



OZANAM NETWORK



International General Council - Society of St Vincent de Paul



The General Council gathers young Vincentians from around the world in Salamanca

The thematic
year of
François
Lallier

Page 4

Film festival
"The 7 Founders"

Page 10

Awarding of the
Medal 'Charity
in Hope' to the
Rotary Club

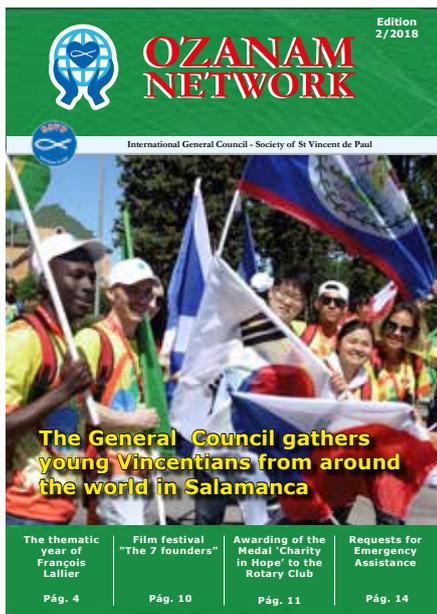
Page 11

Requests for
Emergency
Assistance

Page 14

Summary

EDITORIAL	3
THE THEMATIC YEAR OF FRANÇOIS LALLIER	
o Results of the international contest	4
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL	5
INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES	
o SSVP's Official Statement to Support Life	9
o The General Council launches the film festival on the seven founders of the SSVP	10
o Awarding of the Medal 'Charity in Hope' to the Rotary Club	11
o Erwin Josef Tigla, SSVP International Territorial Vice President for Europe II, receives the silver	13
o Requests for Emergency Assistance to India and Indonesia	14
o The CIAD and its fundamental role in the development of the SSVP, and in emergency situations	15
HOMAGE: THE GENERAL COUNCIL CONGRATULATES THE 12TH PRESIDENT GENERAL, AMIN DE TARRAZI	17
CHURCH AND SSVP: VISIT TO ROME OF THE 16TH PRESIDENT GENERAL RENATO LIMA	18
FEAST OF THE BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM	20
COMMUNICATION/ SPREADING	
o Recommended Books	21
o Special Commission for the study of the SSVP logo	21
SPIRITUALITY	22
VINCENTIAN FAMILY	
o World Youth Days and Gathering of the Vincentian Youth	
o Panama 2019	23
o Finding Vincent 400	24
o International Conference of the Famvin Homeless Alliance	24
WORLD NEWS	
o SSVP Spain: Ciudad Real	25
o SSVP U.S.A.: Baton Rouge	26
o SSVP Dominican Republic	27
SSVP YOUTH	
o II SSVP International Youth Meeting	28
o The young and the building of the kingdom: vincentian qualities	33
o Official Anthem of the International Gathering of the SSVP Youth – Salamanca 2018.	34
VISITS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT GENERAL	
o Argentina	35
o England and Ireland	36
IN MEMORIAM: MARIE NÖELLE DESBROSSES	38
STRATEGIC GOALS	39



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Editorial

The importance of training for the General Council

Renato Lima

Thanks to a good Vincentian training, the fellow members will improve their double mission: personal sanctification and the practice of charity.

The issue of training is something so important for the International General Council that, within the framework of the strategic plan's 10 points of this mandate, this occupies the first position: "Permanent formation for all members". To implement this item, there is a need to set up the position of International Vice-Presidency of Formation and Training, led by the fellow member Marisa Téllez, from Spain.

She has the support of 12 territorial delegates of formation, acting in coordination with the International Territorial Vice-presidencies. It is therefore obvious that the General Council considers as a top priority the training within the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and for this purpose it has set up a global structure to face this huge challenge.

When I took office, I received from my predecessors a set of excellent training modules that make up the "Universal Training". Until then, there were the following topics: 1) History and Origins of the SSVp; 2) Spirituality; 3) Poverty and the change of structures; 4) the home visit; 5) the Rule of the SSVp; 6) Life in the Conference; 7) Solidarity; 8) International Relations; and 9) Presentation of the Christian doctrine.

This Presidency is adding new issues to the international training programme, to offer countries a more up-

dated, interactive content without losing the connection with the pillars left by our founders. These topics are: 1) doing good well; 2) Personal growth; and 3) the practical love. In the coming months, the international training team will be finishing other modules: 1) Mission, vision and values; 2) Development of the Strategic Plan; 3) Communication and conflict resolution; 4) Autonomy of the SSVp and recognition from the Church; and 5) Blessed and saints of the SSVp.

Thanks to a good Vincentian training, the fellow members will improve their double mission: personal sanctification and the practice of charity. Without an adequate and modern training, none of these two dimensions will be achieved. This formation should not take place only in the courses or modules offered by the CGI or by the Superior Councils, it must also be given during the meetings of Conferences and Councils.

I take this opportunity to inform you that, in November this year, God willing, the whole training team of the General Council will meet in Madrid, Spain (the fellow member Marisa and her 12 territorial delegates) to exchange experiences, discuss the existing modules and advance in the preparation of communication tools that can be used for further training. We ask for your prayers.

Renato Lima de Oliveira
16th President General



ON THE DAY OF THE FEAST OF BLESSED FREDERIC OZAN-AM, THE IGC ANNOUNCES THE RESULTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEST IN THE THEMATIC YEAR DEDICATED TO FRANÇOIS LALLIER AND ANNOUNCES THE YEAR 2019, AS THE THEMATIC YEAR OF PAUL LAMACHE.

“CHARITY HAS ITS ORIGIN AMONG THE EARLY CHRISTIANS, IT SHAPES PEOPLE THAT LOVE EACH OTHER, THAT BECOME BETTER AND THEREFORE, GOD CERTAINLY BLESSES IT AND MAKES IT BOTH FRUITFUL AND LASTING”.

FRANÇOIS LALLIER 1837

The International President General Renato Lima de Oliveira, on behalf of the International General Council, has the immense satisfaction to announce the outcome of the second International Literary Contest “the First Conference - International Thematic Year of” François Lallier”.

1st Prize: **PHILIPPE MENET. PARIS. FRANCE. 1.000€**
2nd Prize: **LUCIANA MOREIRA. Sao Paulo. Brazil. 750€**
3rd Prize: **PATRICIA ONUOHA. Okigwe. Nigeria. 500€**

Honorary Mention:

Raymond L. Sickinger. Rhode Island. USA
Eric Morell. Alicante. Spain
Elza Alemão. Minas Gerais. Brazil
Adenilton Moreira. Minas Gerais. Brazil



The SSVP International General Council will also reward the Conference to which belongs the author of the work with the same amount that he has received. The money awarded to the Conference will be entirely assigned for social work, activity or project carried out by the Conference, represented by its President.

The General Council has received 23 literary works submitted by fellow members from the following continents: 3 from Europe, 8 from Africa and 12 from America.

We congratulate all the participants and all those who have collaborated in the organization of this contest.

“The quality of the works caught the attention of the Organizing Committee in a positive way. The General Council is very pleased with the excellent reper-

cussion that the project of the Thematic Years has had in the SSVP, in view of deepening the work of each of the seven young students, our founders. The objective is to highlight their personal contribution to the emergence of the first Conference and the subsequent SSVP’s spreading, in order to make them known and so that people speak about them, especially about the example and influence that they can exert on the young people that are currently joining the Conferences. It was them who, in a collegial and democratic way, decided to found our Society, and we recall their legacy with respect and consideration”, stated our President General, Renato Lima.

We remind you that the next International Thematic Year 2019 will be dedicated to PAUL LAMACHE. The fellow members interested can already get ready for the presentation to the contest, which will be launched on 8th February 2019.



SSVP Young at Salamanca's Plaza Mayor

The General Council gathers young people and leaders in Salamanca

In a week, between the 16th and 23rd of June 2018, the Vincentian world capital moved from Paris to Salamanca (Spain), where the International General Council (CGI) carried out several activities, meetings and events in the House of the Lazarist Fathers, located in Santa Marta de Tormes.

One of those events was the 2nd International Meeting of the SSVP Youth (called Salamanca + 10), attended by 120 young leaders from countries of the five continents. There were lectures, group dynamics, reflections and debates, based on the theme "The Young Vincentian: protagonist of the present and the future". The Holy Father, Pope Francis, sent an Apostolic blessing to the young people present at the event. In addition

to Salamanca, the youth gathering continued, for another two days, in Madrid, with practical activities, such as the visits to charity works.

The impact of "Salamanca + 10" in the Spanish and international media was important. Furthermore, the President General appointed 12 new Youth Territorial Delegates, which will work in line with the International Vice-Presidency for the Youth, Children



Members of Spain's SSVP with a group of young people



International Territorial Vice presidents during the SSVP Annual Gathering - Salamanca 2018

and Adolescents. The President also announced that in 2023, God willing, the 3rd International Youth Meeting of the SSVP will also be held in the city of Salamanca.

