socio-political conflicts, famine and shortages. Some major programs, which are described in Ian Mawdsley’s report, are shown below:

Street children program

Started in 1986 to care for the street children in Khartoum, who fled the war raging in the South. After the peace agreement between North and South in 2005, other internal conflicts (in the West, in Darfur, since 2003, and in the North, the Nuba Mountains) have maintained a stream of displaced people that justified our continued support to the weakest of them. The number of street children in Khartoum was increasing. They were collected by the Sudanese authorities and left to the care of Saint-Vincent-de Paul Society (SVDP). The program was run by a team of sixty people including social workers, foster parents, psychologists, a doctor, a sports coach...



About 200 beneficiaries have graduated from University before the programme finished in 2011 when many returned to South Sudan. SVDP collaborated with UNICEF for family tracing and reunification.

Three foster homes

The little boys (14) and the girls (32) were in the care of a host family: a Sudanese couple, sometimes assisted by another foster mother, all paid by the SVDP. These foster parents tried to establish new family ties with the children. Everything was done for the children to recover from their distressing past in the street.

The hosted children lived together with the children, often numerous, of the foster parents, sharing everything like a single family. They received food, medical care, access to education... and the affection so necessary to a child's survival. Girls who continued their studies at university were still hosted through this program.

Two farms for 280 adolescents

Professional training included woodwork, brickwork, plumbing,

electrical, and agriculture. The manager of the farm, Betram Kuol, moved to Juba, South Sudan, and replicated those successful projects.

In the morning, the boys used to go to school. In the afternoon, they could attend training workshops and learn basic knowledge in computers, carpentry and electricity. In the farm, they could also learn elements of agriculture and stockbreeding. Each farm had a dispensary, a small library and a TV room. Teens could practice some sports: basketball, tennis, football with a coach.





immunizing deficiencies, motor and intellectual troubles, deterioration of reproductive functions, blindness...).

By providing a daily meal, 3 days per week, for the little children, this program made it possible for their parents to devote their energy to finding work and other needs. 70% of the staff and volunteers are women. Volunteers are mainly mothers whose children were registered in the program.

Each year the rate of success of our children in the Sudanese secondary school certificate was between 75 and 80%, which was above the national average.

Another centre, in Gaborona, was providing courses in Health / HIV awareness / hygiene / first aid to 150 adults in 2011. The graduates had the possibility to continue their training in hospitals, and sometimes they were then hired as medical assistants. Nearly 60% of the graduates used to find a job within two months.

Medical program

Founded in 1990, this program, which coordinated the efforts of 70 people, all Sudanese (included 17 doctors and 5 pharmacists), provided nearly 50,000 consultations each year.

Baby feeding centers

Each center distributes one meal, three days a week. At its peak, 11 centres fed a total of nearly 6,500 children under the age of 7. This programme also prevents problems related to malnutrition (psychic disorders,

Supply of Clean Drinking Water

The heart of this program is a well located in Gaborona, one of the four IDP camps or informal settlements in the middle of nowhere, around Khartoum, which were officially recognized by the government. In local Arabic, "Gabarona" means "they forced us". The displaced inhabitants gave it this name more than 30 years ago. The place is located 40 km from Khartoum. The well was drilled in 1997.

Temperatures can climb up to 45°C in the shade, the water from this well is valuable because it is





either producing or selling local alcohol, illegal under the Muslim law as enforced by the Islamic government. Punishment varies from one month to 2 years' imprisonment.

Established during the post-colonial era, this prison, the oldest in Sudan, has extremely poor sanitation conditions. It has a capacity of 1,200 inmates and it is always overpopulated... without counting the 250 to 300 children who live there. In Sudan, if a woman is given a jail

very pure, drawn from more than 200 meters deep in the desert. In any case, it was the basis of the survival of more than 100,000 people. A powerful Perkins diesel engine running powers a generator which drives a pump to extract water from below the desert. This allows the free distribution of more than 120,000 litres per day.



Women in prison

Since 2000, the SVDP has operated in the Omdurman prison for women. Omdurman is a large city, next to Khartoum, with more than 2 million inhabitants. The majority of women are in jail for

sentence and has a child below the age of two, then it is common practice for the child to stay with her; if she has older children, and no one to look after them, they also go to prison with her. As food portions are calculated by convicted persons, most of the women and children stay hungry all the time.



[Click here to read Ian Mawdsley's full report](#)



Vincentian Family resolution about the lack of vaccines to eradicate Covid-19

We, members of the International Vincentian Family Executive Committee, representing leaders of 160 branches of the Vincentian Family Movement, express our deep concern about the lack of vaccine to eradicate COVID-19, especially in poor countries.

We know that COVID-19 has claimed millions of lives. The health and economic wellbeing of millions more have been compromised. Many businesses, both large and small, have gone bankrupt creating havoc in the job market. And governments have needed to allocate millions of dollars to combat all aspects of this disease.

A comprehensive international program of mass vaccination against Covid-19 would necessarily diminish and eventually eliminate its impact upon us.

The Vincentian Family, which is composed of over 4 million men and women living in 161 countries, works to help vulnerable individuals, especially the infirm, refugees, children, the elderly and the unemployed. We are inspired by Saint Vincent de Paul who taught us to how to serve our sisters and brothers as did Jesus, the evangelizer of the poor.

Today, we lift our voice and ask the countries of the world, those who have more vaccines and more economic resources, to open their hearts and donate some of their vaccines to the

countries which are most in need of them. At the present time, only 1% of the people living in developing countries have been vaccinated.

27 September 2021

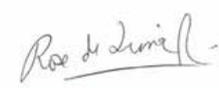
Signed: The Vincentian Family Executive Committee (VFEC):



Rev. Tomaž Mavrič, CM,
Congregation of the Mission,
President VFEC



Sr. Françoise Petit, DC,
Daughters of Charity



Rose de Lima
Ramanankavana,
Association of International Charities



Suzanne Johnson,
Association of International Charities



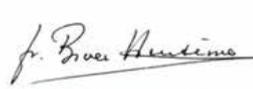
Renato Lima de Oliveira,
Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Ricardo Tavares,
Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Bro. Lawrence Obiko, CMM,
Congregation of Brothers of Mary,
Our Lady of Mercy



Bro. Broer Huitema, CMM,
Congregation of Brothers of Mary,
Our Lady of Mercy



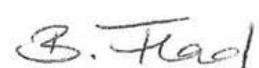
Sr. Grace Hartzog, SC,
Sisters of Charity Federation:
North America



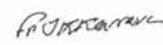
Sr. Eileen Haynes, SCL,
Sisters of Charity Federation:
North America



Sr. Veronika Häuster, SC,
Sisters of Charity Federation:
Strasbourg



Sr. Barbara Flad, SC,
Sisters of Charity Federation:
Strasbourg



Rev. John Kandathinkara, VC,
Vincentian Congregation



Rev. Joseph Arackal, VC,
Vincentian Congregation



Sr. Marie Raw, DC,
Daughters of Charity

* This resolution, drafted by Father Andrés Motto C.M. (CGI's spiritual advisor), was put forward upon the suggestion made by the SSVF's Council General International to the International Vincentian Family's Executive Committee.

Virtual Meeting of Vincentian Leaders

The formation focused on beholding God's presence in the poor

On September 16-17, the Vincentian Family's International Executive Committee held a special two-hour virtual formation session for the leaders of the various branches of the Family. A total of around 100 leaders from the five continents took part in the two-day meeting.

Interpreted into eight languages and coordinated by Ozanam TV, the meetings were attended by the 16th President General International, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, on behalf of the SSVP's Council General International, and brother Ricardo Tavares, International Coordinator of the Vincentian Family.

