

# NUNTIA

Congregation of the Mission



Dance, Students of De Paul School, Wakka, Northern

February - March 2015

## **Activities of Father Gregory Gay, CM, Superior General**

As usual, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the members of the General Curia received a visit from Sister Evelyne Franc, Superior General of the Daughters of Charity, and Sister Rosa Miro, Assistant General. During that visit Sister Evelyne requested permission from the superior general for the Sisters of the Company to renew their vows. At the same time they engaged in a conversation about the General Assembly, which will take place during the month of May.

From February 1<sup>st</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Father Gregory visited Northern India and engaged in a personal dialogue

with some ninety confreres. At the same times he visited some of the communities in the Northeastern part of the country. In Calcutta Father General participated in a three day meeting with the confreres there.

At the conclusion of the visit he celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first Daughters of Charity to that country (four Sisters from Spain). The celebration took place on February 12<sup>th</sup>, the exact day of the arrival of the Sisters to that country and in the community of Gopalpur-on-Sea, Odisha, the place where the Sisters began their mission.



This was a beautiful celebration in which the Daughters and the confreres from the two provinces participated. In addition members from the various branches of the Vincentian Family and four bishops were also present (two of the bishops were Vincentians and two were from the area of Odisha where the confreres and the Daughters established their mission.

Father then began a visitation of the Southern Province in India where he spoke with some one hundred thirty-five confreres during of period of ten days. He visited many of the houses of the Province and participated in special celebrations such as the installation of the new Visitatrix, Sister Rosa Chirayil, DC.



Many Daughters and the two Visitors as well as some other Missionaries were present at this celebration.

In the meeting with the Vincentian Family some nineteen branches were represented by sixty persons. There was a wonderful dynamic in the sharing that occurred during that gathering. The two primary themes were: (1) the present state of the Vincentian Family in the world and (2) the year of collaboration which will be celebrated this year and which highlights the importance of working together as a family. There was also much discussion about implementing the systemic change approach in the various projects and works of the Vincentian Family. The intensity of the work in India was very apparent and it was also very clear that one of the results of the work of Father Francis Puthenthayil was this extraordinary organization in the Vincentian Family.

During the time of this visitation the Provincial House was blessed. Father C. Wilson, the

previous Visitor and Matthew Onatt, the present Visitors participated in this event. Father General expressed his gratitude to Father Wilson for his dedication in bringing about this work and also highlighted the manner in which he collaborated with other provinces and with the Office of Vincentian Solidarity.

During this trip Father Gregory visited the parishes and the schools where the confreres are ministering ... some of those school have 1,500 – 2,000 students. In the schools both the organization as well the ministry of evangelization was very clear. It should be pointed out here that less than 2% of the population is Christian. Two years ago the Province began a pre-university school that is geared toward those individuals who are poor. This project is directed by Biju Chittooparamban and has been organized in conjunction with the other branches of the Vincentian Family. In the very near future the confreres will engage in conversations with other Vincentian universities.

On February 27, Father Gregory spent time with the Missionaries in Italy to dialogue about and take some initial steps in establishing MISEVI in Italy. Father Eli Chaves, Father Jorge Luis Rodriguez and the International Council of MISEVI Chus Cuena of Spain, have supported this process.

## **The Asia-Pacific Visitors Conference (APVC)**

Fr. Mathew Kallammakal,CM

The annual gathering of The Asia-Pacific Visitors Conference (APVC) was held on Feb. 7-10, 2015. Visitors from Oceania, Indonesia, Philippines, North India, South India and vice-Visitor from Vietnam and provincial delegate from China and the Superior of International Mission in the Solomon Island attended the meeting. The APVC 2015 was hosted by North Indian Province and was held in the retreat house at Gopalpur-on-Sea, Odisha. The Superior General met the group during the first day and shared his thoughts on collaboration in regional and international levels. The Assistant Superior General, Fr. Matthew Kallammakal, was present during the whole meeting and assisted them in their discussions.

Visitors of APVC meet every year and the meeting is rotated through each province. The reason for rotating the meeting through each province is to introduce the participants to the life situations, customs and realities of the host province through a personal experience. During the meeting a day is kept for visiting the confreres and their works, for visiting the Daughters and their apostolate and for visiting the local people to get know them first hand. Keeping with this tradition the participants were taken to various mission centers operated by the Northern Indian Province.