The CGI also organized the first meeting of the Special Commission established to study the benefits of the creation of several Superior Councils in India. The Commission will continue to study the issue and will present its conclusion in 12 months. According

to the International Rule, nations with more than 3,000 aggregated conferences have that right.

The quarterly meeting of the Board of the General Council was also held, where important decisions were made. One of them was the creation of a Special Commission to draw up a code of ethics for the use of social networks. The Special Commission of Argentina also concluded its work and submitted to the Board of the CGI

a report with recommendations; a public note on the matter was approved.

There was the annual meeting of the International Territorial Vice Presidents (ITVP), which are responsible for 12 regions of the world. They reinforced the strengths and analyzed the weaknesses in each area, proposing improvements through the exchange of experiences. Next year, this meeting will also have



“Family picture” of the participants in the SSVP International Annual Gathering

the presence of the Zone Coordinators, who help the Territorial Vice-Presidents in this institutional mission.

In Salamanca, two important meetings took place, in accordance with the provisions of the International Rule: The Permanent Section meeting and the meeting of the International Executive Committee (the latter made up of 15 nations that together account for 85% of all Vincentians in the world). During this two-day meeting, the departments and services of the CGI submitted their annual reports, as well as the “ethical reports” by the General President and the General Secretary. In addition, the Annual Accounts of the Council for 2017 and the 2018 budget were unanimously approved.

There were two special lectures: “Relationship of the SSVP with Parliaments” (John Falzon, from Australia) and “Fifteen years of the Rule and the Confederation” (José Ramón Díaz-Torremocha, from Spain, 14th President General). In addition, Father Robert Ma-



Participants in the event

loney, CM (spiritual advisor of the CGI), celebrated several masses with very beautiful homilies, and presented two brilliant reflections: one about the home visit and another about the dreams for the Vincentian Family.

The Canonical Commission concluded its studies and presented a detailed report on the issue, which will be sent to the Superior Councils for discussion, with a view to voting on the subject in 2022, at the Ordinary General Assembly in Rome.

The first edition of the Medal, “Charity in hope”, was officially granted to the Rotary Club International (the second medal will be granted in June 2019, the countries can now make their suggestions to the General Council about recognized philanthropic entities carrying out a valuable international humanitarian work). In commemoration of the 180 years of the General Council, which will be held in June 2019, the Film Festival “The Seven Founders” was launched, which will give awards for videos and films that reflect the sublime moment of the Foundation of the SSVP (the works should be sent until September 2019).

The opportunity was seized to extend the deadline for submitting the papers of the contest of the “International Thematic Year of François Lallier”, which went from July 8 to August 30.

On 19th June, the President General had to leave the meetings to go to Rome, where the Vatican held the first meeting of the “Dicastery for the Lay, Family and Life”, institution that officially recognized the SSVP, which de-



Father Maloney



Moment when the SSVP International President General is appointed « Guest of Honour »

cil extends heartfelt thanks for the huge generosity of the Superior Councils that have sponsored the travels of several young people to the International Gathering. The CGI is also deeply grateful to the Superior Council of Spain for the efficient organization and coordination in all the events that took place, as well as to the Paris staff for their cooperation. Finally, the President highlights the essential participation of Ozanam TV in forecasting live and online, all the events, as well as to the Brazilian team for their excellent work in organizing “Salamanca + 10”.

During the events held in Salamanca, the City Council made a beautiful tribute to the SSVP and to the Vincentian youth, granting the President General the title of “Distinguished Guest”, an honor that our fellow member Renato dedicated to all Vincentians worldwide.

“They were days of intense discussion, with important decision-making for the present and the future of our beloved SSVP. The General Council is strengthened each year with the active participation of the Superior Councils in new projects, programs and initiatives underway. The CGI means, above all, communication and strategy. With God’s grace, the support of the countries and the prayers of all, we go forward, reaching goals and better results”, highlighted our brother Renato Lima, 16th President General.

The city of Porto (Portugal) was chosen as a venue for the meetings of the General Council in June 2019.

depends on it. On the same day, the President met with the Special Commission for the Canonization of Ozanam, when father Giuseppe Guerra, CM, featured the latest news on the progress of the process. A quick visit was also made to the Mother House of the Religious of Saint Vincent de Paul (RSV).

Other decisions made during the meetings:

- 200 aggregations of Conferences and 10 institutions of Councils were approved.
- We had a very detailed presentation of the objectives of the Project “SSVP Plus”, which seeks to found Vincentian Conferences in the countries where the SSVP is not yet present.
- The President General announced that in 2019 the Council would have a new organization chart for services and functions, to better allocate the talents and give more efficiency to the international structure.
- An “Ethical protocol for the use

of Crowdfunding” (request for financial resources through Internet) was approved, the text of which will be sent to the Superior Councils for its dissemination.

- The updating of the international SSVP logo was approved (a manual will be sent for the application of the logo to all countries within a few months).
- A Special Commission was set up to study the issue of the logo, consisting of the following countries: United States, Brazil, Australia, Nigeria, Italy and France.
- A new more modern model was approved for the “Letter of Aggregation” and the “Letter of Institution”, in A4 format.
- An updated list has been presented on the “Papal Briefs” and the “Indulgences granted to the SSVP” (this list will be sent to countries in the coming weeks).

The International General Council

SSVP's Official Statement to Support Life

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (SSVP) IS COMMITTED TO DEFENDING LIFE AND THE FAMILY! WE ARE A CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION THAT DEFENDS THE SACREDNESS OF LIFE AND THE VALUES FROM THE GOSPEL, ACTING IN THE FIVE CONTINENTS IN A CONTINUOUS BATTLE AGAINST ALL FORMS OF POVERTY.

We have seen, with sadness, groups supporting the legalization of abortion around the world. We follow the guidance of the Holy Mother Church and we are faithful to the words of our very dear Pope Francis: "I want to emphasize, with all my strength, that abortion is a grave sin, because it puts an end to an innocent human life. However, with the same strength, I can and must say that there is no sin the mercy of God cannot reach and destroy, where there is a repentant heart."

We ratify our position of defense, not only as our Christian duty, but, above all, as an attitude towards the sacredness of human life. We defend life in all its moments and difficulties. We



condemn all arguments, threats and mechanisms against life! We won't build a just society with peace and prosperity if we accept the right to kill human beings, especially the most defenseless and innocent ones.

It has not been and it will never be a cause that we can defend, support, accept or tolerate. We still believe that there is neither coherence nor rationality in this way of thinking. Nobody, including nations, government systems, and non-religious activist groups, can deny the right to life to other human beings.

As Vincentians, we are eternal and persistent advocates of life! This is a task that cannot be rejected as a civil association of Christians, dedicated and committed to the Kingdom of God.

Our mission is to promote the

We won't build a just society with peace and prosperity if we accept the right to kill human beings, especially the most defenseless and innocent ones.

dignity of every human being. It means, above all, recognizing the inviolable right to life, from fertilization to natural death.

On behalf of the International Board,

Renato Lima de Oliveira
General President



The General Council launches the film festival on the seven founders of the SSVP

DURING THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL (CGI), HELD IN SALAMANCA (SPAIN) IN JUNE 2018, THE CGI ANNOUNCED THE RULES FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE FESTIVAL “THE SEVEN FOUNDERS”, WHICH SEEKS TO FOCUS ON THE MOMENT WHEN THE FIRST VINCENTIAN CONFERENCE WAS FOUNDED.

The festival aims at stimulating the knowledge and research, in a creative and talented way, about the origin of the SSVP and the main role of the seven founders: Antoine Frederic Ozanam, Auguste Le Taillandier, Jules Delvaux, Paul Lammache, François Lallier, Félix Clavé and Emmanuel Bailly de Surcy.

Only active Vincentians in the conferences can participate in the festival. The videos or films pre-

sented can be produced in three formats: short film (up to 40 minutes), medium-length film (from 41 to 69 minutes) and feature film (70 minutes).

The deadline for the submission of videos or films to the General Council is **15th May 2019**. The audio-visual works will be evaluated by a special commission and the announcement of the winners will take place on **9th September**

2019, date of the liturgical feast of Ozanam. The awards range from 1,000 to 2,000 euros.

“We hope that there will be very interesting productions, set in the Paris of 1833, when those seven visionaries had, under the inspiration of the Divine Providence, the brilliant idea of founding the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The seven of them, without exception, were instrumental in the establishment of this important charity, which today provides relevant services to mankind”, stated the fellow member Renato Lima, 16th President General.

For further information:
www.ssvpglobal.org
cinema-festival@ssvpglobal.org



Juan Manuel Buergo, national president of Spain's SSVp, Manuel Florián, governor of district 2201 and representative of the Rotary Club International, and Renato Lima de Oliveira, International President General.