The first part of the meeting included a motivational speech given by Father Hugh O'Donnell, a missionary of the Congregation of the Mission in the USA, on divine contemplation in the poor. "We must behold God's presence not only through prayer, but also in all our daily activities and with the poor, as did St. Vincent de Paul," the speaker stressed.



Fr Hugh O'Donnell (Congregation of the Mission, USA)

Then, the second part of the session consisted of a review of the the main Vincentian events that have taken place during the past five years: the Symposium on the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian Charism, the Vincentian Film Festival "Finding Vince 400", the 13 Houses Campaign (on behalf of those who are homeless), and the worldwide meeting of the leaders of the branches

of the Vincentian Family, which took place in Rome in 2020.

During the meeting, some videos were projected on the most recent activities undertaken by the Vincentian Family, as well as the presentation of Vincent's song You did it to me, by Gen Verde (Focolares). Father Tomaz Mavric, President of the International Executive Committee and Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, announced upcoming events to be launched by the Vincentian Family in the near future: 2023 (Rome) and 2025 (Paris).

The SSVP's Council General International reaffirms its unconditional support to the Vincentian Family, fostering greater cooperation nationwide, which will entail common projects and spiritual events, and anything that makes the Family grow and become stronger, as outlined in the international strategic plan.



New Superior General of the Daughters of Charity

Sister Françoise Petit was elected Superior General of the Company

The election took place on November 8th, at the General Assembly held following a week of spiritual exercises, later supplemented by more than three weeks' reflection on the topic "EPHATA: Go out, pass through the door, step forward, encounter...".

This General Assembly, which was held at the Mother House of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, continued until November 21st, with its chief aims being the evaluation and promotion of faithfulness to the charism and apostolic vitality of the whole Company.

Those attending the Assembly also worked together on considering their best response to some of today's great challenges: respect for human rights and integral development of the most vulnerable in society,

safeguarding of our "common home", the mystery of "living together", passing on the faith and Christian values to new generations, all while staying faithful to the Church and their own charism.

This international event was also an opportunity to further delve into the message of the founders of the Company, Saint Vincent and Saint Louise de Marillac, with the aim of living in the present creatively, determining attitudes to meet today's missionary and spiritual challenges, and moving on in future years with joy and trust.

Present in 96 countries, and with approximately 12,800 Sisters, the Company of the Daughters of Charity serves Christ in the poor across all five continents.



CIF's activities for the Vincentian Family for 2022

To: all the authorities and members of the Vincentian Family

Dear brothers and sisters,

The grace of Jesus Christ evangelizing the poor remains with you now and forever!

As every year, I share with you 2022's activities to be undertaken by the CIF, with the aim of spreading Vincentian ethics and spirituality.

We do hope this information will help to serve the poor more efficiently. As you know, the meetings are being held at the Mother House of the Congregation of the Mission: 95, rue de Sèvres (Paris, France). The courses will be simultaneously interpreted in English, Spanish and French, so we invite you to take part in these two meetings:

I CIF TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMY AT THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY (950€)

(March 20th to April 2nd, 2022, in Paris)

This course, which includes Vincentian formation and visits to Paris, is intended for all the congregations and associations of the Vincentian Family to learn techniques to improve their economy, and optimize the financial efficiency of projects with the needy, especially in these difficult post-pandemic times.

V CIF FOR THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY (1,950€)

(May 29th to June 22nd, 2022, in Paris)

This meeting, which combines courses with visits to Vincentian places, will be focused on providing more information about the rich Vincentian theology and the possible solutions to the current problems that afflict us and the poor, while developing a quiet life of prayer and pleasant fraternity.

Some practical tips.

1. The price of the meeting includes all expenses. Cash-based payment is preferred.
2. If any congregation or association has a real financial problem, the CIF can arrange for a grant.
3. Since almost all rooms in the Mother House in Paris are reserved, we ask participants to arrive the same day or the day before, but not earlier. The same applies to check-out, as the rooms have already been booked for other groups.
4. Remember that many countries need a visa to enter France. This is usually a lengthy and complex process, so, to avoid delays, it should be done well in advance to deliver all the documents required by the French government (copy of passport; date of entry and departure from France; copy of the Travel Medical Insurance (not a copy of your country's social security). For those who do not need a visa, it is easier. They only need to fill in the registration form that will be sent and get a Travel Medical Insurance.

We are looking forward to meeting you warmly. We know that the participants will return to their countries feeling they have strengthened their ability of coexistence and completed their ministry to the poor. I shall be waiting for you at the CIF, our common home, to walk together. Your brother in Mary and Saint Vincent.



Fr. Dr. Andrés MOTTO, CM
CIF Director

*For any query or attendance confirmation: andresmotto@gmail.com

**All CIF's activities on Facebook's CIF France or www.AndresMotto.com



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

Vincentians and the word of God

Warm greetings to my beloved brothers and sisters in SSVP. We Christians all know that ours is the religion of the Word. Through the Word, we reach God. This is why every Christian must have an encounter with the Bible.

Saint Vincent read and meditated with all his heart on the Word of God. And he shared it with the poor. Over time, and without realising it, it generated in him a deeply Biblical spirituality. So those of us who adopt his ethic and his spirituality must be devoted

readers of the Word of God. Not only by reading it, but by studying it and applying it.

Based on what some of you have asked me about the Bible, I am sharing with you an enthralling topic. The first story of the Creation. For this, we refer to the book of Genesis chapter 1,1-2, 4a. Before I began to write, I prepared some maté tea. While the water was heating, I looked out through the window of my home in the 209m high Montparnasse Tower. Let's get started.





The creator God is, above all, the one who gives space to life, to beauty, to the good

The writer of this text is an anonymous Jewish priest, from around 500

BC. He wanted to introduce some positive, hope-filled attitudes to life. He was a good theologian, with an unshakeable faith. He was able to believe in the goodness of God and the goodness of human beings, in the face of the darkness and chaos of history. He wrote to his people, Israel, beaten down by history over many centuries. Its recent history, since the 6th century BC, had been especially dramatic: a country devastated by the Babylonian army, Jerusalem and its temple destroyed, the kingdom's institutions wiped out. Much of the population killed, scattered or exiled to Babylon. The survivors were suffering a very difficult situation. They had lost their freedom, sovereignty, land, life, hopes for the future.

They were living through a traumatic time in their history. It seemed like a "return to primeval chaos". They swung between hope and despair. The writer of Gen 1 lived among a people with powerful reasons to doubt the love and power of their God. Was the world, and history, badly designed? Why did wickedness and disease triumph?

This theologian observed that, despite everything negative or ambiguous about reality, it was impossible to deny the goodness of his God, of the world and the human being. Night does not destroy the sun; clouds hide it, but do not wipe it away; darkness and cold do not extinguish its light and heat. God is good and powerful; he is to be trusted. He had no evil intentions in creating the world and the human being. The life of the human being is not an absurdity, or blind destiny. We are called to be and to make grow. Since the beginning, the world and its history rest in the hands of a sovereign God, creator of life and of the future. Even the pain which happens in