The purpose of APVC is to carry the spirit and charism of St. Vincent into the evangelizing



of people and cultures of the Asia-Pacific Region. Thus the main focus of discussion is always on the ways and means of promoting interprovincial collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region to advance the Vincentian charism and spirit in this part of the world. APVC meeting 2015 discussed mainly on three points:

1. **International Missions in Solomon Island and Papua New Guinea.** These two International Missions are in this region. APVC is the main source, which provides personnel to sustain the International Missions in Solomon Island and Papua New Guinea.
- 2.
3. **Programs conducted by APVC in the region.** Both *the Asia-Pacific Regional Formators (APRF)* and *the Commission for Charism and Culture* (known as CCC) were initiated by APVC. Vocations are numerous in the provinces of APVC and formators are relatively young. To foster interior renewal and on-going formation for the formators while at the same time to enable the confreres in formation throughout the

Asia-Pacific Region to know and help each other, the

Visitors decided to establish the meetings of the formators

in the region every eighteen months which is known as APRF. The Commission for Charism and Culture is entrusted with the responsibility of organizing the regional level meetings of the confreres working in the parishes, schools and social developmental activities.

4. **Evaluation of the lines of actions committed by APVC in the General assembly 2010.** Visitors evaluated the activities of APVC since 2010 and found that most of the lines of actions committed by the APVC in the General Assembly 2010 has been satisfactorily implemented.

The first meeting of The Asia-Pacific Visitors Conference was held in Sydney, Australia, in April 1994. At that meeting the Visitors established a simple set of guidelines to govern the conference's activities, which came to be known as "A Minute of Understanding." This Minute of Understanding is reviewed occasionally and changes are brought in whenever necessary. APVC meeting- 2015 reviewed the Minute of Understanding.

## ***A Short Report on the Visitation of the International Mission in Papua New Guinea ( PNG )***

Fr. Mathew Kallammakal, CM

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is an island nation in Oceania, located partially on the island of New Guinea, and partially on several other islands in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. The people live in some 14,000 villages and cities, and belong to many different tribes, each with its own culture and language. Nearly all the population is Christian, and 27 percent is Catholic. While English is the official and cultural language, the basic language for national life is neo-Melanesian, also called Pidgin-English. Notwithstanding the enormous progress made in the last two decades, communication and transportation structures are still poor. Waterways remain the fundamental means of transportation, because roads are lacking in many areas and there are no railways.

Evangelization work in Papua New Guinea is relatively recent. The Marist Fathers (1845) were the first Catholic missionaries to arrive in Melanesia. They were soon followed by Missionaries of Sacred Heart of Jesus (1882), and the Divine Word Missionaries (1896). In the successive years many more missionary groups went into this land for missionary activities. The three pioneer missionary communities –The Marists, Missionaries of Sacred Heart, and the Divine Word Missionaries– focused on education, promotion of catechists and vocation promotion paving a strong foundation for the church for consolidation and growth.

Vincentian Missionaries went into Papua New Guinea fourteen years ago. Having received the request from the Bishops' Conference, three Vincentian missionaries began to render their service in Holy Spirit Regional Major Seminary located in Bomana, PNG. This seminary is at the service of all the dioceses of Papua New Guinea. Vincentians are entrusted with the administrative responsibility of the seminary since last year. I was happy to hear from the Apostolic Nuncio and the bishops that the seminary is running well especially after Vincentians have taken its administration. Running this seminary is not easy given the difficulties arising from various factors. However our confreres move forward with the conviction that formation of the clergy is an important work of the Vincentians and the church in PNG needs our service in the formation of the local



clergy. Our service is not limited to formation of the clergy but also we are actively involved in pastoral ministry. We are at the moment managing four big parishes with several substations. Pastoral efforts are deserving of great esteem, because the pastoral problems are complex and call for total dedication and great sacrifice for various reasons: the great variety of languages which hinders the mobility of the

missionaries, the multiplicity of tribal groups, the rugged and rough terrain, the scarcity of means of communication and transportation, the migratory movement from the rural to urban areas and consequent changes in the context of life, the disturbing

activity of anti-social elements etc. However the catholic communities exhibit a great desire to listen to the word of God and receive sacraments. One can witness very active liturgical celebrations in the churches. Church leadership enjoys great support from the catholic communities.

Pope Francis has asked the missionaries repeatedly to reach outward toward the peripheries. There is a church in Papua New Guinea with full of life and hope. It is asking a helping hand. Work is enormous. It is a place where Vincentians need to think about intensifying our missionary activities.