LAST JUNE 22, 2018,
IN AN EVENT HELD
DURING THE MEETINGS
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
STRUCTURE OF THE SSVp
IN SALAMANCA (SPAIN),
THE MEDAL "CHARITY IN
HOPE" WAS AWARDED
TO THE INTERNATIONAL
ROTARY CLUB.

Awarding of the Medal 'Charity in Hope' to the Rotary Club

Our fellow members Renato Lima de Oliveira, International President General, and Juan Manuel Buergo Gómez, National President, presided the ceremony and represented the SSVp. The award was collected by Mr. Manuel Florián de Tomás Martí, Governor of the District 2201 and representative of the International Rotary Club, who came on behalf of the International President, the Australian Mr. Ian Riseley. The delegation of the International Rotary Club that was present in this award ceremony was made of Mr. Alejandro Amoedo, President of the Humanitarian Foundation of the Spanish Rotaries, Mrs. Mari-

na Cordón, Mr. Antonio Quesada, Mr. Andrés Barriales, Mr. Benito Blanco and Mr. José Fernández Álvarez, Governor-elect of the district 2201 for the period 2018-2019.

This was the first time that the Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has granted the Medal. The initiative, approved by the Board of the International General Council on 16th December 2016, in Paris, was the result of wishing to recognize other individuals or institutions that perform actions for the benefit of the poorest and, at the same time, to strengthen ties with other groups



or entities with which the Society has common objectives. It is expected that, God willing, the next host country will be Portugal, in the city of Porto. The Presidents of the Superior Councils will propose, until 28th February 2019, entities that they deem worthy of receiving the medal next year.

Election of the Rotary Club as the first institution worthy of the Medal "Charity in Hope".

With the granting of this award, we wished to recognize the support offered by the Rotary Club to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as well as to consolidate the close

relationship already started in many parts of the world. The wish is that two institutions that share values and dreams in the construction of a better world could join their efforts for the benefit of the most disadvantaged.

The first Rotary Club was the one in Chicago, Illinois, USA, founded in 1905 by Paul P. Harris as the first world clubs organization dedicated to volunteer service. Its main purpose was to bring together business leaders and both academics and non-academics professionals in order to provide humanitarian services in their communities, to promote high ethical standards in all professions

and to keep fostering the good will and peace in the world.

Its main fields of action are: the promotion of peace, the prevention and treatment of diseases (the *Polio Plus programme* is considered the biggest international campaign in the field of public health. Thanks to the initiatives of this programme, many based on the use of new technologies such as the mobile phone, it is expected that by the year 2020 polio will be completely eradicated from the face of the Earth.), the supply of drinking water, the maternal and child health, the promotion of education and the development of local economy.



The characteristics of the Medal are as follows:

- It is made of metal
- It has 12 cm in diameter and is held by a tricolour ribbon (red, white and blue)
- Around its edge, there are five petals, sign of the five Vincen-tian virtues, and five crosses indicating the five precepts of the Church.
- At the ends of the medal, there are ten red dots, recalling the ten commandments of the Law of God.
- The international SSVP logo ap-pears in the centre, with its motto "Serving in Hope", together with the sentence "Charity in Hope" after the name of the decoration.
- On the reverse of the Medal is engraved the year when it has been awarded.

Mérite Européen

Freundes- und Förderkreis Deutschland e.V.



Erwin Josef Tigla, SSVP International Territorial Vice President for Europe II, receives the silver medal of European Merit



THIS AWARD IS GRANTED BY THE FOUNDATION OF EUROPEAN MERIT, A NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION BASED IN LUXEMBOURG. THE AIM OF THIS FOUNDATION IS TO RECOGNIZE THE SUCCESSES OF INDIVIDUALS AND / OR ENTITIES IN THEIR EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EUROPEAN IDEAL, AS WELL AS TO VALUE THE SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF TRANSNATIONAL NATURE.

Many countries have established an order of merit to honour their citizens, but this Foundation is the only order of merit recognized on a pan-European basis.

The Foundation, which has the objective of responding to Eu-

rope's current challenges through the organization and participation in University conferences, and of other nature that promote the European ideal, especially among the youngest members of the society, works closely with the institutions of the European Union, in particu-

lar with the European Commission in Luxembourg.

Since 2015, the Foundation has created an Association of medalists (those who have already been awarded with gold or silver medals) in order to engage them and make use of their talents and experience to promote the European ideal. Our dear fellow member, Erwin Josef Tigla has been member of this association since 14th July.

Requests for Emergency Assistance to India and Indonesia

THE SSVP INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FUND, HAS MADE TWO APPEALS FOR EMERGENCY AID AIMED AT THE NATURAL CATASTROPHES THAT TOOK PLACE IN INDIA, DUE TO THE MONSOON RAINS, AND IN INDONESIA, DUE TO AN EARTHQUAKE.

The persistent rains of the monsoon in Southwest Asia have resulted in unprecedented floods in Kerala, India, wreaking havoc and causing the death of hundreds of people. There were 39 reservoirs affected, bursting their floodgates for the first time in history and leaving more than 85,000 people homeless.



In Indonesia, a strong earthquake struck the island of Lombok, causing the death of around 500 people and leaving thousands injured and homeless in need of water, food, medicines and shelter. The earthquake, of magnitude 6.9 on the Richter scale, destroyed thousands of houses, churches, shopping areas and schools.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is at the forefront of the humanitarian aid, thanks to the direct action of the SSVP of India and Indonesia and the coordination of the International General Council.

More information at www.ssvpglobal.org

Bank account of the International Solidarity Fund (FIS):

Account owner/Nom du bénéficiaire/Nombre del beneficiario:

CONFEDERATION INTERNLE STE ST VINCENT DE PAUL CONSEIL GENERAL.

Bank Name/ Nom de la banque/Nombre del banco:

CIC – CREDIT INDUSTRIEL ET COMMERCIAL – CIC PARIS BAC

Branch/ Agence/ Sucursal: **CIC PARIS BAC**

Address / Adresse / Direccion: **CIC PARIS BAC –2 boulevard Raspail – 75007 Paris – France**

BIC/SWIFT: **CMCIFRPP**

Bank code/ Code banque/Codigo del banco: **30066**

Branch code/ Code agence/Codigo agencia bancaria: **10041**

Account number/ Numéro de compte: **00010581206**

IBAN : **FR614 8120 0105 4100 6100 3006 76**



The CIAD and its fundamental role in the development of the SSVP, and in emergency situations

THE CIAD, INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR AID AND DEVELOPMENT, IS A COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THAT MANAGES THE REQUESTS FOR FUNDING FOR THE SOCIETY'S PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD. ITS ACTION IS FOCUSED ON EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, REHABILITATION AFTER DISASTERS AND IN THE DEVELOPMENT, EXPANSION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE SOCIETY.

The CIAD is composed of 9 experienced Vincentians of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, from all continents. The role of the Commission is to review the projects requested by Conferences and Councils of the Society throughout the world and monitor the correct implementation as well as the progress of the projects.

For this, the Commission has the support of the international structure of the CG: the Territorial Vice Presidents and the Zone Coordinators use their knowledge of local realities, both in socio-economic aspects as in the Vincentian ones, and the Coordinators of Special Projects provide technical expertise in the management of the SSVP initiatives.

The action of the CIAD is normally financed by donations from the National / Superior Councils, mainly in response to requests for assistance after major disasters. In some cases, the CIAD has received funding from external donors.

Some information about the CIAD:

The CIAD distributed more than 2 million euros to 47 countries between 2016 and 2017. This money financed 30 emergency interventions, 32 projects of rehabilitation after catastrophes, 11 development projects and 5 actions to strengthen the SSVP.

Nearly 95% of these funds were used for emergency aid, especially for rehabilitation after disasters. Most of the work of the CIAD has focused on projects of reconstruction and education, being the main projects located in Haiti (in collaboration with the Vincentian Family), Philippines, Lebanon and Nepal. Other actions were undertaken on a more modest scale in Madagascar, Burundi, Syria, Iraq, and other countries around the world.

One of the main challenges for the CIAD is the financing. Although the funds are usually available in the event of major disasters thanks to the great generosity and solidarity of the Vincentians from around the world (especially for those that are known through the media, since the CIAD respects the purpose for which the funds from donors are given), this is not the case of lesser-known catastrophes or other objectives of the CIAD, like sustainable development and the expansion and strengthening of the SSVP. A major challenge for 2018 and beyond is the strengthening and the search for new sources of funding.

Some examples of the CIAD's work

Burkina Faso

Vocational training for orphans

Total budget: 7,494 \$

Type of Project: Vocational training

Beneficiaries: 10 orphans

Burkina Faso has 29 Conferences spread all over the country; they finance their projects thanks to the contributions from their members and fundraising campaigns. In addition, it has the support of

twinned conferences, the Superior Council of France and the International General Council, among others.

The Conference of Goughin identified 10 orphans living in extreme poverty, without support, to which they provided training to become a mechanic of motorbikes, as well as other training courses. Upon finishing their training, they are offered a toolkit so they can begin to work. This Project opens a path of reintegration to young people through work, and allows them to regain their lives. To date all the young people who started the training process continue with responsibility in this SSVP project.



