



CONGREGAZIONE DELLA MISSIONE
CURIA GENERALIZIA

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SUPERIOR GENERAL

CIRCULAR: TEMPO FORTE
(June 4-8, 2018)

Rome, 3 July 2018

To all the confreres of the Congregation of the Mission:

Do not keep the past in front of you because it can paralyze you. Keep it at your side and it will help you to live in the present (Valero Albisetti).

Dear confreres:

May the Holy Spirit fill us with light and strength so that we might fulfill the mission that has been entrusted to us!

On June 3rd, in preparation for our *Tempo Forte*, we had a retreat and we dedicated that time to a dialogue about our lifestyle from the perspective of our vow of poverty. There were interesting and varied reflections as would be expected in a multicultural community such as ours. Father Miles, moderator of the dialogue, helped us to become specific and thus, make a commitment as a local community.

We now offer a summary of the matters that were dealt with during our *Tempo Forte* (June 4-8, 2018).

ACTIONS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL IN RELATION TO THE CONGREGATION

[1] Visitors Encounter 2019: It was decided that this meeting of the Visitors will be held from June 22 (day of arrival) until July 8 (day of departure) in the Philippines. We thank the members of the Philippine Province for their willingness to host this important gathering of the Congregation.

In order to prepare for this meeting, we decided to form three commissions: one being technical in nature and composed of the Econome General, the Secretary General and two or three confreres chosen from among the members of the Philippine Province. A second commission would be responsible for the liturgy. Father Gregorio Bañaga (Visitor of the Philippines) recommended a small commission that would prepare the necessary material in the three official languages of the Congregation.

The third commission will prepare the theme/content of the meeting. This commission is composed of the following: Negasi Ghirmatsion (Visitor of the Saint Justin de Jacobis Province), Odair Miguel Gonsalves Dos Santos (Visitor of the Curitiba Province), Gregorio

Bañaga Lapus (Visitor of the Philippine Province), Paschal Scallon (Visitor of the Province of Ireland) and Stephen Grozio (Visitor of the Eastern Province of the United States and coordinator of the commission). Father Francisco Javier Álvarez (Vicar-general) will serve as liaison between the commission and the General Council.

We request the Visitors to consult the members of their Council in order to solicit their recommendations and suggestions with regard to matters that they would like to propose to the Commission. All suggestions and proposals should be forwarded to the Secretary General before September 15th, 2018. At this time let us all place in the hands of God this important event for the Congregation and for the worldwide Vincentian Family.

[2] New Proposal of SIEV with regard to the Masters in Vincentian Studies: the General Council and SIEV has made the following decisions in this matters:

[1] The Jesuit University of Deusto (Spain) has agreed to accept responsibility for the Masters program that has been developed by SIEV. In addition to the material that has already been suggested, the University has requested the addition of some introductory material in order to contextualize the era and the theology of the more specific Vincentian material. The University is satisfied with the proposal and will collaborate with SIEV in the development of the online structure.

[2] The first part of this project will involve the formation of a group of 5-6 missionaries in the above mentioned university. Each one of those missionaries will pursue studies in order to obtain a licentiate or a doctoral degree. At the same time that they engage in their studies the University commits itself to prepare them so that they can be online professors. This group of 5 or 6 missionaries will form an international community and must be able to work together as a team since they must be able to create their own methodology in order to teach Vincentian spirituality. For this first stage, one must think in terms of three years.

[3] The second part of this plan consists of offering the course material to all those who wish to participate in this program (members of the Congregation of the Mission and of the worldwide Vincentian Family). All of the courses will be offered online and the professors will be the members of the international team that had prepared themselves during the previous three years. It is also possible that in the future other missionaries will engage in studies at Deusto and thus become part of the group of professors. The university will confer: a Masters Degree in Vincentian Studies to all those who complete the required studies (the equivalent of sixty credits), a Certificate in Vincentian Studies to all those who attain thirty credits and a diploma, Expert in Vincentian Studies, to all those who attain twenty credits. At a future time, we will discuss details with regard to admission into the program and other more specific details.

OFFICES DEPENT ON THE GENERAL CURIA

[1] New house treasurer: In accord with our Constitutions that ask for a separation with regard to the office of the superior and the office of treasurers, we will now proceed in the following manner: Father Giuseppe Carulli will continue as superior and Brother Geraldo Fajardo Belciña will serve as house treasurer. We are confident that these two confreres will be able to collaborate in a manner that will serve the best interests of the confreres and at the same time will be able to coordinate their work with that of the econome general, Father Paul Parackal.

[2] New homepage for cmglobal.org: the Director of the Office of Communication, accompanied by his two collaborators, presented the newly designed home page of

cmglobal.org to the General Council and the General Curia. In a brief period of time this site will be available to everyone. Thank you for a work wee-done.

[3] Archives: it has become necessary to improve the place where our archives are located, thus acquiring some new furnishings that respond to the real needs of the archives. The Council approved this proposal.