## **Very Rev. Fr. G. Gregory Gay in the Province of Northern India**

From 3<sup>rd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Very Rev. Fr. G. Gregory Gay, the Superior General, visited the North Indian Province. He landed in the 'City of Joy'- Kolkata, where, "Mother Teresa – the St. Vincent of 20<sup>th</sup> century" lived and worked. Fr. Gregory visited a number of houses and communities of the North Indian Province. They include: in West Bengal, Queen of Peace, Kolkata; in Odisha, Vijoy Bhavan (the Provincial House), De Paul School and New de Paul School,

Berhampur; St. Vincent's Retreat & seminar Centre and Priest Home, Aquinas College (Philosophate), Stella Maris (Internal Seminary) and De Paul English Medium Hostel, Gopalpur-on-Sea; and parishes at Surada, Dukuma, Jubaguda, Kotogarh, Gunupur and Christnagar. Father General interacted with almost all the confreres individually. On 7<sup>th</sup> February he inaugurated the APVC (Asia Pacific Visitors Conference), held at Gopalpur-on-sea, and spent half a day addressing and interacting with the APVC. On 12<sup>th</sup> he joined the Platinum Jubilee celebration of the arrival of Daughters of Charity in India as the main celebrant at the Holy Eucharist, and spent the rest of the day with the Daughters. Having spent 10 days with the confreres of the North Indian Province, on the 13<sup>th</sup> evening he started off to visit the Southern Indian Province.

# **Formators of Asia Pacific in Mysore, India: “Vincentians in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and New Evangelization”**

Fr. Franciscus Eko Armada Riyanto, CM



Priestly Formation is the very charisma of Saint Vincent de Paul. New Evangelization is now the urgent call from the Church to be responded. Within this context Vincentian Formators from Asia Pacific Regions has just held a beautiful gathering in Mysore, India, in March 2-12, 2015. They study and share to one another reflections and experiences of being formators within the main theme: “*Vincentians in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and New Evangelization.*” The theme is providentially also in correspondence with the next Assembly General of 2016. The gathering is commonly known as APRF, Asia-Pacific Regional Formators Meeting; it makes up historically the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting (the first gathering was 1995 in Manila). The meeting of formators takes place every 18 months as the former Father General, Robert Maloney, and the APVC (Asia Pacific Visitors Conference) set it up in a historical agreement.

Father Visitor Provincial, Fr. Mathew Onatt CM, and the organizers (confreres) from the province of the Southern India have been generously welcoming and entertaining the formators with inspiring programs: inputs, studies, group sharing, visits, cultural nights, and a day of touristic outings. They are 48 participants coming from Solomon Islands, Fiji Islands, Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan, China, Vietnam, the Northern India, as well as from the host province; there are also the Daughters of Charity from provinces of the Northern and Southern India as well as Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul invited to be present in the sessions of inputs.

The theme is dealt with in different sessions

with diverse perspectives, such as “Evangelization: historical development”, “Various approaches to Christian Mission and possible responses”, “Principles of New Evangelization and Leadership”, “New Evangelization in relation to *Evangelii Gaudium*”, and “Formation of New Evangelization in Saint Vincent de Paul’s Approach.” Resource persons who accompany the formators to delve into the theme are Mgr. Simon Kaipuram CM (Bishop of Balasore), Father Vincent Varekulam (Professor of theology from Pontifical Institute Alwaye, Kerala), Biju Chittooparamban CM (Southern Indian Confrere working in the International School), Francis Puthanthayil CM (Northern Indian Confrere working for Vincentian Family), Daniel Franklin Pilaro CM (Professor of systematic theology from Saint Vincent’s School of Theology, Manila), and Armada Riyanto CM (Indonesian Confrere teaching philosophy in Widya, Sasana School of Philosophy, Malang). Inputs are then applied in formation strategies in seminaries of different provinces of Asia Pacific.

Formators’ Meeting is also blessed by the gracious presence of the Bishop of Mysore, Bishop Thomas Antony Vazhapilly as well as Bishop confrere, Bishop Simon Kaipuram (Bishop of Balasore) who generously supporte us with beautiful and inspiring homilies.

The gathering ends with drafting recommendations and proposals to APVC (Asia Pacific Visitors’ Conference) that will follow up with policies of some renewals in formation matter of the region.