history can be seen through other eyes, it can be incorporated into

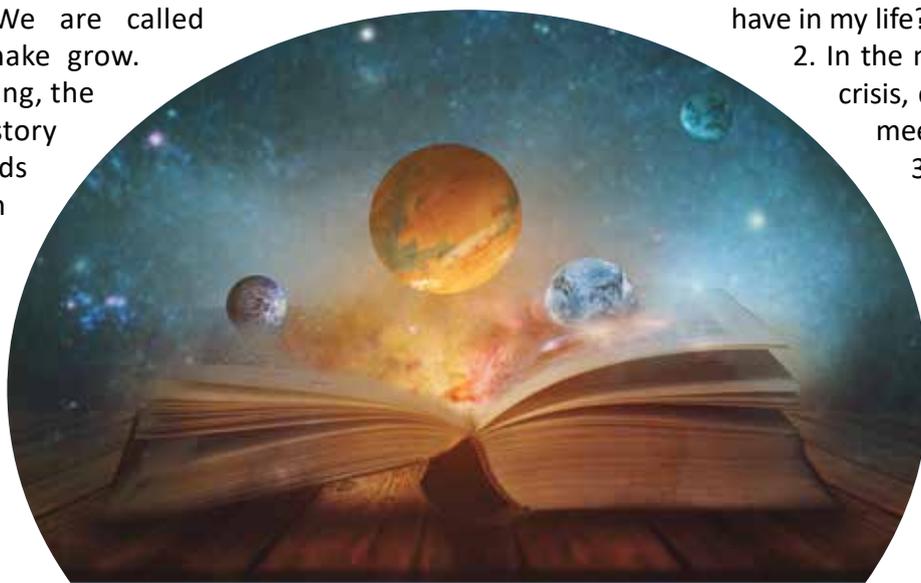
a path and lived as the way to ultimate goodness. It is certain that there is chaos, corruption, evil power and destruction. But the creator God is, above all, the one who gives space to life, to beauty, to the good.

This text is a brilliant page for his profound message. There are many cosmogonies (ancient mythical explanations) on the origin of the cosmos and of human beings. Compared with these, Gen 1 is the most successful. It's not a myth or a legend, although it uses parts of them. It is a masterly catechesis, although the story might be a little weighty. It's not a scientific or historical explanation of the origin of the universe and of the human being. It is a faith text, which wants to enlighten us about certain points: it invites us to trust God and human beings. It is a confession of faith in the goodness and power of God. It asserts the all-round goodness of the human being and of all created beings: "Everything is good and beautiful", despite its limitations and distortions.

It witnesses to the trust God has placed in human beings, making them responsible for the earth. So much so, that it is human beings who must solve their problems on this earth. This text is an invitation to gratitude, to delight and trust in the creator God. It is also an announcement of the human commitment to life, justice and the natural environment, in collaboration with a God who created life.

I will end with three questions:

1. What place does scripture meditation have in my life?
2. In the midst of this Covid crisis, do I have difficulty meeting God?
3. Do I help support the faith and hope of those in need, with the strength which God's word gives?





Virtual Celebration of SSVP Women's Day in India

On August 14th, the National Council of India (NCI) organized a women's gathering via Google Meet to mark the second edition of the International SSVP Women's Day, which was established in 2020 on the 200th birth anniversary of Amélie Ozanam, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam's wife. .

The celebration started with the theme "Family life and implementation of Vincentian activities through women", inspired by Amélie Ozanam's life, a role model of selfless service and unconditional love for God and a true upholder of the SSVP mission. She always helped her husband make his dream come true with his colleagues: to build a wonderful network of charity.

The meeting was inaugurated by the National President, Bro. S. Jude Mangalraj. He talked about the qualities of Amélie Ozanam, the best





example of a true Vincentian, who supported and encouraged Frédéric Ozanam to do great work of charity. He also quoted verses from the Old Testament about four women: Sarah's faith, Abikaya's peacefulness, Rebekah's mercy and Esther's braveness.

The programme started with the opening prayer by Sr. Maria Lauriana, Women Representative of the North Indian Region. Then, Sr. Jolly Sebastian, the National Women Representative, read the Bible and welcomed all meeting attendants.

On this auspicious occasion, the National Council President, Bro. S Jude Z. R Mangalraj, honoured the women who have completed 25 years at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and thanked them for dedicated service and commitment: Sr. Nirmala Costa Friaz, from the Western Region (Goa CC, our Lady of hope, Candolin conference), Sr. Ema Lopez, from the Western Region (Vasai CC, Vasai conference), Sr. Marykutty Kurian, from Kerala Region, (Changanassery CC, Queen of peace Lady conference, Punnappa), Sr. Angelina, from AP & Telegana Region (Kadappa CC, Kadappa conference), Sr. Neli Kerketta and Sr. Anjela Toppo, from the Northern Indian Region (Ranchi CC, St.Mary's Cathedral conference Ranchi).

On this special occasion, members expressed their heartfelt gratitude to our beloved International President, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, for his support and best wishes towards the Vincentian women.

Sr. Nirmala Costa Frias, member of the NCI's Conciliation Committee, presided over the function

and spoke about humility and simplicity. In his keynote address, brother Sebastian Thomas, Senior Vice President of NCI, talked about women's approach towards the Society. Brother Dr. Francis, Vice president of NCI, gave a motivational talk about the role of women in the family and society. Brother Santiago Manickam, the National Council Secretary, Sr. Gwen Menzies, the training and formation in-charge of NCI, and Sr. Ema Lopes, the representative of the Western Region, commended the occasion.

This gathering was aimed at raising awareness on "How to be an Effective Vincentian" by reconciling family life and Society life.

Furthermore, the virtual gathering was a great opportunity for women to express their views, to get to know each other since they hadn't met Vincentian women from other regions, and to speak out and share the Vincentian activities undertaken with others.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Sr. Sandhya Vincent from the Northeastern Region; Sr. Archana, from the Northeastern Region, sang a thanksgiving song; and the concluding prayer was recited by Sr. Matilda. The guidelines thereof were provided by the National President, brother S. Jude Mangalraj. By God's grace, the support and hard work carried out by Regional Coordinators made the event a success.

May God be with us all.

*Sr. Jolly Sebastian,
Lady Representative & Joint Secretary of National
Council.*



USA Paris' Pilgrimage



Pilgrimage Vincentian group from the United States visiting Vincentian landmarks



In late September, a Vincentian delegation, made up of around 20 members from the United States led by their National President, visited the Vincentian landmarks in Paris during their week-long stay. Our brothers and sisters had the chance to visit the tomb of Frédéric Ozanam, at Saint-Joseph-des-Carmes; that of sister Rosalie Rendu, at Montparnasse Cemetery; and that of St. Louise de Marillac, at the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity.

On the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul, they attended a very special mass at the Mother-House of the Lazarists (Maison mère des Lazaristes), where, since 1830, lies the uncorrupted body of the patron of all the works of charity. Moreover, this group visited the new headquarters of the Council General International.



Summer camps to heal children in Lebanon

The current crisis engulfing Lebanon poses a range of health, economic and social challenges that threaten the well-being of a generation of children. The coronavirus (COVID-19) and the dire situation in Lebanon have made the life of children harder

Those who witnessed both the Beirut explosion and the unprecedented economic crisis, directly and indirectly, also suffer from various psychological problems threatening their mental health, such as anxiety and nightmares. Moreover, when coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, with one or both parents jobless, these households can't afford to meet basic needs like food or medicine. Children feel insecure. Sometimes, they are forced into child labor to generate family income. Without proper support, those children might face long-term consequences.





The SSVP Lebanon launched an exciting project for some of these children: While enjoying a one-month summer camp (from August 2nd to September 2nd), they were cared for by specialists and mentors who guided them out of the day-to-day suffering.

This summer camp was organized under the supervision of a Vincentian school psychologist. 55 children from poor backgrounds were gathered in three different groups. They were excited about spending their time with volunteers and mentors (indoor and outdoor activities, field trips...). The team had the opportunity to monitor the children in the normal setting of a summer camp and helped them talk about their fears and worries, which were mainly due to the dire situation in Lebanon. They accompanied them in the process of strengthening their prosocial behavior. Topics covered were mainly school bullying, cyber harassment, self-defense (how to say no), how to behave in presence of persons with special needs, etc.

The psychologist and the team met with the parents for half a day, and shared feedback. Parents were

unanimous about the positive changes in their children's attitudes.