Nepal

Reconstruction after the Earthquake

Total budget: 772,000 €

Type of project: Rebuilding houses and drinking water pipeline.

Beneficiaries: 300 families

The devastating earthquakes that occurred in Nepal, on 25th April and 12th May 2015 (and a series of aftershocks which lasted more than a month) cost the life of 8,844 people, leaving 20,000 injured, and destroying completely about 600,000 houses.

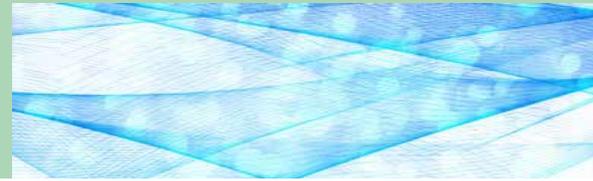
From the first days after the disaster, the members of the SSVP were on the ground, providing emergency assistance with the urgent support of the CIAD, bringing food and blankets to hundreds of people. An SSVP report shows that the relief reached about 1,000 families, also handing out kits of basic needs.

Subsequently, the SSVP worked in coordination with the government and the NGOs present in the country to carry out a long-term programme. The local authorities, who have a strict monitoring of the rehabilitation operations, recommended the SSVP to work under the supervision of Caritas Nepal and to limit its action to rebuilding houses.

Thanks to the generosity of the Vincentians all over the world, a program of 772,000 € was developed to build 300 houses and rehabilitate the system of drinking water in the area.

The houses have been built by local workers, with the help of the beneficiaries and the Vincentians, using specific techniques to make buildings earthquake-proof. This Project was completed in March 2018, after 2 years of hard work.





The General Council congratulates the 12th President General, Amin de Tarrazi



The international Vincentian community is celebrating the anniversary of our dear fellow member Bro. Amin André de Tarrazi, 12th President General of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (1981-1993). On July 20, our brother Amin de Tarrazi celebrated his 90th birthday. “We wish to our fellow member Amin plenty of health and energy to continue in the work of the Lord and in the Vincentian cause”, said the 16th President General, Bro. Renato Lima de Oliveira.

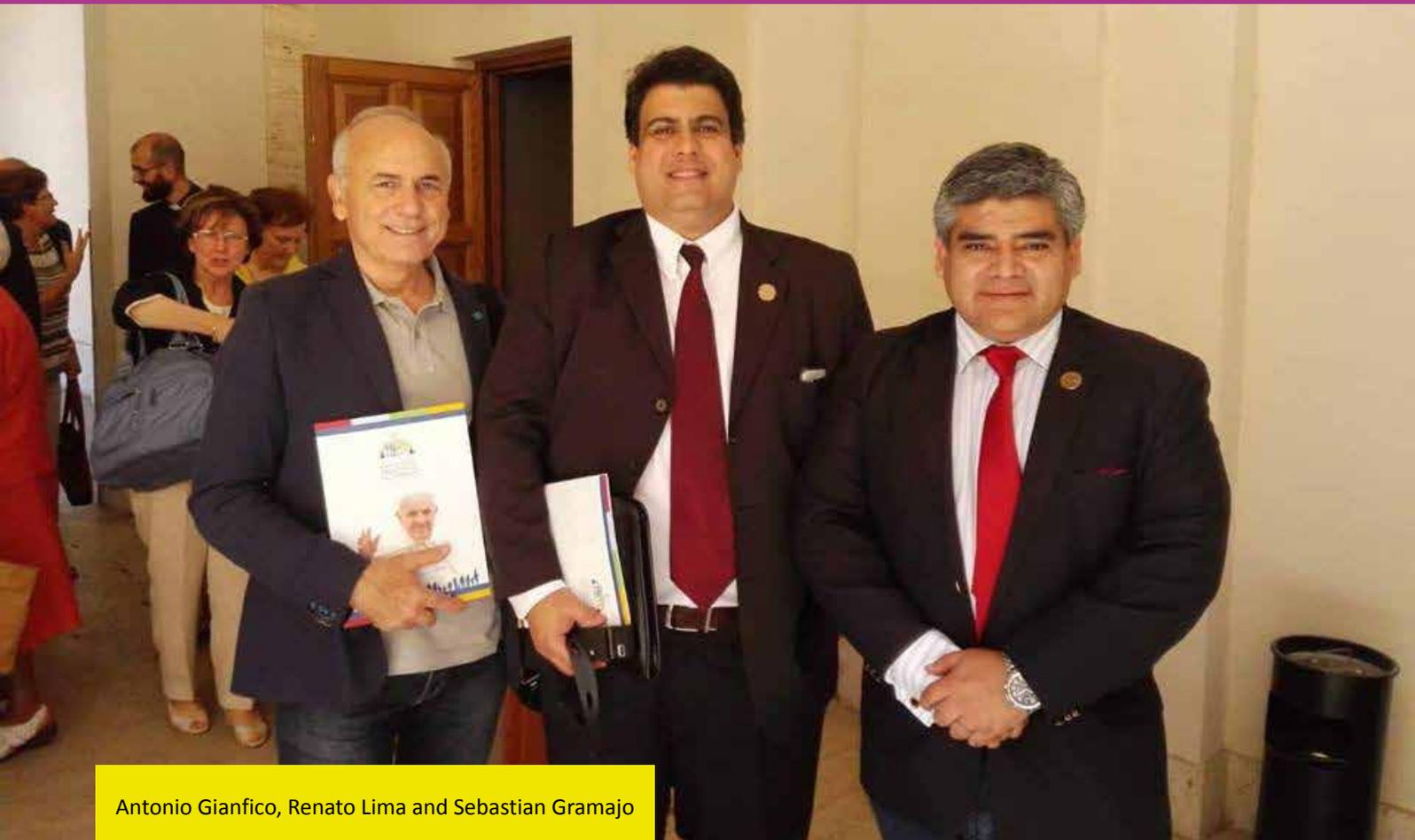
Amin de Tarrazi was born in 1928 in the town of Neuilly-sur-Seine, France. His academic training is enviable: Law, Political Science, Literature and Philosophy. He is a polyglot (he speaks, reads and writes in four languages: English, German, Italian and Arabic). Throughout his professional life, he worked in large companies linked to the sector of transports and oil refineries. He has received numerous awards and public honours, among which is the “Order of St. George” from the Vatican.

Amin joined the SSVP in 1948, at the age of 20, occupying different Vincentian functions in the areas of training, youth, communication and administration. He was also President of the National Council of France. Amin is one of the most competent custodians of documents, writings and books in the General Council, as well as the “Letters of Ozanam” and other historical documents of the SSVP.

Currently, our brother Amin works in the General Council on two strategic fronts: UNESCO and the Special Commission for the canonization of Ozanam. The activity of the President Amin is well known in the efforts for the Canonization of Ozanam, being a tireless propagator of this Cause. The beatification of Ozanam in 1997 is a direct product of his effective action before the ecclesiastical authorities in Rome, in addition to the prayers of all the Vincentians.

We send our sincere congratulations to our dear friend and fellow member Amin André de Tarrazi. “Amin, you are God’s gift to SSVP!”, stated the President Renato Lima.





Antonio Gianfico, Renato Lima and Sebastian Gramajo

Visit to Rome of the 16th President General Renato Lima

ON 19TH JUNE, THE PRESIDENT GENERAL LEFT THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MEETING IN SALAMANCA (SPAIN) TO TRAVEL TO ROME, IN ORDER TO KEEP DIFFERENT MEETINGS WITH THE DICASTERY FOR THE LAITY, FAMILY AND LIFE, WITH THE COMMISSION FOR THE CANONIZATION OF FREDERIC OZANAM AND WITH THE RELIGIOUS OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.

1

PRESENTATION IN THE DICASTERY FOR THE LAITY, FAMILY AND LIFE.

This new Dicastery of the Holy See is presided over by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, who held a meeting of ecclesial movements under the topic “the young, faith and vocation discernment”. The first speaker was the SSVP and our President Renato Lima referred, as a final reflection, to what has been lived in Salamanca; “At this meeting I could see that the young, who have come from all parts of the world, have something in common: their faith and their commitment to serve the excluded of society, which is summed up in one of the sentences of the main founder of the Society of St. Vincent of Paul, Frederic Ozanam, forerunner of the social teaching of the Church, beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II : “what can we do



OZANAM



Feast of the Blessed Frederic Ozanam

The Catholic Church, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) and the Vincentian Family have just celebrated, like every 9th September, the feast of the blessed Antoine Frederic Ozanam, main founder of the SSVP, whose liturgical date was established by the Vatican.

When we think of the blessed F. Ozanam, we must always highlight his far-sighted approach and the witness to the Christian faith through works of charity, as our Lord Jesus Christ taught us to love and serve those most in need.