## **Interview of the Provincial Austria and Germany**

1. How was the process of reconfiguration of the Provinces of Austria and Germany? Which were the more difficult aspects to be considered?

The mutual contact between the two provinces is an old one. Some confreres even had a common Intern Seminary together and for some longer time we had mixed provincial council meetings, common retreats or common formation projects. But three years ago a clear reconfiguration process started and was accepted by nearly all confreres of the two provinces. At first we tried to understand problems other religious congregations with similar processes had gone through to avoid unnecessary difficulties. This is specifically connected with the legal situation in Austria and Germany where the community has different public structures. Thus we developed a specific model consisting out of two regions.



Fr. Franz Kangler CM  
Provincial

2. At this moment how are the main aspects of the new Province organized: administrations, unification, of common projects, pastoral and service to the poor?

The province had decided that the new provincial center would be in Vienna where the provincial has his residence. When the provincial is Austrian (like now), the provincial assistant must be elected out of the German group and vice versa. Both are elected by all confreres of the province. The council consists out of two Austrian and two German confreres elected by their region. We also have two regional economies, one of them will be appointed as provincial economer. At the moment we are discussing the staffing of our common foreign mission in Istanbul and also additional pastoral options in the other region. Specifically in Austria we have a long-standing cooperation with the Vincentian Paul Society and are looking for future cooperation. An important field is Vincentian formation in cooperation with different Congregations of Sisters of Charity in Germany, so there is a wide field for a relatively small number of confreres.

3. Which are the challenges that the Province can foresee for the future?

The greatest challenge is the lack of vocations or our inability to show the attractiveness of a life-long Vincentian communitarian vocation to young men in Central Europe. We also have a tendency to go into individual apostolates, very often good ones, leaving very few confreres for renewed community projects. So far we also have not overcome difficulties in integrating confreres originating in other provinces and continents.

4. What do you recommend to the Provinces that are in the process of reconfiguration?

Do not wait too long. When you no longer have sufficient confreres to start attractive new common projects the process gets much more difficult. It is a challenging experience but helpful to ask ourselves essential questions about our vocation which otherwise are no longer raised due to the necessity of solving day-to-day problems.

## ***I am the light of the world... (John 8:12)***

Fr. Sergiy Pavlish, CM



With these words spiritual exercises attended by the Missionary Fathers of St Vincent de Paul of the Vice Province of Sts Cyril and Methodius might be summarized. The spiritual exercises took place in Obukhiv town at a house of the Oblate Fathers who hospitably gave us such an opportunity.

During the spiritual exercises a father conducting the retreat, who was our co-brother of the Polish Province Fr. Waldemar Rakocy, PhD, focused on St Catherine Labouré and on the Miraculous Medal that Blessed Virgin Mary had ordered to have engraved as She had appeared to the saint.

Due to a systemic events recount, probably every one of us present there could experience these events to some extent, but not only that... First and foremost, we, who nowadays live in the times mundane enough, could re-experience and reevaluate our spirituality and our message. Moreover, what was the most important was that Mary as well urged us to do it.

We were faithful to St John Paul's II appeal concerning the new evangelization. The new evangelization means nothing new, but above all it stands for a deeper or total discovery of what had taken place. In the similar way, we, who

attended the spiritual exercises and listened to the story of the event that had allegedly happened and of which we allegedly knew everything, could reach a new understanding and reevaluate that tremendous gift our Congregation possessed. However, not only could we listen, but also those spiritual exercises surely became a challenge for us to ponder how we served with our charisma and how we reached out to all the people, to whom we had been sent, with the grace our Vincentian Family had received.

A Ukrainian thinker once said that the person unaware of his or her past was not worthy of future either... This statement surely holds true nowadays, especially when the Church celebrates the Year of Consecrated Life. Every religious institution came to being at some point in time, according to the Divine Providence, in order to give response to calls of the time and to current events. Sometimes it is good to go back to our beginnings, to the manifestations of great graces that occurred throughout our Congregation history. It is what we did during our spiritual exercises.

To conclude, I would like to add that following the spiritual exercises, which were also concentrated on the symbolic meaning of the Miraculous Medal, we could come to understand our Founder, who used to often say the main rule of our life in communities was Christ Himself. And Mary corroborated this idea during Her apparitions. Christ's unity with the Church, in which Mary enjoys Her special position and role of being the Mother of the Redeemer and our Mediator, comes first.

So let us be grateful to God that we can participate in His deed of redeeming the humankind as well as for His Mothers' care and protection.