Follow-up sessions for parents will be scheduled during the school year to embrace new topics such as :

- communication with children;
- emotions, stress physiology, regulations, and the role of adults;
- non-violent communication and empathetic - approach;
- fraternal jealousy;
- and the teenager's behavior with parents.

This summer camp was relaxing and informative for all participants: children, parents and instructors. They learned from each other: children had fun; parents learned from the school psychologist how to deal with specific difficult issues; and instructors gained experience. All of them had the chance to see how the Vincentian spirit works.

Solomon Islands Twinning Supports the Local Conference



Solomon Islands (SI) is one of the poorest countries in Oceania. With a population of 650,000 mostly Melanesian people, it has suffered colonialism, war, civil strife and poor governance, leaving its people in great poverty. The per capita GDP is less than \$US600 per head and the majority of the population survives by subsistence agriculture.

The Conference of St Theresa in the village of Takwa on the island of Malaita is helping the poorest in its local community by delivering new and innovative services. Takwa is at the centre of an area with a wide range of economic activity and a great deal of need. There is a fast growing population, large scale unemployment and limited access to education. Gardening and fishing have been restricted to prevent over harvesting but the effect is that many people cannot meet their basic household needs. There is a range of religions including Seventh Day Adventist, Anglican and Bahai and the Conference serves people from all faiths.

The Conference is twinned with St Monica's Conference in Evatt, Canberra, Australia.

Village of Takwa, Malaita

The effects of Covid and poor governance have made the SI economy unstable and this has increased poverty particularly in rural and remote areas such as Takwa. Responding to this the local Conference decided to build a local shop where essential food and other items could be made available to the local community at low cost. Using project funds from their twin and with the volunteer labour of their community the shop has been built and is now providing important goods for the community as well as being a base for provision of services. Items in the shop are goods that are not available within the village except at unaffordable prices and would





Takwa Rest House and Parish Centre

otherwise come from the Provincial capital, Auki or the capital, Honiara. Auki is six hours drive away over poor roads.

30 % of the ‘profits’ from the shop is used to support villagers to produce additional vegetables and fish to support vulnerable members of the community.

The Conference is also using twin project funds to support education costs for villagers. Schooling is not free in SI and many families cannot afford to send their children to school. These funds are enabling access to education which is the best path for people to lift their living conditions. Seven kindergarten students, seventeen primary school students and

twelve secondary school students have had all or part of their fees paid under education scholarships.

The foundation work of the Conference has been fortnightly group visitations to people in Takwa and surrounding villages to support locals in need. The Conference provides bags of food and fish to people in need – typically elderly people and people with disabilities.

Using funds they have raised themselves and local volunteer labour the Conference has built a St Vincent de Paul Rest House / Parish Meeting Room which is a place that the Conference and the Parish can use as a base for community support.



Takwa Service Outlet/Shop



Haiti

Report on the mission conducted in the north-east: launching the rice production project

Introduction

Following a final decision taken by the Superior Council at the 25th June extraordinary meeting about the Rice Production Project in the North-East region, a delegation of five members (Prémice Elissaint, Duportal Annacius, Gousse Laurent, Duvanoly Toussaint, Dieudel Lagreidel) travelled to the North-East to work with the Regional Council on project planning. The following highlights the issues involved and the resolutions that were put forward to finally launch this project.



Issues

After selecting the Rice Production Project out of many proposals at a meeting, the Regional Council held discussions with a property owner in the area. Since it was a community project aimed at helping needy people in the area, the land owner had agreed to sell a hectare for 175,000 gourds, the lowest price on the market. The Council considered this to be a good deal, but naturally, only if we went ahead with it. Unfortunately, after developing the project plan, having discussions with the CIAD, and correcting a few points, the owner found another buyer who agreed to buy it at a higher price than that offered by the Council. That was the main reason why we were unable to meet the deadline for the project. After much research, another seller was found, the only one who agreed to give us an appropriate piece of land with which to start the project. He accepted the price offered, with the possibility of granting him, for a period of 5 years, a rebate of less than 2% of the profit margin made on each harvest. This was unanimously accepted by the regional conferences in order to go ahead with the project.

Regional Assembly resolutions

The delegation and a group of 27 regional conferences, who met on 31st July 2021 in a comfortable and peaceful atmosphere, conducted a very nice working session, with the regional conferences enthusiastically getting involved in the planning of the project, one of the biggest dreams of the Regional Council which is being fulfilled thanks to the support of the Council General International of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. To that effect, the Regional Assembly put forward several resolutions to help those in charge of the project to follow the principles established to help the most needy.

Conclusion

The National Council delegation's visit to the North East region was a total success. The conferences participating in the Regional Assembly agreed to support the project at all levels. The participatory approach adopted, which creates the collaboration needed among all the interested parties, is key to the project's success. The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Haiti is optimistic that the project will achieve its goals.





Vincentine Service at Conferences in Mexico

These projects simply represent the Vincentine service provided by our brothers and sisters in Mexico: a myriad of initiatives which have led Vincentine Conferences to adapt due to the pandemic

Sponsoring a Child

Educational project launched by the SSVP Morelos (Mexico) for 145 children and adolescents

The Conferences in Morelos follow in the footsteps of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frédéric Ozanam, since they believe that ensuring education is the best way to help dignify human beings, so that they can have the right to freedom of thought.





To this end, the Vincentians have undertaken the educational project “Sponsoring a Child”, aimed at finding people sponsoring the education of underprivileged children and adolescents. To date, there are 145 sponsored children and adolescents.

“We All Eat Today” Nutrition Project

Soup kitchen for needy families

The Vincentians in Morelos also fight hunger and malnutrition. Every Saturday, the Conference organises a community breakfast. Before the pandemic, all assisted families used to meet there, but, due to the health crisis, the service provided has adapted to the circumstances and shifted to home delivery. This is a lesson learned from the pandemic: Adapting to the new normal while keeping on helping those who suffer most.

“Share and Change” Programme

Food distribution by members to over 400 families

This project, undertaken by Vincentians in Morelos, helps over 400 needy families with the support of citizens. “Share” food and “change” the lives of poor people.

“Networks of Love” Project

Home rehabilitation and construction in Monterrey

Mary Our Hope Conference carries out a home rehab/construction project, supported by Vincentians who bring the materials required for beneficiaries to rebuild their homes.

This project is being developed on a hilly area, on the outskirts of Monterrey, in Nuevo León. To date, there are 13 beneficiary families.



The Society of St Vincent de Paul's Disaster Relief Arm in the United States

By Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO Disaster Services Corp SVDP-USA

The Disaster Services Corp Society of St Vincent de Paul USA (DSC) is a wholly owned subsidiary corporation of the National Council of the United States and provides disaster relief and recovery services during manmade and natural disasters across the United States and American Territories. Disaster Services works hard to support disaster survivors and was named the 2021 United States Voluntary Organization of the Year by the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

DSC has a small core management team and over fifty volunteers that serve on the organization's Board Standing Committees. The largest committee is the Disaster Operations Committee which has Vincentian representatives from all eight SVDP Regions across the United States. This committee is chaired by a member of the DSC Board and notifies DSC core management team daily of all the various relief supplies and aid that are needed by the Vincentian Councils across the US. The DSC Core Management Team is made up of nationally recognized subject matter experts with a combined 75 years of experience in disaster training, preparedness, response, and recovery.

When disaster strikes, DSC provides emergency assistance to Americans across the nation. Through DSC's Rapid Response Teams, Parish Recovery Assistance Centers (PRACs), and House in a Box™ programs, DSC provides immediate food, shelter, clothing, medical and other critical needs. In addition, DSC in partnership with the National Society of St. Vincent de Paul provides up to \$5,000 for Rapid Response Grants and up to \$20,000 for Long-Term Recovery Grants to Vincentian Councils and Conferences.