[4] Vincentian Solidarity Office (VSO): the director of this office, Father Gregory Semeniuk, is organizing seminars entitled: Forming formators in Development. The objective of those seminars is to assist provinces, vice-provinces and regions to achieve self-sufficiency. Beginning in 2019 these seminars will be held once a year. Each seminar will take place in Philadelphia and will have a duration of four weeks (during the summer months of July-August). Those interested and/or desiring to participate in any one of these seminars during the next four years please contact the Vincentian Solidarity Office.

[5] Representative of the Congregation at the UN: those provinces which have not yet appointed a confrere to serve as a liaison between their province and our office at the UN are requested to do so as soon as possible and to contact our representative, Father Guillermo Campuzano.

[6] Financial Matters

Father Jesús Gilberto García Matta (economy of the Province of Peru) has agreed to become a member of the international finance commission that meets every year at the house of the General Curia in Rome.

The Easter Province of the United States has responded positively to the request to establish a 20 million dollar for those matters that will be indicated by the General Council.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

[1] Bolivia: it was decided to establish one canonical house for the three international missions in Bolivia, the house located in Cochabamba. The missionaries ministering in El Alto will live in Cochabamba and at certain times will live in El Alto. The other mission, that of Beni, will be dependent on the community in Cochabamba.

[2] Papua New Guinea: the mission continues to move forward and at the present time there are eight missionaries ministering there.

[3] Solomon Islands: Father Anthony Punnoth will return to his province (Southern India) and another missionary will take his place.

[4] Angola: we will soon be able to appoint another missionary here.

[5] Tunis: Father Claudio Santangelo will return to his province in Italy.

[6] Chad: Father Roch Alexandre Ramilijaona will return to his province in Madagascar.

[7] Tefe: this mission is located in the Prelature of Tefe in an area near the Amazon River. The mission area is rather extensive but not very large in population. The climate there is very hot and humid. The people are very poor and this is an area that has been neglected by the

government. People in this area say that no one dies of hunger but there are few possibilities for development. There is great concern for young people who see little future in that area. The community is composed of three missionaries: Father Paolo Eustaquio Venuto (Province of Rio and superior of the mission), Father Alexandre Fonseca (Fortaleza Province) and Father Rogelio Toro (Province of Colombia). This international mission has two distinctive characteristics: first, the mission is located within a prelature that is headed by a Vincentian bishop, Bishop Fernando Barbosa Dos Santos and second, CLAPVI collaborates in this mission by providing personnel and by sharing expenses with the Curia.

[8] Punta Arenas: Father Rafael Brukarczyk will leave this mission in order to begin ministry in the international mission in Beni, Bolivia. Three missionaries remain there: Father Victor Manuel Rodríguez Cancino (Province of Chile), Father Pablo Alexis Vargas Ruiz (Province of Chile) and Father Margarito Martínez González (Province of Mexico).

VINCENTIAN FAMILY

[1] Appointment of the International Sub-Director of the VMY: Father Irving Amaro Ramayo (Province of Mexico) will continue in this position until the conclusion of the next General Assembly of the Association (2020)

[2] Appointment of the Sub-director of MISEVI: Father Stephen Monaghan (Province of Ireland) has been appointed to this position.

[3] AIC: the term of office of Father Álvaro Mauricio Fernández (International Assistant to the AIC) has been extended for one more year.

[4] International Commission for Systemic Change: the coordinator of this international commission, Father Giuseppe Turati, informed the General Council about the recent activity of this commission. COVIAM prefers that each province coordinate their work with the commission rather than have this coordination take place on the continental level. Therefore, it was decided that the mission of Father Emmanuel Typamm (coordinator for Africa) would be terminated.

CONFERENCES OF VISITORS

[1] APVC (Asia): during their recent meeting (April 22-26) in Taiwan, it was suggested to initiate a Vincentian presence in those Asian countries where the Congregation is not yet established, for example, Sri Lanka, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. The idea was well-received.

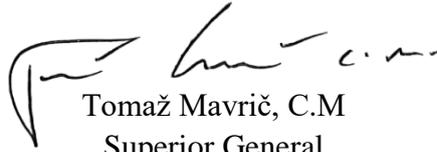
[2] CEVIM (Europe): their last meeting was held in Beirut (April 9-14) where the members continued to discuss the issue of Christian-Islamic dialogue. At the same time contact was made with some leaders in the Catholic and Muslim world. It was also decided to activate the web page of the Conference that was created in 2004.

[3] CLAPVI (Latin America): CLAPVI has organized the first course for the formation of formators which will take place in Colombia (June 17-27, 2018),

[4] COVIAM (Africa): the members met in Kinshasa (Congo) from April 17-21. They will celebrate their 25th anniversary at the time of their next meeting.

[5] NVC (United States): the last meeting of this group took place in Saint Louis, Missouri on April 4th

Your brother in Saint Vincent,



Tomaž Mavrič, C.M
Superior General