## ***Vincentian Marian Youth representatives meet***

Khrystia Sniatyn, Ukraine.

The meeting was held at Bozhyi Dar house of the Missionary Fathers and lasted for 2 days. At it, various issues were discussed, and a new document, which had been recently translated into Ukrainian, was also presented. Fr. Oleksii Shevchenko also attended the meeting. Everyone was glad to see and listen to him, a person we always kept in our prayers.

On the first day Anna Skoryk from Kharkiv held a conference. She said we should unite and help each other develop different projects to assist the poor and destitute, just like St. Vincent did. She also read out some key points that had been presented at the Systemic Changes meeting. What was the most important was that we should give a poor person not only what he or she needed, but we should know how to teach that person to do something by himself or by herself in order to receive it. For if someone does not know how to be a self-sustained person, he or she will perish being unable to help oneself with anything.



Another conference was held by Sr. Siusanna from Perechyn. She shared her own experience, talked about how important an ability to listen to others, to understand their problems and direct towards the right way was. For many young people living their lives in a wrong way and abandoning God can be totally unaware of it by themselves. We should be able to urge them to do something good and to distinguish good from evil.

Then Sr. Yadviha from Sniatyn told us about a meeting in Paris that she attended. She showed interesting photos picturing a great multitude of young people who cared for helping others. It is great they want to follow St. Vincent.

Thereafter, supervised by Fr. Yezhy and Fr. Vasyl, youth went for an evening walk around Kyiv city. That evening they sang Christmas carols in the subway and at a railway station, bringing the Christmas joy to people. Some people listened very attentively with a smile; others took pictures, while still others came up and sang carols along. It is wonderful when people are able to glorify the Lord together, because the one singing for God makes a double prayer.

On the following day Fr. Yezhy conducted a

conference. He told us about the Vincentian Marian Youth at a church and about their duties. He also made a point that a lot of young people were social network addicts being heavily wounded because of the Internet abuse. Later on, Fr. Vasyl read out passages of the Second

Vatican Council documents. He has just started working with the Marian Children, and therefore, he learns something new together with us.

Sr. Marta spoke about giving your own life to Blessed Mary. In her presentation, she also told us about Sisters' personal life examples, introduced us to the saints who had surrendered their lives in the hands of Mary Immaculate: St. John Paul II, St. Catherine Labouré, etc.

At the end of the meeting, Olya and Khrystia from Sniatyn presented a new document on how to become a proper religious and laical director. Our abilities to listen to a person and understand his or her problems were core to that document. Moreover, we should know how to rejoice alike the Apostles and to share this joy with others. We must share ourselves just like Jesus shared bread. Being good Christians, we must thirst for the Word of God and instruct others about it.

What plans for the future concerns, we discussed a convent due to take place in July 2015, where a new person-in-charge of all the Marian Children would be elected. We also talked about the World Youth Day in 2016 set to take place in Krakow.

When we had a break between conferences, Klev from Kharkiv entertained us with dances which he taught us to dance as well. We are grateful to him for his creativity.

We are sincerely grateful to Fr. Tomazh who so gladly welcomed us to the house and allowed us to stay there 2 days of which we could make a lot of use that would be of service in our further development. May the Lord reward you!

## **Visitation of the Province of Peru**

From October 12<sup>th</sup> to November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Father Javier Álvarez, Vicar General, visited the community houses in the Province of Peru and there lived in the midst of the confreres. It was very obvious that the confreres care for and hold one another in high esteem yes, in the words of Saint Vincent *they care for one another as dear friends* (Common Rules VIII:2). Even though the Province is composed of confreres from different countries and cultures (Spanish, Italian and Peruvians) nevertheless there is great respect for that diversity and multiculturalism.







From a numerical standpoint, most of the confreres are involved in parish ministry and those parishes are located in the city especially in some of the poorer neighborhoods. The confreres also minister in various missionary parishes on the outskirts of the city. In all of those parishes formation is offered to the parishioners, there are liturgy committees and assistance is provided to those who are in need. In many of those same places projects have been established to assist those living in poverty: soup kitchens, health clinics this sensitivity toward those who are impoverished is very obvious in all the different parishes.

The Province has a very organized vocational recruitment program that is directed by one of the confreres. In each local community there is also a confrere responsible for vocations and that confreres works together with the Provincial Vocation Director. Those who are interested in becoming members of the Congregation participate in retreats, meetings and some form of ministry. Given the favorable social-religious environment in Peru it would be reasonable to believe that the Lord will continue to bless the Province with new vocations. At the present time there are some twenty young men in various stages of formation.