The House in a Box™ program provides new furniture and household items to families that have lost everything during



a disaster and do not have insurance or other means

to replaces their household furnishings. SVDP has been providing House in a Box™ since Hurricane Katrina and to date has provided hope to over 100,000 households and 423,000 disaster survivors through this program. Another program of DSC's is the Parish Recovery Assistance Centers (called P-RACs) where DSC staff train local Vincentians to man recovery centers located in Catholic parishes in the disaster zones. At the P-RACs, trained Vincentian volunteers assist survivors with applying for federal and state disaster benefits, provide gift cards for immediate humanitarian relief and emotional and spiritual support. The Parish Recovery Assistance Center using protocols developed by emergency managers to help quickly scale services at parish locations across the nation. DSC has a trained group of Vincentians called "Rapid Response Teams." These Rapid Response members have deployed to floods, hurricanes, wildfires, domestic terrorism and all types of disasters and the member of the Rapid Response Teams understand the logistics and forms necessary to run a Parish Recovery Assistance Center.

This past week, when our Western Region Disaster Chair needed assistance in the form of gift cards to help at a local recovery center that one of our Conferences was supporting for California Wildfire Relief, DSC was there to help. When our Society of St Vincent de Paul Council in the Diocese of Houma Thibodaux called about needing support with relief efforts for the survivors of Hurricane

Ida, DSC immediately responded. We sent our Chief Operating Officer to the Diocese and working with Diocesan officials, local Society of St Vincent de Paul leadership, and the local Catholic Charities, we set up four Parish Recovery Assistance Centers for Hurricane Ida Relief providing over \$100,000 in value of services. When Vincentians from the Society of St Vincent de Paul Council of Nashville called about the unprecedented Waverly floods, DSC's Chief Executive Officer visited the area to help assess the damages and work with the Council on a recovery plan. Every week we have calls or emails from our Regional Disaster Representatives requesting technical or financial support in some aspect of disasters.

In addition to supporting our Society of St Vincent de Paul Councils and Conferences across the United





States, DSC also does Disaster Case Management contracts with states and the federal government. These contracts allow DSC to provide Disaster Case Management programs to families impacted by disasters for up to twenty-four months. Trained staff help survivors navigate the road to recovery and advocate for benefits for their clients. DSC provided 11,124 households with disaster case management, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) appeals, and supporting resources to include home/roof repairs, household goods (mattresses & appliances), and other unmet needs in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Oregon, and Puerto Rico.

The work of DSC can be best illustrated through a survivor success story. The Cabrera's are an elderly couple that who were impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Cabrera is disabled but Mrs. Cabrera is not, and she takes care of her home and her husband. Harvey damaged their roof and ceiling however these survivors did not complain. When they came to the DSC office in South Texas to see

if we could help them to repair their home, they never thought that they would get a new home. In fact, when our Case Manager first asked them about Hope Meadows their response was "give it to someone who really needs it". She said, "we didn't need a new home". After much thought and prayer, the Cabrera's decided to move forward with the Hope Meadows application process. Mrs. Cabrera said, "they are so thankful that she decided to move forward as life is so much better for them now" she added that "their home is warmer when it's cold and is cooler when it's hot." Her pre-disaster home had window units, however, the couple did not turn them on for fear that electricity bill would go up. Mrs. Cabrera appreciates her home as it safe, functional, and most of all, free of Harvey damage.

To learn more about the work of Disaster Services Corporation, Society of St Vincent de Paul USA go to www.svdpcdisaster.org or to contact Elizabeth Disco-Shearer- ldisco@svdpcdisaster.org.



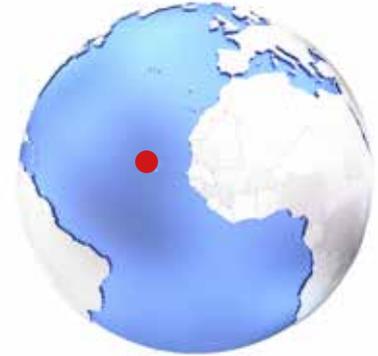


Cape Verde: The 153rd Territory Joining the SSVP



The new Conference kicks off with 20 members

The Council General International (CGI) is pleased to announce that Cape Verde (Africa) is the 153rd territory joining the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This excellent news stems from the initiatives undertaken by the “SSVP Plus” project and, obviously, from the commitment and dedication of the new members of “Maranatha*” Conference, founded on August 1st, 2021, at St. Joseph Parish, in Praia, the capital of the country.



The new Conference is off to a good start, with 20 members. The current president is member Sofia Patrícia Gomes Vieira. The Vincentian group will reach out to several needy communities, which are part of the ministry area belonging to St. Joseph Parish. “Our Conference seeks a real Gospel experience by practicing charity. Hence, we aim to help those dealing with hardship, while conveying the Word of God wherever possible. We will work for the integral promotion of those assisted, paving their way materially, but, above all, spiritually, towards the Kingdom of God,” said Sofia.





“I would like to wholeheartedly thank the Vincentians from Cape Verde who, even amidst the pandemic, managed to found the first Conference in that country. The CGI can hardly thank them enough for this. I do hope that this Conference will yield good results and provide quality service to the poor from Cape Verde, bringing Christ to the heart of all those in need, and going beyond material aid. You can always count on the CGI’s full support,” said 16th President General, brother Renato Lima.

“Our heartfelt thanks to Father José Eduardo Furtado Afonso and to Cardinal Monsignor Arlindo Gomes Furtado for encouraging the SSVP to reactivate this Conference. Without the support of the Catholic Church, it would have been very difficult for the Society to be established in Cape Verde. We will be working hand in hand with the parish, because the Conference is the social arm of the Church. Reactivating the SSVP in Cape Verde was a priority for all of us at the General Council”, remarked Ilídio Manhique, the International Territorial Vice President for Africa 2.

In the near future, Ilídio, along with brother José Gomes de Sousa, Zone Coordinator for Portuguese-speaking African countries, will visit “Maranatha” Conference in Praia to give an intensive training

course, which will cover many topics such as the Rule, the history of the seven founders, the Vincentian charism, the spiritual labour of Conferences and the SSVP organization.

Nota bene: this Conference became operational in Cape Verde in the 1990s, but, for various reasons, it could not carry out its Vincentian activities and did not receive the Letter of Aggregation from Paris. However, during the years it existed, the Conference assisted several needy families and held special events on feast days such as Christmas.

Cape Verde was discovered in 1456, and remained under Portuguese rule until 1975, when it was officially declared independent. The Republic of Cape Verde, whose official language is Portuguese, is made up of 15 islands, located in the Atlantic Ocean, 450 km to the west of Senegal. Cape Verde has a population of about 560,000 inhabitants, with 75% of them being Catholics. There are 41 parishes across the country, divided into two dioceses (Mindelo and Santiago). So, there are good prospects of growth for the SSVP in this country.

(*) The word “maranatha”, of Aramaic origin, means “Come, oh Lord”.





Brazil's National Council Elects New President

The inauguration ceremony will be held in January 2022

On September 4th, at the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Rio de Janeiro, 44-year-old brother Marcio José da Silva was elected as the new president of Brazil's National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and replaced brother Cristian Reis da Luz. Marcio is a member at St. Anthony Conference in the municipality of Cambe (state of Paraná). His inauguration is scheduled for January 2022.

Marcio has held several positions at the SSVP Brazil, some of them at his own Conference. He was also youth coordinator at the District and Central Councils, formation coordinator, vice president and president at the Metropolitan Council (MC) in Curitiba, and regional vice president. Nowadays, he leads the national heritage team.