For this reason, the International General Council always remembers the Conferences and Councils around the world that promote the formidable figure of Ozanam in all SSVP events and in the media. Similarly, the CGI always encourages the fellow members to participate in his liturgical feast, asking the priests to include these three intentions

in the celebration:

- for the memory of the Blessed Antoine Frederic Ozanam, as an example of a layman active in the life of the Church.
- for the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul throughout the world.
- for the people assisted by the Conferences and Special Works all over the world.

As stated by the 16th President General of the SSVP, our fellow member Renato Lima de Oliveira, in the current mandate of the International General Council we are making all possible efforts to accelerate the procedures for the canonization of Frederic Ozanam, for this reason, and “to obtain the grace of a new miracle, we need to be devout followers of Ozanam, trusting his intercession and including him in our daily prayers”.

PRAYER FOR THE CANONISATION OF BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM

In the hope of obtaining a miracle through his intercession

Lord,

You made Blessed Frédéric Ozanam a witness of the Gospel, full of wonder at the mystery of the Church.

You inspired him to alleviate poverty and injustice and endowed him with untiring generosity in the service of all who were suffering.

In family life, he revealed a most genuine love as a son, brother, husband and father.

In secular life, his ardent passion for the truth enlightened his thought, writing and teaching.

His vision for our society was a network of charity encircling the world and he instilled St Vincent de Paul's spirit of love, boldness and humility.

His prophetic social vision appears in every aspect of his short life, together with the radiance of his virtues.

We thank you Lord, for those many gifts and we ask, if it is your will, the grace of a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

May the Church proclaim his holiness, as a saint, a providential light for today's world!

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



Léonard de Corbiac
en collaboration avec Magdeleine Houtssey

**CORRESPONDANCE
FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM
ET AMÉLIE SOULACROIX**



Poemas, oraciones y notas íntimas

Correspondence between Frederic Ozanam and Amélie Soulacroix

An edition of the correspondence between Amélie Soulacroix and Frederic Ozanam has been published, which is available through Amazon under its title in French: “Correspondance Frédéric Ozanam et Amélie Soulacroix”, that brings together, in a single volume, the two voices of the couple, the unpublished letters of Amélie, and those of Frederic, already published

The author of this work is Léonard de Corbiac - Priest of the community of Saint-Martin, vicar in the parish of Biarritz, who dedicated his academic works to the memory of Frederic Ozanam and, especially, of Amélie Soulacroix.

We know Frederic Ozanam as the main founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the servant of Truth, the defender of social issues, but we rediscover the man, the lover, the father, the scholar, the poet, a simple man but with great eloquence.

Amélie was almost unknown to us. This correspondence brings out of shadow a woman beloved by her simplicity and naturalness, amazing for what she reveals of herself, but also for her relationship with Frederic, the true companion with whom she made the journey toward holiness.

Beyond this intimate look that illuminates the most secret aspect of a public man, we discover their conjugal love, without being indiscreet. As Xavier Lacroix writes: “what Frederic and Amélie express is so beautiful, but above all so true and just, that somehow it does not belong to them anymore. The real is universal. It voices a truth of the human being in every one of us”.

Special Commission for the study of the SSVP logo

During the last Annual Meeting of the SSVP held in Salamanca, this June 2018, the creation of a “Special Commission for the study of the SSVP logo” was approved. This Commission has two main objectives: on one hand, the need to modernize the existing logo, providing a handbook about how to use it; and on the other hand, to study the difficulties for its implementation in some SSVP countries.

This Commission will be composed of a representative from each of the following countries: United States, Brazil, France, Italy, Nigeria and Australia, and it will have the participation of members of the Communication Commission of the CGI.

It is expected that this Commission will report about its work during the SSVP International Annual Meetings of 2020, which predictably will take place in Nairobi - Kenya, in June of that year.



New book about the Bl. Frederic Ozanam

Weaving the work of God

Intended for spiritual, personal or group reflection, it contains a careful selection of texts by Bl. Frederic Ozanam.

This book, made by Francisco Javier Fernández Chento (editor of “Correspondence of Frederic Ozanam” and International Coordinator for Communication of the Vincentian Family in Famvin_Es) helps us to grow in faith and in the Vincentian charisma through a collection of texts of the Blessed, carefully chosen, which come from his already known correspondence, but also from his academic and journalistic works.

In his preface, the current Spiritual Adviser of the International General Council, Father Robert Maloney C.M., extols the quality of this work, stating that “few materials are as enriching as this book”, encouraging at the same time all members of the SSVP to use it as a “source of lifelong learning”.

The book, published in Spanish, is available at Amazon, but information about it can also be requested through the web-form of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Spain: www.ssvp.es

P. Robert Maloney C.M.
Spiritual Advisor CGI

OZANAM'S FINAL DAYS

FREDERIC'S WIFE AMELIE WROTE DOWN HER IMPRESSIONS OF HIS DYING DAYS CAREFULLY. IT MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIBLY PAINFUL FOR HER TO RECOGNIZE THAT HIS LIFE WAS COMING TO AN END. HE STILL SEEMED SO YOUNG TO HER, JUST 40. THEIR DAUGHTER MARIE WAS ONLY EIGHT. AMELIE HERSELF WOULD LIVE ON FOR ANOTHER 41 YEARS; MARIE WOULD LIVE ON INTO THE 20TH CENTURY. AMELIE'S NOTES MERIT MEDITATION, ESPECIALLY SINCE "FINAL DAYS" FORM PART OF ALL OF OUR LIVES. LET ME SUGGEST THESE THREE POINTS:

1.- Frederic spent his last days listening to God, especially as God spoke to him through the scriptures. Amelie states that Frederic "was constantly living in the presence of God." Earlier in his life, he had struggled to believe. Now, in his later years, his trust in God's presence and providence was strong. She attests that each morning while he rested in Italy in an attempt to regain his health, Frederic read Sacred Scripture from his Greek (ever the scholar!) bible, "annotating all the passages relating to illness and composing a book for sick people." She tells us what a joy it was to listen to him as he spoke about the scriptures, even though his body was "completely swollen" and though he was upset at how "very tired he became." She states that, loving life, "he poured out to God his great sadness in prayers too beautiful and strengthening to be hidden from view."

2.- He felt peace.

In the evenings they used to sit on the balcony, watch the sun set, and count the boats on the sea. One evening, when she asked him what God's greatest gift was, "he said it

was peace in the heart." He added that, without peace, we could "possess everything and still not be happy," but, with peace, "we could bear the most difficult sufferings and the approach of death." Amelie noted that Frederic had always had a great fear of God's judgment, "but, near the end of his life, this fear gave way to an amazing calm and great confidence in God's mercy." One day a priest encouraged him to have confidence in God. Frederic replied, "Why should I fear God? I love him so much!" Amelie wrote: "The restlessness of an ardent spirit gave way to calm; and peace of heart, the sweetest gift which God can give to any of his creatures, was the reward which his entire sacrifice awaited."

3.- He was grateful to his friends.

Throughout his life, Frederic, like many other saints, had the gift of friendship. He thought of Amelie as his closest friend and, shortly before his death, said to her, "I thank you for all the consolations you have given me." He kept up a lively correspondence with numerous other friends even as his strength ebbed. As he became resigned to dying,

he was especially grateful that the prayers of his friends accompanied him. His letters to those closest to him were warm and positive in tone. Just two months before his death, he concluded a lengthy letter, "Goodbye, my dear friend. There is space left only to embrace you tenderly." To another friend, he wrote: "Goodbye. Please give all those around you my regards, my best wishes, my friendship, and be sure of my tender affection." Friends were an integral part of his life. Thinking of Frederic, I am reminded of the words of Shakespeare, "Those friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, grapple them unto thy soul with hoops of steel."

... without peace, we could "possess everything and still not be happy," but, with peace, "we could bear the most difficult sufferings and the approach of death."

Vincent de Paul lived twice as long as Frederic did. Toward the end of his life, he encouraged his followers to be aware of death as an inevitable reality. Everyone must face it. He told them, "For the last eighteen years I have never gone to bed without preparing myself to appear before God that very night." Frederic learned that lesson well. Like Vincent, he lived life to the full and gave himself peacefully to God.

World Youth Days and Gathering of the Vincentian Youth Panama 2019



In January 2019, Panama will host the next World Youth Days and, as a tradition, the week before it is for the young people of the Vincentian Family, the “Gathering of the Vincentian Youth”, which aimed to prepare our young people to live, from the charisma, to this celebration of the Catholic youth from all parts of the world.

The Vincentian Family is working on the organization of the Vincentian Youth Gathering, which will take place in the Rev. Lowell David camp, from 18th to 21st of January 2019. This place is located in the province of Western Panama, in the District of San Carlos, located two hours from the Panamanian capital.

For information and ways of accreditation of the Vincentian groups, a Facebook page has been created, EJV Panamá, in which it is possible to contact the organizing group and know the formalities to participate in these Vincentian days prior to the World Youth Days Panama 2019.

With respect to the WYD Panama 2019, which will take place from 22nd to 27th January, the information can be obtained from its Facebook profile, @jornadamundialdelajuventud, or through the web site www.panama2019.pa.