The Vincentian Family is very well organized and is a very dynamic element in Peru. The headquarters of the Vincentian Family is located in Lima where there is a very spacious building that has been adapted to the various need of the Family.

## **Visitation of the Province of Barcelona**



From January 23<sup>rd</sup> to February 23<sup>rd</sup> Father Javier Álvarez, Vicar General, visited the Province of Barcelona, a small Province in the north-eastern part of Spain. There are three important centers: Valencia (parish of Montolivet), Barcelona (the Motherhouse and a parish) and Palma de Mallorca (parish and ministry on behalf of the Vincentian Family). There is also a parish in Reus and a house in Figueras.

At the present time the Province is engaged in a process of reconfiguration which, in the near future, will make the Province one with the Province of Madrid and the Province of Salamanca. Naturally it is

precisely this reality that is a concern to the confreres and this process has involved much dialogue and discussion.

One readily notices the missionary and fraternal spirit that seems to be the result of more than one hundred years of ministry ad gentes in Honduras. This mission has been and continues to be a “privileged center” for the Province.

In Honduras the confreres minister in San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa and Mosquita (one of the poorest zones in the country). There in Honduras the confreres are involved in various projects centered on education and health care. The Province has ministered in Honduras not only because it has been able to carry on a very effective process of evangelization but also because there are many impoverished men and women who rely on the ministry of the Congregation of the Mission. May God be blessed!

## **A new guest at the Curia**

As the result of an agreement between the General Curia and the Community of Sant'Egidio, Mr. Marek Mazur, from Poland, will now be residing at the Curia and so we extend a welcome to him.





## ***Vincentian Missionary Encounter From the heart to the peripheries***

Francesca Liboni, Vincentian Volunteer

From February 28 – March 1, 2015 the second Vincentian missionary gathering took place in Rome. The meeting was the result of a previous gathering that took place in June 2014 under the theme: *Go fearlessly ... to serve!* This gathering was also supported by Father Gregory and by the International Council of MISEVI in the hope of promoting lay Vincentian missionaries in Italy.

MISEVI is an international organization that is present in the midst of various national realities. Its structure is maintained by a missionary and Vincentian spirituality and is characterized by its flexibility and inclusiveness. Over the years this organization has promoted lay missionaries who have served within their own country and in the missions *ad gentes*.

After the European gathering of MISEVI, which took place in Nitra (November 2013), members of the Vincentian Family in Italy became interested in collaborating more closely with other Vincentian volunteers. Thus there were two meetings with MISEVI that resulted in greater sharing, mutual understanding and an opportunity for formation.

This more recent gathering was initiated by Father Jorge Rodriguez who presented the

participants with different ways in which they could be instruments in the process of evangelization. Those gathered together viewed the film, *Romero*, the life of the Archbishop of El Salvador, Oscar A. Romero, the story of a modern Saint Vincent. This was followed by a time of prayer (readings, reflection, hymns and some words from Father General). The day concluded with a free evening in which people were able to walk and enjoy the streets of Rome.

Sunday the participants worked with Father Eli Chaves, CM and María Jesús Cuenca (a member of the international team of MISEVI) and delineated the characteristics and the structure that would be necessary in order to establish MISEVI in Italy. The following were then elected to form the first coordinating team of MISEVI in Italy: Silvana Curto (Prato), Patrizia Foddai (Sardegna), Giulia Fornasari (Livorno), Giulia Sartoni (Cesenatico) e Lucia Scrimali (Prato). We hope that in the near future representatives from Naples, Rome and Turin will become part of this team. In the meantime we entrust this work to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and we pray that the work that has been begun on behalf of the evangelization of the poor might become ever more real.

## Meeting of the Vincentian Family in India



Fr. Francis Puthenthayil, CM

The long awaited meeting of the major superiors/heads of the various branches of Vincentian Family in India with Very Rev. Fr. Gregory G. Gay CM, the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity was held at Karunalaya, Mysore (Karnataka) on February 21-22, 2015. It was also the ninth annual gathering of the General Body of the VF in India and was the golden opportunity for the participants to know more about the VF worldwide from Rev. Fr. Gregory as well as to plan for a better collaboration among the various branches to promote the Vincentian Charism i.e., to evangelise the poorest of the poor. Nine branches of the VF such as CM, DC, VC, SCN, SCV (Manathavady, Kerala), SCV (Ranchi), SSVP, AMM, and VMY were represented.