His motivation for running for the presidency at the SSVP Brazil was to be at the service of the poorest. "My motivation is based on the pillars of a sound and thriving SSVP, in line with the laws of the country, but, above all, with the Sacred Scripture with regard to loving, serving and caring for the poorest at all times," said Marcio.

The presidential transition has begun, and several meetings are being held to exchange experiences, with much dialogue and transparency. The President-elect is briefed on every facet of the Presidency for good planning and execution during his term of office.

During the same election, the members of the Fiscal Council, who will make the economic analysis of the National Council's accounts, were elected. Our special thanks to brother Vitor Carvalho Gomes, who stood for election, along with brother Marcio. "My affection and respect to both candidates, because there are no losers or winners at the SSVP. We are here to selflessly serve our lords and masters, the poor," stated Brazilian brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, the 16th President General International of the SSVP.



Marcio José da Silva (left) along with brother Cristian Reis da Luz



New President for SSVP Mexico

On 9th and 10th October, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in Mexico held its 175th National Assembly, with the election of Gladys Herrera Torralba as National President

Due to the continuing pandemic situation, the members of the various regions of the country met virtually, joined by representatives of the CGI, María del Carmen Guzmán Soto, Territorial Vice President for America 2, and Gladys Herrera Torralba, Coordinator of Zone 1.

The two days included times for guided prayer and reflection, as means to improve Vincentian formation and service. The topic for formation, “The influence of Sister Rosalie Rendú in the service and formation of the SSVP” was given by Sister María Guadalupe Santiago Santiago, from the Daughters of Charity, National Spiritual Adviser; and that on “Knowing Amélie Soulacroix Ozanam” by Luz María Ramírez González, Formation Delegate for America II. The SSVP members put their technological skills and Vincentian knowledge into practice, taking part in a virtual Dynamic coordinated by Demi Margarita, Youth Delegate in Mexico.

During the Assembly, Board members shared their activity reports, budgets and goals for the coming year. One of the most important moments was the election of the new National Council President. The list of candidates and their proposed plans were published in advance, so that members could send their votes to the National Council’s office, where they were opened and counted by the committee responsible, showing that the vote was in favour of Gladys Herrera Torralba, now President-elect for SSVP Mexico. She thanked everyone for their support and the trust placed in her to carry out this wonderful service in our beloved organisation. We were also fortunate to be able to take part remotely in the celebration of the Eucharist by Fr Arturo Hernández, C.M., and during that we renewed our Vincentian promise. It is hoped that the next Assembly will be held in person in the Casa de Ejercicios del Templo Expiatorio, in León, Guanajuato.





Terry Jordan, New President of SSVP New Zealand



A new stage at the Superior Council following the term of office of fellow member Marlena Hoeft-Marwick

Since October 16th, the Vincentians from New Zealand have a new national president: brother Terry Jordan, elected by our brothers and sisters at the National Council's hybrid meeting (remote and on-site) due to the pandemic.



Once the election result was announced, the Vincentians who were present acknowledged the work of the outgoing national president, fellow member Marlena Hoeft-Marwick, who put her heart and soul to the SSVP throughout her term of office. By the same token, the Vincentians showed Terry Jordan all their support and prayers for a smooth running of this new stage at the National Council.



Terry Jordan, President of SSVP New Zealand



Marinelce Pereira de Faria Vale
Member of the SSVV Brazil

Every Viewpoint is a View from a Point

“...It is important then to form an association of mutual encouragement for young Catholic people where one finds friendship, support and example”, an excerpt from Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam’s writings.



“...You are beginning life at a crucial moment in history. You will be the leading players in the third millennium which is about to unfold. You, young people, will set the course towards this new stage for mankind.”, Pope John Paul II’s message to the Catholic youth worldwide.

“... The Church needs you to build a new world, with your enthusiasm, your creativity and your joy”, Pope Francis, World Youth Day, Brazil, 2013.



The world can change... new technologies, new idols, fads and the dawn of a new everything may emerge, but being young will always mean being young, with a starring role in the history of mankind, according to the records we have.

The Bible, the quintessential book, stems from the faith and life of people of all ages, and shows us about God’s plan of universal love, and the leading role of many people, especially those who are called to achieve concrete missions. Among them are people from all walks of life with testimonies of

faithfulness, courage, wisdom and loving devotion to God’s plan for the life of his community. Some young people have opted for violence and oppression; some are defenceless; and others fight to the death, being faithful to their beliefs... the latter make us reflect on the current situation.

We should keep in mind the first disciples, who did not hesitate to heed the calling, who left everything behind and followed Jesus. They had only their nets and fishing boats. They left their nothingness to meet the All! They glimpsed greater horizons.



Those who seek God come to embrace a greater horizon. Jesus said: “For apart from Me you are able to do nothing”. (John 15:5).

The Jesus movement continued after his death and resurrection. Many young people followed him like Saul of Tarsus, from persecutor of Christians to one of the most courageous evangelizers of the Early Church, an outstanding disciple of Jesus.

God acts and fulfils his plan for universal salvation through, above all, many anonymous people, who in their daily lives love him wholeheartedly and commit themselves to the good of their neighbours. This is how young people behave. Yet it is in God that we find this renewed energy. The young Christian should follow in the footsteps of the One who lived in Nazareth and gave his life for all of us; hence, the continuous references made by Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis to the role of young people in building a better world.

Young people become estranged when they are not supported in their transforming role in history. However, when being duly engaged in political, social and religious initiatives, they join in, more often than not, with a youthful joy and enthusiasm. It’s about reaching the unreachable, making a difference and changing the world.

It was precisely in France, in 1833, during the Industrial Revolution, that a group of young students, including Bl. Ozanam, founded the first Conference of Charity in Paris, aimed at the sanctification of its founding members through the service of those in need; thereby, friendship, support and example. The involvement of these young people in the Society dates back to the inception of the institution.

Nowadays, young people are still the key players of the Charity movement, involved in the fights against poverty and hardship that beset mankind. It is worth mentioning the major role of the Vincentian youth in actions undertaken to fight Covid-19, devising strategies to reach out to those assisted. Nevertheless, there are great challenges; that’s why, the authorities and adults should regard and value the voice of the youth as a matter of rights, paving the path for their effective involvement, while having a life marked by the pursuit of holiness in the presence of God.

In a nutshell, every viewpoint is a view from a point. To my mind, the Vincentian youth is one of the safeguards for the future of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, since inviting, welcoming, encouraging and involving... is necessary. Peace and prosperity!



Guide for Creating Youth Conferences at Universities

Dear Young Friends!
Dear College Students!

Dear members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP)!

I am pleased to present this important material, produced by the International Youth Committee of the Council General International of the SSVP.

This guide for the creation of Youth Conferences at Universities, offers a great opportunity for us to consider the origins of our institution.

Our Founders were young people who met while they were studying at university, and there started several movements of Conferences (small debating groups addressing different themes) that finally resulted in the creation of this wonderful Network of Charity present today in more than 152 territories worldwide, our beloved Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

Seven Young people, six of them university students, gave life to a great dream, embracing the world in a network of charity, defending the Church and promoting human dignity through the practice of Social Justice.

May many young university students be inspired by our Vincentian Charism and be able to join this great network of friends, the SSVP.

Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th General President of the SSVP



Download





Virtual meeting of National Youth Coordinators

On Sunday, October 24th, 2021, the international meeting of National Youth Coordinators was held virtually, promoted by the International Youth Committee of the SSVP's Council General International

Some 120 young people from more than 80 countries joined the virtual 3-hour meeting which included:

- Welcome hymn of IYD Lisbon 2023 led by the territorial coordinator for Europe 1, brother Orlando Mendes.
- Opening prayer led by the coordinator for America 3, brother Arturo Antezana, and the coordinator for Africa 2, brother Boipelo Mathodlana.