The motto of the WYD Panama 2019 is “Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it done unto me according to Thy word” (Lk 1,38) and their patron saints: St. John Bosco, St. John Paul II, St. Joselito, St. Juan Diego, St. Rosa de Lima, St. Martín de Porres, Bl. Romero Meneses, and Bl. Oscar Romero.”



Gathering of the Vincentian Youth

18th to 21st of January 2019
Rev. Lowell David camp
Panamá



22nd to 27th January - Panama 2019
World Youth Days

Finding Vincent 400

FINDING VINCENT 400 (FV400), IS A CONTEST AND FESTIVAL INSPIRED IN THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH ST. VINCENT DE PAUL'S CHARISMA IN THE SERVICE TO THE POOR, AND WHICH WILL BE BASED IN CASTEL GANDOLFO, ITALY, FROM 18TH TO 21ST OCTOBER 2018.

Finding Vincent is part of the initiative of the Vincentian Family on the globalization of charity. Its mission is to advocate for the narrators of the 21st century who challenge the public with films that change our perspective on poverty in our communities, and wake up the imagination, sharing the Charisma through a creativity inspired in the Vincentian Mission of globalizing charity.

For further information:
fv400.com



International Conference of the Famvin Homeless Alliance

THE BODY OF THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY INSPIRED BY THE MISSION OF SERVING THE HOMELESS, FAMVIN HOMELESS ALLIANCE, WILL HELD AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ROME FROM 26TH TO 28TH NOVEMBER, WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD.



This Conference will have the presence of Vincentian experts in the group of homeless people and is intended to be a forum of training and debate to work for improving the life and the situation of our brothers and sisters who, for very different reasons, live in the streets or are displaced from their homes.

For further information: vfhomelessalliance.org



SPAIN

More than 10 years defending life



Since 2007, the Vincentian members of the Conference “Nuestra Señora del Carmen” in the city of Ciudad Real have long been helping pregnant women in situations of extreme need, defending their rights to be mothers and birth of their children.

The **Support Programme for Pregnant Women** offers an assistance throughout the pregnancy, providing them social, psychological and material help; it also gives them basic and occupational training and it seeks to ensure a change in their attitudes and habits thus improving their self-esteem and quality of life. Why this support? Because motherhood is a fundamental right of women, which must be lived with joy, calmness and hope.

This Conference defends the right to life because they believe **that abortion is a huge tragedy:**

FOR THE CHILD who is not to be born. He is deprived of the first right which is life.

FOR THE WOMAN, to whom abortion was presented as a right, but she has not been explained the consequences, the terrible consequences of the post abortion syndrome for many years, nor has she been informed about the existing alternatives.

FOR THE SOCIETY, which is constantly deprived of important links because **“we are not the casual and senseless product of evolution. Each of us is the result of a thought of God.”**

The profile of the women who are supported by this SSVP Project:

- Young
- Single mothers without resources
- Having other children in their charge
- In need of employment.

The society of St. Vincent de Paul collaborates with **pro-life** entities, looking after and informing about abortion all those women who need information about: what is an abortion, the consequences of an abortion, how it is practiced and, mainly, the existing alternatives.

More than one decade saving lives:

Since 2007, when the Conference “Nuestra Señora del Carmen” was founded and it began its work in favour of life, the fellow members have achieved to:

- Assist in the birth of 189 children whose mothers had an appointment at an abortion clinic, in Ciudad Real.
- Support during pregnancy and the subsequent breastfeeding 697 women who had the intention or considered abortion and that finally had their children



Information Stand in support of life of the Conference ‘Our Lady of Carmen’.

thanks to subsidies provided by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This involves multiple interviews and support, intervention of Social Services, trips to the locations in which these women live.

- Help 779 other pregnant women that, without wanting to have an abortion, have requested our help in the SSVP for different issues (clothing and footwear, food and material for the baby), administrative formalities (curriculum, social reports and going with them to various institutions and administrations).
- Run and coordinate SSVP shelter apartments that have accommodated 18 women and 21 children. These flats offer all the comforts of a home, so that the mothers can have a quiet pregnancy and remain with their children during the first months of breastfeeding.
- Help more than 2,600 families with batches of food.
- Distribute clothes to more than 1,700 children
- Collect and hand out toys to more than 1,500 families.

Since the abortion law came into force in 1985, more than one million abortions have taken place in Spain. In 2004, the last year of which we have official data, almost 85,000 abortions were performed in Spain, i.e. an abortion every 6.2 minutes, making abortion the main cause of death in Spain. For this reason, the work of the Conference “Nuestra Señora del Carmen” is commendable and reminds us, Vincentians all over the world, the need to protect life, starting with the most destitute, those who still have not had the opportunity to be born.

U.S.A

“Uniforms for children”



SSVP The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Baton Rouge, United States, was founded in this region in 1865. For more than 20 years, they have been helping a lot of families; they are providing school uniforms so that children of families with fewer opportunities could begin the school year in the best possible conditions.

To this end, and in association with other entities, they have the target of getting 25,000 school uniforms. The neighbours of this area can provide grants for the purchase of these uniforms or they can donate those they have in their homes in good condition. For \$24, a child can receive a batch of school clothes for the entire school year.

The SSVP of this area works in an environment of 12 parishes that have a child poverty ranging from 40% to more than 90%, so this aid is crucial for thousands of families that are immersed in poverty.

For the SSVP of Baton Rouge “uniforms do not break the circle of poverty on their own, they simply are a good start for many families because access to education is the key that opens the door to new opportunities”.

For further information about this project and the SSVP in Baton Rouge:
<https://svdpbr.org>





Dominican Republic

Vincentians Making Systemic Change a Reality



In many cities and towns in the Caribbean, vendors on three-wheeled bicycles are seen selling fruits, vegetables, ice cream or a variety of other items to tourists and natives in order to make a meager living.

In the Council of the Dominican Republic such is the case. However, many if not most of these vendors do not own their bicycles and have to rent them by the week making their net profits (if any) very small.

With a \$6,000 grant from the Council of Canada, the Superior Council of the Dominican Republic was able to purchase 25 of these bicycles with locks and chains for about \$240 each. Through an application

process, the vendors signed an agreement to repay this microloan and were given each a bike complete with the stock of the items they each sell. The payments have been so successful, the Society was able to purchase an additional 7 bicycles. Of the 32 bicycles distributed only 3 have defaulted.

With personal ownership of the vending bicycles, the net weekly profit is significantly increased.

Rice Farming for the Poor



In the small town of Bonao, Dominican Republic, the Society owns a vast rice farm that produces over 100,000 pounds of rice each year. Of that total, 30% is given directly to the poor. Another 30% support the charitable works of the conferences in that Zone (Region), 30% goes to production costs and the remaining 10% is given to the Superior Council.

The Superior Council of the Dominican Republic has a total of 65 conferences with another 6 in formation. Those conferences are supported by 6 Zones (Regional Councils) on the island. The rice farm has been so successful that the Society in the D.R. plans to expand the effort into all six zones.



Members of the local Conferences (on the left). The third to the right is the president of the Superior Council of the Dominican Republic, Fausto Bautista; the second is Edmund Keane, CGI's representative before the United Nations in New York, and the last one on the right is Michael Nizankiewicz, SSVP Territorial Vice president for America 1.



II SSVP International Youth Meeting



UPDATED FIGURES

- Young participants 120
- Represented Countries 100
- Presentations 6
- International videoconference with 130 participants from 38 different countries

COMMITMENTS MADE

- Study per region for the preparation of the International Youth Handbook
- Closer collaboration of the territorial coordinators with the National Councils and their respective Coordinators
- Making videoconferences through the territorial coordination
- Participation of the SSVP in VIYM and in Panamá 2019 WYD
- Holding the International Youth Meeting every 5 years in the city of Salamanca
- Distribution of material for the training and formation of the youth
- The aim is to reach 30% of young people of the SSVP, aged between 18 and 35, in 2022
- Implementation of the Vincentian Exchange Project in 2019
- Implementation of the Project of Internship at the IGC, in 2019

POINTS TO HIGHLIGHT IN THE MEETING

- Granting of the Apostolic Blessing of Pope Francis to the young participants
- Experience exchange concerning the mission, reality and participation of the youth in the SSVP
- The Confessor William, in the name of the ICG, gave every young a relic of the Blessed Frederic Antoine Ozanam, as a model of layperson for the young, and so that the national coordinators find inspiration in Ozanam's work.
- Appointment, assumption and establishment of the International Youth Committee, by the 16th President General. Spreading of the SSVP throughout the city of Salamanca with the young Vincentians carrying the flags of their countries, showing to everybody the huge scope of the SSVP
- Reflection on the reality of the refugees and the way the SSVP works and helps different countries in this new world situation.