The meeting commenced with a prayer dance by the students of De Paul International, Mysore. Rev. Fr. Devasia Pudussery CM, the regional co-ordinator of Karnataka region welcomed the participants for the aforesaid meeting. Very Rev. Fr. Mathew Onatt CM, the Visitor of the South Indian Province gave an inaugural address. Each participant introduced himself/herself and also shared about the branch to which he or she belonged. They also revealed the variety of activities performed by the respective branches to alleviate the pain of the poor and also told of their relentless efforts to eradicate poverty. While the self-introduction of each member was over, Rev. Fr. Gregory inspired the participants on the relevance of Vincentian Family today. He stressed that to enliven the Vincentian charism in the present day, a joint concerted action is needed.

In his sharing he invited every one for a greater collaboration between the different branches of the VF. So that the spirit of St. Vincent shall survive and shall continue.

He also reminisced the origin of the Vincentian Family in the worldwide. It was Very Rev. Fr. Robert P. Maloney, the then Superior General of the Congregation of Mission who had initiated the launch of Vincentian Family in 1992 at the international level. In 2007 Rev. Fr. Francis Puthenthayil, CM along with Bro. T. Joseph Pandian the then National President of SSVP and his team initiated the installation of VF in India. In his sharing, Fr. Gregory reviewed the activities of the VF in India for the last nine years. He highlighted the important achievements of the VF in India. He also called for the need to bring about better organization and for a common formation programme to intensify the Charism as well as to get to know one another closely. He also whole-heartedly welcomed the idea of having VF secretariat in India and appreciated the gesture of South Indian Province of the Congregation of the Mission for allotting sufficient land for the purpose at Mysore.

Bro. Joseph Pandian SSVP, the International territorial vice-president volunteered to thank the participants, especially Fr. Gregory G. Gay for his gracious presence and brainstorming sharings with the members of the VFI. He thanked each and every one for sparing their valuable time to be with all the members of the family. On behalf of all present, he thanked Very Rev. Fr. Mathew Onatt CM for hoisting the meeting and for making such excellent arrangements which made the participants to stay in comfort.

# VII Encounter of the Vincentian Family in Latin America

## *Vincentian Missionaries, Witnesses of the Faith and Charity*

(March 17-22, 2015 – Guatemala)

The Vincentian charism in Latin America has provided us with the means to continue to respond to the different realities and the different forms of poverty that are found in this part of the world. The Vincentian Family attempts to make that charism effective and affective and realizes that in order to do so there is a need to understand and to grow in our awareness of being members of a family and also a need to unite our efforts in common projects of evangelization and service on behalf of those men and women who are impoverished as well as in projects of social and structural transformation. The Latin American Council of the Vincentian Family is one of the entities entrusted with the task of making those ideals a reality. Therefore, as we conclude this VII Encounter of FAVILA in Guatemala (a meeting in which 135 people from 23 different countries gathered together), a meeting that was developed in an atmosphere of profound reflection and formation, an atmosphere of prayer and fraternal communion, an atmosphere in which we celebrated our life in the liturgy, we now want to affirm the proposal of Father Gregory Gay, the animator of the Vincentian Family ... the proposal in which we are exhorted to live and minister in collaboration with one another. In light of all of this we feel the need to make visible the fruit of this gathering and therefore we present the following lines of action that will guide our activity during the next three years.

### LINES OF ACTION

#### For FAVILA

- To animate the National Councils of the Vincentian Family;
- To follow-up on the commitments acquired during the 2015 Encounter of FAVILA.

#### For the National Councils of the Vincentian Family

- To implement strategies that promote knowledge of the theory of systemic change and then to look for ways to apply this theory to specific projects of the Vincentian Family ... projects that are done collaboratively;
- To share with the members of the Vincentian Family in each country the richness that was received during the Encounter and whose content is synthesized in the theme of the gathering, *Vincentian Missionaries, Witnesses of the Faith and Charity*.

#### For all the members of the Vincentian Family

- To enrich the formation of each member of the Vincentian Family in order to strengthen the sense of belong to this family and the experience of Vincentian spirituality. This should be done by integrating the orientation that is proposed by

the National Councils of the Vincentian Family into the various formation processes.