The 16th President General, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, who also took part, spoke about the importance of young people at the SSVP, highlighting the work already accomplished by the International Youth Committee at the Council General. He emphasized that all youth coordinators must lead by example in their lives as well as through the SSVP work they undertake in their own countries.

Sandeep Menezes from India then reminded us how important it is for young people to have an active spiritual life, focused on Jesus Christ, his teachings, and his examples. Our young people must be examples of spirituality for other young people.

One of the main talks was given by Said Rodolph Safar from Lebanon who showed in a very practical way how young people can develop well-structured projects to raise funds for their work with the poor. He also shared an example of a successful project carried out in Lebanon by young Vincentians which can be structured and adapted for use in other countries.

Brother Willian Alves, the current Vice-president for Youth, Children and Adolescents, defined the role and the responsibilities of the Coordinator and the National Youth Committee, and set out the projects and programmes of the International Committee. This was the keynote speech of the meeting in which young people were able to understand their role as SSVP National Youth Coordinators and what the General Council expects from each of them. The most important point made in the speech was remembering that a youth coordinator must work within the structure of a National Council and has the right to vote to keep the fundamental spirit of our young founders alive. Each National Council must also

have an active National Youth Committee so that it can take responsibility for young people's work. This is a requirement which has been in place since the SSVP's inception.

There was also time for a Q&A session led by the territorial coordinators for America 1, sister Kat Brissette, and for America 2, brother Edgardo Fuentes.

The closing prayer was led by the coordinator for Asia 2, brother Leo Levin.

According to brother Willian Alves, "The meeting was productive and achieved its goal of giving quality formation to young national coordinators and maintaining the link of friendship between the International Committee and the National Committees. Over the next 2 years of mandate, there will be other activities aiming to keep alive

the importance of the participation of Vincentian Youth at the SSVP. I would particularly like to thank each National Council, with their respective National Presidents, for supporting Vincentian Youth. My thanks also to brother Renato Lima, our President General, and all the leadership of the Council General for their belief and support in our Vincentian youth work".

At the end of the meeting, brother Willian Alves remembered the commitment made by the President General, Renato Lima de Oliveira, in his letter written on the occasion of the SSVP's International Youth Day in which he stated that an international competition for young people would take place in 2021. The prize, provided by the Council General, will be an all-expenses paid trip to the forthcoming International Youth Day and the Vincentian Family's World Youth Day (Lisbon 2023).





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 CGI's 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 SEPTEMBER CHILDREN "BACK TO SCHOOL" SUPPORT (HAIFA – ISRAEL)

Background

Haifa is a seaport city stretching from the Mediterranean coastline to the northern slopes of Mount Carmel. It is the third largest city in Israel, and Palestinians make up 13% of Haifa's 290,000 population.

Amidst the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Conference 'Our Lady of Mount Carmel' -one of only 3 in Israel- seeks to respond to the most pressing needs in their city. Among the most disadvantaged groups are children.

The Appeal

Every year, the Conference conducts a back-to-school campaign among friends to provide school bags and supplies to students from poor families. This year, it is even more difficult to ask for help, as the pandemic has exacerbated the living standards of these families.



An extra help to provide meals to these children would be more than welcome.

Each school bag contains notebooks and sketchbooks, pencils, pens, a geometry box, a pencil case and a calculator. The budget required for 77 children amounts to €5,200 (€3,200 for school material and €2,000 for meals).

LLAMAMIENTO DE OCTUBRE APPEAL FOR OCTOBER: NICARAGUA – A VITAL MEDICAL PROJECT

Background

With a population of about 7 million in 2021 (60% are young people), Nicaragua, in Central America, is one of the poorest countries in the world, with diverse cultures and ethnic groups, and a majority of Catholics.

Currently, the SSVP Nicaragua is made up of 24 conferences. In addition to home visits,

they undertake projects to support vulnerable communities (e.g. drinking water and roof repairs).

Since 2020, the National Council operates a healthcare home which supports 400 people on a weekly basis (children, youth, adults and the elderly), by providing medical care and shelter they could not otherwise afford. This healthcare home also houses family members and patients discharged from the nearby general public hospital.

The Appeal

With the increase in health problems due to the pandemic, which is badly affecting Nicaragua, the National Council regards the centre as an essential service for the poorest.

The operating cost of this centre falls entirely on the National Council, which has insufficient funds to keep on providing the service required to meet the demand of 400 needy people. The shortfall is about €1800 per month (€ 22,000 per year) to meet essential needs (food, clothing and medicines).





APPEAL FOR NOVEMBER LEBANON – FEEDING A LEBANESE BABY FOR US\$20 A MONTH

Background

The SSVP Lebanon has 50 active Conferences across the country and is involved in many of the most urgent areas of need: medical assistance, social and educational support, emergency aid, development projects, as well as reaching out to those most affected by the precarious situation in the country.

Since 2019, Lebanon has been beset by major crises: coronavirus, economic and financial crisis, unresolved explosion... The situation is tense and the lockdown has made things worse with people already in the struggle amidst the drama and economic devastation. Lebanon's economic meltdown has had an impact on the entire economic structure of the

country. According to the United Nations, 82% of the population lives in multidimensional poverty, a rate that has nearly doubled since 2019.

The Appeal

The country is now running out of everything; shortages are wreaking havoc on daily life, with people grappling with a raft of shortages such as medicines and milk (particularly, infant milk for babies below one year of age which is sold exclusively in pharmacies).

Faced with this plight, the SSVP Lebanon seeks to provide five hundred infants with baby formula, which amounts to 10,000\$ per month (20\$ per baby). The SSVP Lebanon is overwhelmed with requests and cannot meet this demand alone. The CIAD would like to support this initiative, but does not currently have the means to do so.



Portrait of an outstanding Vincentian

Joe Murray is a lifelong, devout Catholic and a family man; he and his wife Mary have three sons and a daughter, as well as a number of grand-children

Joe joined the SVP in 1954, which means that by the time he retired earlier this year, he had been a member for an incredible 67 years.

Over the years, he held most officer roles, ranging from District President and Treasurer to Conference President and Secretary. He took the SVP moto of “Turning Concern into Action” very much to heart and if you saw all the white goods (cookers, washing machines, fridges), furniture and food Joe organized and gave to those in need in the Clacton-on-Sea and Jaywick area over nearly seven decades, a large aeroplane hangar would barely be big enough to hold everything.

One Christmas Day, as a family was stranded outdoors in Jaywick because they didn’t have enough money to pay the required deposit to the landlord for their accommodation, Joe simply dropped everything, putting his own family Christmas celebration on hold, to go and help this family and make sure that they were all right. His sons and daughter vividly remember that he would often leave their home very discreetly to

go and help someone, never saying much or boasting about the exact nature of his charitable work.

Joe fondly remembers meeting fellow Vincentians, especially during the annual national SVP pilgrimage to the much-loved shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Coaches from all corners of England and Wales would travel to the village of Walsingham in North Norfolk for a day of prayer, but also to enjoy many heartening encounters with like-minded people.

At a farewell event held on 6th August, which started with mass, the SVP’s Colchester District expressed their gratitude to Joe for his example, for everything he did over the years and for everything he stands for: generosity, humility, diligence, dedication, integrity and faithfulness. It brings to mind the words in Matthew 25:40: “whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”. Jon Cornwall, the Director of Membership at the SVP National Office (England and Wales) presented Brother Joe with an SVP medal as well as a long service certificate signed by National President Helen O’Shea.





María Luisa Téllez
International Vice-President
for Formation and Training

Staying on the Path for Faith and Hope

Even though we are living one of the worst periods in history, I have always refused to dwell on doomsday scenarios. I am not an advocate of conspiracy theories sowing confusion among good people and conveying anti-vaccine misinformation.