COMMENTS OF SOME OF THE YOUNG PARTICIPANTS:

Kathleen BRISSETTE – SSVP USA

“In one short week we became one big happy family – we ate together, prayed, played, danced, sang, and cleaned. We all faced struggles, either family, government, within the society and outside, most of us didn’t speak the same language, but all of our differences didn’t separate us, but brought us closer together - but we all have the same mission and love for the Lord and the Poor. It was a week of growing in friendship and in passion for the mission. I will treasure the memories and the people forever. We are all determined to stay in touch and help each other and their groups in whatever ways we can, because we know that together, our network of charity, can help change the world. I can’t wait to see everyone again in 5 years at the 3rd Annual International Youth Gathering!”



Richard NUTSUGLO ZISSE – SSVP Ghana

“ I rediscovered what it means to be responsible and to make the right decision in favor of my neighbour. This meeting enlightened my conscience: with love and serve we can overcome all forms of poverty. In showing love I am never alone but become part of the universal family that speaks and understands the language of love”.

Hannah O’NEIL – SSVP Escocia

“Having returned from the Second International Meeting of SSVP Youth and given time to reflect I am very optimistic about the future of the Society in Scotland. Over the course of the meeting I was able to speak with many who run their National Youth Programs and was able to form ideas for how the Youth work in Scotland can progress. The ability to meet with people from all over the world was an incredible experience, I have made friendships I hope to build upon in the future as we continue to grow in our Vincentian friendship. The times of prayer at the meeting were very encouraging, to see other youth Catholics turn to God for His guidance and strength so that our work can bear much fruit. ”





Juanma - SSVP España

“The Meeting in Salamanca has been a great experience for me and a great help to become aware of other groups around the world and to hear their experiences and activities carried out, in order to have more ideas and materialize them in my group. I have met wonderful people and I have enjoyed myself, although the last day was a bit sad because we were leaving and we had to bid farewell to those people with whom we had shared everything”.



Irena GORRICA - SSVP Albania

“Young people are the lips of the conference. In this meeting I have felt myself a true vincentian and I realized that the kilometers are not enough to join other young people in the world, suffices only a common purpose “CHARITY”.”



Jayleen NAKAMURA - SSVP Chuuk (Micronesia)

“We all came to Salamanca as Young People each with his and her own language and cultural background. As we settled, the journey then began. We made friends, we shared delicious food, we shared clothes, tears and laughter, and shopped together. We shared ideas, learned from great speakers, witnessed the best sermon, exchanged gifts and danced, sang and prayed together, took hundreds of snapshots of everything done, did our best to communicate using google translate- rode a train for the first time for some of us, and even experienced how it is like to wake up in the morning and smell indescribable aroma of roses floating through the windows. As a matter of fact, and, in true essence, we became one FAMILY speaking the same language of LOVE! One thing, though, that was most humbling in all of these, was having the same heart and passion through faith in Jesus by caring for the poor. I am and will always grateful that I have been given the opportunity to attend to this SSVP meeting in Salamanca. It was such a unique experience! “



Hetekpo Pascal GBENAGNON - Togo

“The Salamanca meeting was very rich because it included all aspects: spirituality, training, exchange of experiences, friendship, discoveries...”

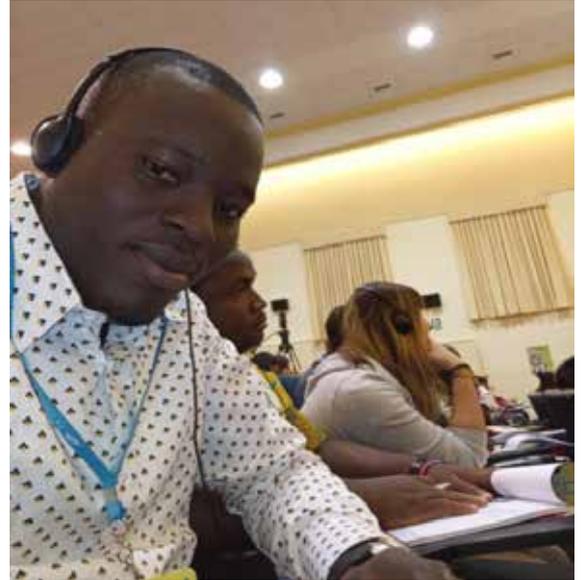
We were supported by the fundamentals of our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, Frederic Ozanam and his companions and, above all, by our mission. Being young, we are Ozanam’s mirror, the actors of the present and future of the SSVP. Charity consists of thinking in our neighbour, in living true love, in overflowing with love to give it to others.

At the end of this Meeting, we faced up the challenge that the SSVP could be made of more than 30% of young. I intend to meet this challenge through these four points:

- Feeling of community
- Strategy
- Courage
- Prayer

Long live the SSVP and long live the Vincentian youth!

Let us continue the dream of Frederic Ozanam and let us share it with those around us “



Edgarnilson Ceita Lourenço – SSVP Santo Tomé y Príncipe

“The II International Youth Congress of the SSVP, in Salamanca, was undoubtedly a success where young leaders from the five continents could further revitalize the work started by our seven co-founders, especially Frederic Ozanam.

On the subject “The Young Vincentian as the main actor of the present and future of the SSVP”, all the talks, moments of prayer and reflection, group works, pictures, videos and much more, made me leave this wonderful Gathering enriched and better prepared to serve the Vincentian Family. All of it assuming the commitment of being a ‘fisher of young people’

so that the SSVP could grow in unity and brotherhood, always in the hope of a better world”.



Laekwang PARK – SSVP Corea del Sur

“It was so impressive to see different countries, cultures, and languages getting together under the name of Vincent. And I used to think that I only care about Korea as a representative of Korea, but I learned through this meeting that I should care about poor brothers and sisters from all over the world as a representative of one country”.



Danielle el CHEMALY – SSVP Líbano

“It was a great experience for me. I met some inspiring new leaders and I hope that we will change all our goals and dreams to action plans in order to spread the real Vincentian mission! ”.

Willian Alves – of the Youth International Committee

“We have needed 2 years to prepare this meeting, a real dream come true. I have counted at all times on the help of four young members (Renata, Leonardo, Markinhos and Sabrina) who I want to praise, and I want to thank God for their always being next to me, in the happiest moments and, above all, in the most difficult ones. I wish to express my gratitude to broth-

er Renato, our friend and president general of the SSVP, who has shown a great trust in the young and has given the SSVP worldwide a huge gift with the appointment of the 12 territorial coordinators that will support me from now on in the Youth International Committee. We are friends at the service of the young. We know that we could have included more items in the programme, but everything we did in those days was special and it was prepared with much love and

dedication. It was only a step on the long journey ahead, and there will be many more opportunities to promote the leading role of the young in the SSVP. The Salamanca meeting was just the beginning. I thank all the National / Superior Councils that have contributed and supported the young so that they could be present there. My dear young friends, we are the ‘Ozans’ of the 21st century. Let us have the leading role in the present and future of the SSVP.”





THE YOUNG AND THE BUILDING OF THE KINGDOM: VINCENTIAN QUALITIES

PATRICIA ONUOHA
SSVP National Secretary for Youth
Representative of Nigeria in Salamanca, Spain, 2018

Do not let anyone belittle you for being young. On the contrary, may your word, your behaviour, your love, your faith and your clean proceed make you a model for believers. (1 TIM. 4:12)

“When you wonder about the mystery of yourselves, look at Christ, who will give meaning to your life. When you ask yourself what means to be a mature person, look at Christ, who is the fullness of humanity. And when you wonder about your role in the future of the world, look to Christ. Only in Christ you will realize your potential as a citizen of the world community”.
Pope St. John Paul II

What does it mean to be young? Is it worth keeping the enthusiasm of the young? Do I consider myself useful in the community, group or society to which I belong? Do I have qualities for helping others? Is it time to act? The young, we make ourselves these and many other questions, wishing to contribute positively to improve life in society. Youth is an early period of existence, growth and development of ideas, plans, etc.

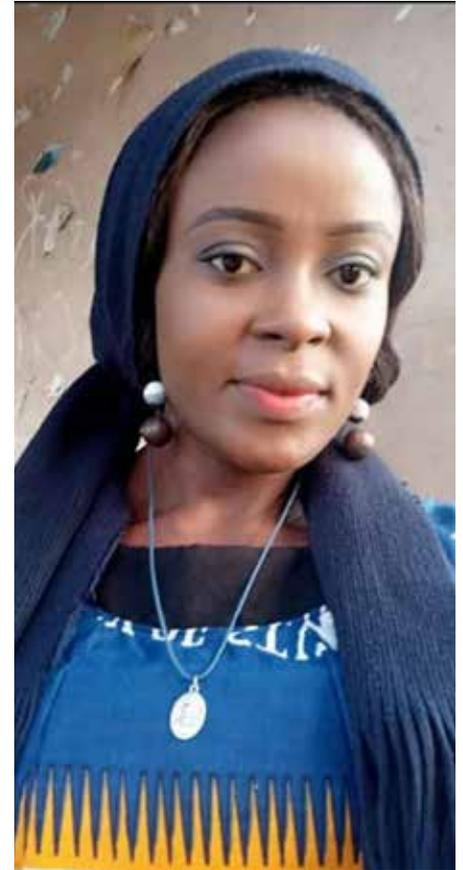
In this context, a young vincen-tian as such is a faithful of the Roman Catholic Church that loves the poorest and neediest in society, who helps and offers hope to our suffering brothers, causing changes in society in a fruitful manner. The historical background can be linked to the achievements of some remarkable young, apostles

and disciples of Jesus Christ who were called by God and discovered the need to engage in God’s work for the building of the Kingdom; the same qualities are applicable to our main founder, the Blessed Frederic Ozanam and his young companions, who showed with courage that burning zeal for sanctifying the souls through Christ.

