



**CONGREGAZIONE DELLA MISSIONE  
CURIA GENERALIZIA**

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**SUPERIORE GENERALE**

To all the confreres of the Congregation of the Mission

***TEMPO FORTE CIRCULAR***  
**29 September – 11 October 2016**

My dear confreres,

May the grace and peace of Jesus be always with us!

The members of the General Council, including the Treasurer General, the Secretary General, and I met for our first *Tempo Forte* Council Meeting, beginning on 29 September. The following matters were discussed.

**1. 2016 General Assembly**

- a. We determined some of the texts to be published in *Vincentiana*.
- b. We considered the four recommendations made to the Superior General.
  - 1) *Our Liturgical Calendar*. We asked the staff of the Vincentian Family Office to gather information on the Saints and Blessed of the various branches of the Family. When we have received this, the Procurator General will be asked to contact the Congregation of Divine Worship to have the liturgical texts approved and the feasts inserted in our Liturgical Calendar.
  - 2) *Vocation of Brothers*. The Assistant General charged with formation will be asked to study this topic and look into the possibility of accompanying the provinces in promoting vocations to the brotherhood.
  - 3) *Protection of children and youth*. We determined that this matter should be confronted and decided to do so both on the level of the Congregation as a whole and on that of the General Council in its efforts to help the individual provinces. For the former, we will consider involving our representative at the UN to obtain and disseminate useful information. For the latter, we will consider getting help from experts and perhaps forming a commission to assist the provinces in facing and preventing situations involving abuse of minors.

- 4) *Indulgence for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the charism.* The Procurator General informed us that the Holy See has accepted this request and will soon be sending the official document.
- c. We studied the evaluations of the Assembly, which were mostly positive. However, there are aspects to improve for the next Assembly: distribution of time, *Documentum laboris*, work method, Central Commission, participation of the General Council, election of the Superior General, Final Document, publication of the documentation produced, and interpretations/translations.

## **2. Reflection on the General Council and an Action Plan 2016-2022**

- a. We considered several points, as proposed for discussion by the Vicar General:
  - 1) Adequately structuring the General Council
  - 2) Decision-making
  - 3) Reflecting, in the coming six years, on eight objectives:
    - i. Initial Formation
    - ii. International Missions and internationality
    - iii. Confreres in difficulty
    - iv. The Vincentian Family
    - v. Solidarity (*ad intra*)
    - vi. Reconfiguration
    - vii. Sense of belonging and overcoming provincialism
    - viii. Vincentian identity
- b. Responsibility of each Assistant
 

With regard to the accompaniment of the Conferences, it appeared reasonable to assign the Assistants in this way: NCV (Miles Heinen), CEVEM (Javier Álvarez), CLAPVI (Aarón Gutiérrez), APVC (Mathew Kallammakal), and COVIAM (Zeracristos Yosief). The Superior General and the Vicar General, along with the Secretary General, will prepare a draft for the distribution of individual provinces among the Assistants and it will be discussed in an upcoming council meeting.
- c. Canonical Visitations
 

There was a discussion on the necessity and importance of these visits in accompanying the provinces.

## **3. General Curia**

- a. Personnel
  - 1) Appointment of the Superior/Administrator. We considered the names of several possible confreres. These will be contacted in a determined order.
  - 2) Appointment of the new Treasurer General. The choice is made of Paul Parackal, who is already in the Curia, serving as Assistant to the Treasurer General.

- 3) Procurator/Postulator. The name of Giuseppe Guerra was suggested and he is available.
  - 4) Archivist/Librarian. Brother Martial Tatchim, who is presently assisting in this service, will be considered, but he needs further preparation. A work plan must be developed. SIEV already is considering this matter and we will await its development in SIEV's meeting of November 2016.
- b. Communications Office
- Nuntia* and *Vincentiana*. Given the importance of communication, it was determined that the office needs to be reorganized. It was decided to ask the confreres responsible for the bulletin and magazine to develop a proposal to be presented to the General Council at the December *Tempo Forte* Meeting.
- c. SIEV
- The Vicar General reminded us of the goal of SIEV, which is threefold: reflection, animation, and diffusion of Vincentian studies. There are presently ten members, but some have other responsibilities such that the number could be reduced significantly in the coming months.
- d. CIF
- The outgoing and incoming Directors will be present at the next *Tempo Forte* Meeting to reflect and discuss on the future of CIF.
- e. VSO
- Miles Heinen commented on the report sent by Scott Fina. He noted that USD 56,000 will be available in 2017 for micro-projects. He also mentioned the importance of not beginning any projects before the money from the funding agencies is actually allocated. The names of two confreres were proposed to replace Miles as Director of the VSO. Their Visitor will be consulted before making a definitive appointment.
- f. UN Representative
- It was proposed to establish a structure for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation, which would involve the entire Congregation. The office at the UN is being supported temporarily by the Eastern USA Province, but will soon need to become self-sustaining. It seems worthwhile to have this role of sensitizing confreres to poverty in the world and of working together with other branches of the Vincentian Family.
- g. Various
- 1) The printed *Catalog* will be published at the beginning of 2017.
  - 2) The online *Catalog* is updated regularly, but little used. The confreres are encouraged to consult it. It was decided to change its webmaster.