#### Conclusion

As we come to the conclusion of this gathering we want to express our gratitude to God for having provided us with the opportunity to

participate in this encounter and we thank all those who through their prayers and accompaniment have sustained our work. We also thank the team of FAVILA for all their work in making this gathering possible. Finally, we express our gratitude to all those persons who have collaborated in this matter, especially the Daughters of Charity of the Central American Province.

We exhort all the members of the Vincentian Family to enter into the dynamic of these Lines of Action and to begin to prepare now, with enthusiasm and hope, for your participation in the next gathering of FAVILA (2018). We hope to have even more participants at our next encounter.

As we walk together as a Vincentian Family we entrust our journey to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, to Saint Vincent de Paul, to Saint Louise de Marillac and to Blessed Frederic Ozanam.





**International Assembly of  
the AIC  
March 23-26, 2015 (Guatemala)**

Gloria Amparo Benítez Torijano, President  
AIC Colombia

**Objective of the Assembly:**

The International Assembly is always a very important event in the life of the AIC. It is a time in which the members gather together and share their experiences in order

- to evaluate the place of education in our commitment toward women who are the poorest of women. We do this by evaluating our lines of action. This year we focused on “valuing our efforts as agents of reciprocal education”;
- to program our priorities for the coming years.

**Participants:** 120 volunteers and advisors from 27 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Slovakia, Spain, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Madagascar, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, the United States of America and Venezuela. There were also nine members of the International Team and six translators who volunteered their services.

**Themes:** methodology of facilitators, exchange of ideas and experiences in order to make dreams a reality, the dream of the AIC network, moving toward our 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary ... Action!

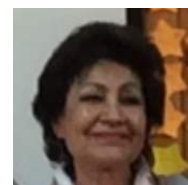
**The new Executive Committee of the AIC (2015-2017)**



Alicia Duhne (Mexico)  
International President



Alette de Maredsous (France)  
Vice-president



Maru Magallanes (Mexico)  
Vice-president



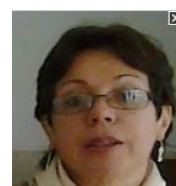
Babeth Gindre, (France)  
member



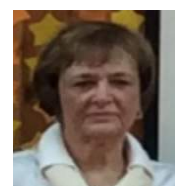
Anne Bemmo (Cameroon)  
member



Sumaia Sahade (Brazil)  
member



Selina Suarez (Venezuela)  
member



Gayle Johnson (USA)  
member

## **The dream of the AIC network**

2013-2014

- To internalize
- An AIC animated by the spirit of the Saint Vincent's plan

2015-2016

- To communicate
- An AIC that attracts persons who want to see greater justice in the world

2017

- To celebrate and give thanks
- An anniversary that should be celebrated together
  - benefactors of the various AIV projects
  - volunteers, persons living in difficult situation, donors, persons involved in various social services.

## **February**

### **Nominaciones / Confirmaciones**

MAUVAIS Christian	27/02/2015	Director DC, North Africa (confirmed)
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### **Creationes**

SOURAPHIEL Berhaneyesus Demerew	14/02/2015	Cardinal Titular Church of San Romano Martire
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### **Necrologium**

<b>Nomen</b>	<b>Cond.</b>	<b>Dies ob.</b>	<b>Prov.</b>	<b>Aet.</b>	<b>Voc.</b>
HIEN MAI Peter Dao	Sac	04/02/2015	Aul	73	48
IBÁÑEZ MARTÍNEZ Juan	Sac	07/02/2015	Cae	83	65
NATUZZI Michele	Sac	07/02/2015	Nea	88	70
OCHAGA MANGUE Juan Pablo Nsue	Inc	26/02/2015	Moz	28	4

# March

## Nominaciones / Confirmaciones

RAMANANDRAIBE Noël	24/03/2015	Director DC Madagascar
VELASCO ROBLA Juan	24/03/2015	Director DC Gijón (Confirmed)
VAN AERT Jan	24/03/2015	Director DC China (Confirmed)

## Necrologium

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
DETHUNE Gabriel	Sac	01/03/2015	Par	88	63
SZLEZAK Jerzy	Sac	10/03/2015	Pol	79	62
BUSTARRET Robert André G.	Sac	13/03/2015	Tol	89	71
OLIVERO Giovanni	Sac	18/03/2015	Tau	86	68
PROL GÓMEZ Antonio	Sac	21/03/2015	Mex	93	73