With a different mindset and some optimism, my perception of social reality is that of a society, no longer liquid as it has been called, but gaseous, where people have no values or beliefs to hold on to. Catholic morals, religious, ethical and natural values on which all societies are supposed to be anchored are being undermined.

Nothing is certain, and chaos is taking over order. This order, not necessarily based on any political ideology, provides the anchors and tools required, so that human beings, weak creatures by nature if not properly brought up, can forge their life. These tools are provided to children by the family, the school and the social system. When they are older,

it's up to them to get these tools with their own effort and willpower.

For us, Vincentians, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers a safe shelter of faith and values, far from juggling with our beliefs, to build our own path in life, helping our brothers and sisters. As a matter of fact, one thing is for certain: the Society is our redemption for anxieties, fears and doubts. And we should pray in arid and tough moments, when our world falls apart; but not only using standard prayers and those for worship, but also prayers of surrender to His Will, in a voluntary way, from the moment we wake up every morning, living with Him and thinking of Him many times in the course of the day, keeping Him in mind, as St. Teresa used to say: "God even walks among the pots and pans".

Whoever has God lacks nothing! He is the certainty of our lives.



Second Webinar: Pandemic, Poverty and Future

The webinar revolved around the individual and collective attitude of Vincentians towards COVID-19 pandemic

With a more concrete and personal approach than its first edition, this webinar, broadcast on Ozanam TV's social networks, was held on November 28th, and was focused on describing the life and actions undertaken by Vincentians and conferences in a world hit by the pandemic, the day-to-day service and the responsibility we should take on as SSVP members and servants of the poorest.

All the speakers addressed major topics such as self-improvement and the pursuit of holiness. The speakers were as follows: Lucha González (Mexico), Renata Mancini (Brazil), Antonine Webhi (Lebanon), Veronica Nnenna (Nigeria) and Patrick Wallis (Australia).

“This situation calls for the best of us as Vincentians. We need to come out of this plight being more generous and better; we need to be ready for new forms of poverty and for the new emerging world; and we need to be aware that social divides are becoming more and more obvious. We must not fall into individualism, and we must show that our model of service, in community and fraternity, is really worthwhile”, stressed member María Luisa Téllez, webinar moderator and International Vice President for Formation and Training.

“Formation and training are everything. The more interesting content is taught, the better qualified our members will be to face this moment and the better service will be provided to those in need. Now, more than ever, poverty has increased and SSVP members

need to be kept up to date to get back to normal”, stated our President General, Renato Lima.

Conferences are an example of subsidiarity, of closeness to those in need, of empathetic help, of faith-based help and charity understood as God's love as the true engine of human and social rebirth.



[We invite you to enjoy this webinar on Ozanam TV's Facebook,](#)



[and on the official website of the Council General International www.ssvpglobal.org.](http://www.ssvpglobal.org)

Next webinar on the pandemic will be held, God willing, on May 15th, 2022.

Webinar

Pandemic, Poverty and Future

Individual and collective attitude of Vincentians towards COVID-19

Sunday, 28th November 2021
at 12.00 h. France's time (UTC+1)
 Brasilia (UTC-3) 8h. / New York (UTC-5) 6h.
 Sidney (UTC+11) 22h.

MODERATOR:

Maria Luisa Téllez
 International Vice President for Formation & Training SSVP

SPEAKERS:

- Luz Maria Ramírez González**
Territorial Delegate for Formation & Training, America 2 (Mexico)
- Antoine Webhi**
Territorial Delegate for Formation & Training, MENA (Lebanon)
- Renata Cristina Mancini**
Territorial Delegate for Formation & Training, America 3 (Brazil)
- Patrick Wallis**
Territorial Delegate for Formation & Training, Oceania (Australia)
- Veronica Nnenna Nwokocha.**
Territorial Delegate for Formation & Training, Africa 1 (Nigeria)

BROADCAST IN FOUR LANGUAGES
 OzanamTV

Facebook Live | OzanamTV en



UN Virtual Event on The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

UN virtual event on October 17th, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, with the following theme: “Building forward together: Ending persistent poverty, respecting all people and our planet”

Marie-Françoise Salesiani-Payet, our UN representative in Geneva, was invited to participate in this virtual event, along with Ambre Sionneau from the CGI’s Secretariat.

During this virtual event, activists living in poverty shared their experience and local initiatives. The message was clear: people living in poverty are unfairly harmed by climate change. Their work often depends on natural resources, biodiversity and agriculture. Environmental impoverishment leads to migration. Children are particularly affected and live in fear every day.

Speakers were asked about possible solutions to end poverty. They all agreed that climate action and the fight against poverty should be part of a common and sustainable solution. Inequality is a barrier to an ecological transition; but the latter can create jobs and opportunities, and contribute to reducing discrimination. Moreover, people living in poverty

must be actively encouraged to be in the front, with meaningful participation in decision-making and problem-solving processes. We must listen to them and learn from them.

Everyone has the right to live in dignity, in a peaceful and healthy environment. Yet, everyone is responsible for their choices, and every choice counts. Speakers optimistically stated that the poor believe in the future and in mankind.

As Achim Steiner (UNDP administrator) rightly pointed out, we have to think about poverty every day, not only on the days set aside for it. This goes directly to the heart of Vincentians, since poverty has risen significantly in a generation.

[Click here to watch the full event:](#)





Another Citizenship Title Conferred to President General in Brazil

The event was an initiative launched by Taubaté's Town Council

On November 18, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira, 16th President General of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, was conferred the title of honorary citizenship at the Town Council of Taubaté, State of São Paulo, (Brazil). This proposal was made by councillor Joao Henrique Dentinho, an active member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Due to pandemic restrictions, the event was attended by few guests, and was broadcast live on the media and social networks.

During the ceremony, brother Renato Lima emphasized that "Vincentians do not seek any human recognition, only from God. [...] However, every time we receive this recognition, it is a unique opportunity to disseminate the Vincentian charism and the legacy of the seven founders,".

He took the opportunity to dedicate the title to all the Vincentians from Taubaté and surroundings, because of the charitable actions carried out in favour of the poor, especially in times of health crisis.

For his part, brother Dentinho, touched during the ceremony, emphasized that, apart from the personal, academic and professional qualifications of the President General, what stands out is his humility and simplicity. "President Renato has a very complete resume, but what really matters is the affection with which he treats Vincentians and people assisted, encouraging the SSVP so that the work of the Conferences, the Councils and the works never undergoes any setback", noted the Councillor.

During the event, a video about the life of Renato Lima was presented, with testimonies of friends and relatives. Brothers Júlio César Marques de Lima (Territorial Vice-President) and Cristian Reis da Luz (National President), as well as volunteer Ana Celsa Magallanes (AIC), were some of the participants therein.

During his stay in Taubaté, the President General took part in the monthly meeting held by the Central Council, during which he presented everyone with a relic of Blessed Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam, given that the Council was celebrating its 110th anniversary. The region of Taubaté, 140 km away from the capital (São Paulo), has 70 Conferences made up of 700 fellow members.

Renato also visited two social works for the elderly people: "Amelie Ozanam" Center, which houses 30 elderly women in need; and St. Vincent de Paul Village, which cares for 20 elderly people. In addition to this, the President General gave an interview on Rádio Metropolitana FM, in which he spoke about the various initiatives undertaken by the Council General around the world, and also thanked the people for their generosity to the Vincentians.

During his 5-year term of office, President Renato Lima has already received several medals, commendations and titles of honorary citizen or distinguished visitor in the following Brazilian

cities: Brasilia, Goiania, São Carlos, Recife, Varzea Alegre, Limeira, Itapetininga, Marilia and Bauru, as well as in Navarro (Argentina) and Salamanca (Spain).



João Henrique Dentinho along with President General International



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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