- 3) The Secretary General provided the Assistants with information on upcoming expirations of Visitors' terms, absent confreres, processes underway, and use of the internal network.
- 4) Communication between the Curia and the provinces.  
A letter to this effect has been sent to the Visitors.

#### **4. Financial Matters**

The Treasurer General presented the data for the first semester of 2016. He noted that the cost of travel is continually increasing and suggests that the Assistants be reimbursed for travel during visits to the provinces.

#### **5. International Missions**

- a. El Alto, Bolivia  
The mission is experiencing difficulties and needs in-depth study. The local superior will be asked to do this. The Bishop will be consulted too.
- b. Cochabamba, Bolivia  
The Community Plan was approved, but some observations were given.
- c. Papua New Guinea  
The contract with the Catholic Bishops has yet to be signed.  
The confrere designated for the Diocese of Alotau-Sideia cannot go at this time and we presently have no one to replace him.
- d. Solomon Islands  
This mission is also in constant difficulty. Various proposals were put forth to improve its situation. It was decided that this matter will be discussed in the next meeting of the APVC.
- e. Angola  
The mission seems stable, but there are only two confreres there, with much work, so a third confrere is needed. There is a financial crisis in the country, which makes it impossible to send money to the confreres.
- f. Chad  
The General Council approved the appointment of one of the confreres as pastor and another as school principal.
- g. Benin  
The construction of the house should be finished in December. The Province of Poland is thinking of a third confrere to send to this mission.
- h. Punta Arenas, Chile  
Two confreres will be leaving the mission in 2017. It would be ideal if we could find a fourth confrere to send to this mission.
- i. Alaska, USA  
The Superior will be asked for his opinion on the need for three or four confreres for this mission.

## 6. Missions

We studied the framework of the missions: their personal, those missionaries awaiting assignment, the expiring contracts. We also looked at future candidates and the requests we have received. For two of these latter, Belize and Riga (Latvia), we will reply that we cannot give them a positive response to their requests.

## 7. Vincentian Family

- a. Possible appointment of Gregory Gay as International Advisor of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. We will respond that the decision is up to his Visitor.
- b. Worldwide Initiative for the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Charism. The Superior General has requested an appointment with Archbishop Fisichella in view of organizing a three-day worldwide meeting in Rome, with the presence of the Holy Father, for the entire Vincentian Family.
- c. Commission for the Promotion of Systemic Change. The Coordinator informed the General Council of the initiatives underway.

## 8. Visitors' Conferences

We received the minutes from the CEVIM meeting in Chicago.

## 9. Calendars

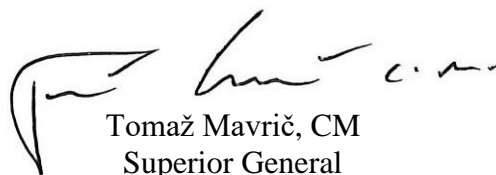
We drafted the calendar for the members of the General Council from October through December 2016, the calendar of Canonical Visitations (to be completed), the calendar of General Council Meetings, and the calendar of *Tempo Forte* Meetings.

## 10. Final Matters

At the next *Tempo Forte* Meeting, the Assistants will present drafts of each one's plans for the priorities established during this *Tempo Forte* Meeting. These drafts will be done by Javier for Initial Formation, Aarón for the Vincentian Family, Mathew, Zeracristos, and Aarón for the International Missions, Miles and Joseph Geders for Solidarity, Javier and Miles for Reconfiguration/Identity/Sense of Belonging, and Giuseppe Turati for the Confreres in Difficulty.

We confide all the work and plans of the General Council to your prayers. May Jesus's Spirit, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and Saint Vincent, guide us as we seek to remain ever faithful to the spirit and charism of our Founder.

Your brother in Saint Vincent,



Tomaž Mavrič, CM  
Superior General