In line with the Irish saying of “make hay while the sun shines”, suggesting that young people should take advantage of “having ideals in their youth because perhaps they won’t have them in old age”, I encourage my young fellow members of the SSVP to take advantage of time, of our treasures and our talents, especially at this time when science and technology are experiencing a great breakthrough.

Our Lord Jesus Christ already explained us this message in John 9:4, when he said: “I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night comes, when no man can work”. The Lord urges us, the believers, to stand firm in order to suppress any form of negative vice that derails the objectives of making the society progress, of building the Kingdom. The Vincentian youth, we are called to use our gifts to serve, to do good to others. We young people need to channel our minds to this positivity and rediscover the value of prayer for the sustainability of our goals and aspirations and thus, enable God to manifest when we carry out this task.

The vincen-tian youth is one of the pillars to ensure the healthy development of the society. A society, a country aspiring to fly



high, must understand that it can only achieve it if all hands are united in the pursuit of this purpose of contributing to the making of a fairer world in the eyes of God. We cannot be ashamed of being Christians, we have to be courageous now, in this time of persecution to Christians and in the midst of a godless society, as in times of Ozanam. What we have at stake is to keep up with this challenge, to know why we do this and to channel the way in which, from our Conference, we can better contribute to the construction of the Kingdom of God.

In conclusion, we still wonder how and when we can contribute. Now is the time, let us start with our example, presenting us as a model of good works.



Official Anthem of the International Gathering of the SSVP Youth – Salamanca 2018.

“YOUTH IN HOPE”

Today, we bear witness together to
Your word, for a better world,
My eyes are full of joy,
Because I am not afraid of falling silent.

I feel you, O Lord,
I can also hear your voice in his voice,
so strong that it pushes me to follow you.
In the poor, O Lord,
I see Your face, and Your love in his love,
And now I want to share this emotion.

CHORUS

Come on, lift your eyes up to heaven,
and you will see what I see,
together we will be able to fly.
Come on, join your hand to mine,
Faith, which is stronger when united,
is our vocation.

I find sense in his word,
weaving a network of charity.
I want freedom in my decisions,
because one can be both Catholic and real.

I feel you, O Lord,
I can also hear Your voice in his voice,
so strong that it pushes me to follow you.
In the poor, O Lord,
I see Your face, and Your love in his love,
And now I want to share this emotion.

CHORUS

Come on, lift your eyes up to heaven,
and you will see what I see,
together we will be able to fly.
Come on, join your hand to mine,
Faith, which is stronger when united,
is our vocation.

(Repeat 3 times, the second only clapping your hands)

See the official video of the Gathering of the SSVP Youth in:
<https://youtu.be/CbITB772tfo>





80th Anniversary of the Conference St. Lorenzo Martyr.

Visit of the SSVP International President General to Argentina

THE 16TH INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT GENERAL OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, BRO. RENATO LIMA DE OLIVEIRA, MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ARGENTINA FROM 1ST TO 3RD JUNE.

Upon arrival, he held an audience with the Archbishop of Buenos Aires and Primate of Argentina, Cardinal Mario Aurelio Poli, and immediately thereafter, he accommodated the media.

He continued with a visit to the city of Cordoba, where he was also received by the Auxiliary Bishop, Monsignor Pedro Torres and other public authorities.

Bro. Renato, always accompanied by members of Argentina's Super-

rior Council of the SSVP, among which was its National President, Celeste Godoy, and Sebastian Gramajo, 3rd Deputy Vice President General of the SSVP, visited the educational Institute "Amparo de Maria", which celebrates its 150 years of "service in hope". In this unique setting, our President General presented his book, "Passionate about charity and justice".

The International President General of the SSVP also visited the Basilica and National Sanctuary of Our Lady of Luján and

the fellow members of the Conference "San Lorenzo Mártir", in the town of Navarro, who were celebrating their 80th anniversary of Vincentian commitment.

The last act of his pleasant visit to Argentina was to participate in a Eucharist, presided by the National Advisor of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Fr. José Luis De Fina CM, which was celebrated on Sunday 3rd June, in the Sacred Heart Chapel of the neighborhood of "Constitución" involving numerous Vincentian institutions.



Audience with Cardinal Mario Poli



The IGP in Ireland. Meeting in Dublin

Visit of the International President General of the SSVP to England and Ireland

THE 16TH INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT GENERAL (IPG), OUR FELLOW MEMBER RENATO LIMA DE OLIVEIRA, MADE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ENGLAND AND IRELAND BETWEEN 24TH AND 30TH JUNE 2018.

The first part of the trip was in Ireland (from 24th to 27th June). Our President had the opportunity to visit 8 cities: Dublin, Belfast, Roscrea, Newry, Drogheda, Clonmel, Nenagh and Limerick. The SSVP in Ireland is made of 8 regions, 1,500 Conferences, 11,000 members, more than 100 Zone Councils and 220 stores called "Vincent's charity shops". These shops are a very important project not only because they provide people new or rarely used items at affordable prices, but also because they are a source of income for the Society. Furthermore, the SSVP in Ireland has a twinning with Zambia, in Africa.



Meeting with the Bishop of Leeds

Our brother Renato Lima has been very satisfied with the work made by our fellow members in Ireland; and he showed his satisfaction to Kieran Stafford, National President of SSVP Ireland since 7th June 2017. The main activity of the Conferences is the home

visit. Throughout his stay, our International President could visit many Councils and Conferences; he held meetings with the Vincentian Family, attended holy masses and visited many special works. Our President expressed his satisfaction with this visit, in which he

was accompanied by Larry Tuomey, our General Treasurer.

The journey continued in England (from 27th to 30th June). Our President visited Newcastle, Leeds and London. Our fellow member Helen O’Shea, the new National President who has only been six months in office, was recognized and encouraged by the IPG for her great job at the head of this service. He was positively surprised by the organization of the Vincentians in England, the books they have about prayer and spirituality, the good functioning of the Conferences (focused mostly on visiting the disadvantaged families, but also looking after sick and elderly people) and the Councils with a great strategic approach at national level.

In England we have 1,000 conferences, 10,000 members, 23 Central Councils, 100 Particular / Zone Councils and 45 “Vincent’s charity shops”.

Among their more interesting activities, the “Mini Vinnies’ is the highlight. It is a project that prepares children to be the Vincentians of the future, where children “receive the seed” that later will bear fruit. The work they carry out is fabulous, spiritual and entertaining; they make cards for people in need, they bake cakes for the elderly or help to tidy after class, among many other activities. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in England is really aware of the need to recruit new members in order to reduce the aging of the Conferences. Here, the President’s agenda was also very intense with numerous visits and official meetings, as well as enjoying an audience with the Rev. Bishop of Leeds,



Conference of Children in Newcastle, England

Marcus Stock and attending the Holy Mass.

President General states his gratitude to all the fellow members in Ireland and England, and in particular to their national Presidents, Kieran and Helen for the warm welcome, excellent hospitality and the close proximity that they have shown at all times.



Solidarity Shop in Leeds



Dublin, reception centre



Marie Noëlle Desbrosses

On 22 August 2018, our beloved sister Marie-Noëlle Desbrosses returned to God.

For many years, Marie-Noëlle was a conference leader, president of the Council of Paris's departmental council and Russian-language correspondent for the International General Council, where she willingly shared her skills and good humour with constant humility.

She served under the presidency of several French National Council presidents, including Gérard Gorcy and Jean Cherville. She also knew several International Council presidents, including Amin de Tarazzi, César Nunes Viana, José Ramón Torremocha and Michael Thio.

Thanks to Marie-Noëlle, there was regular correspondence with Eastern European countries. She helped set up several conferences in these countries, where she had many friends.

Committed to her faith and to serving the poorest of the poor, she also cared for sick members of her own family and did not neglect her friends. In this way, she gave a witness dear to every Vincentian's heart.

Marie-Noëlle spent most of her career as a secretary in the dictionary commission of the Académie Française. She therefore rubbed shoulders with the greatest names in literature, philosophy, poetry, science and politics. She was extremely reserved and did not open up much. Nevertheless, she had a rich fund of brilliant memories.

Marie-Noëlle also translated several documents and books from Russian. In recent years, she experienced health problems after the death of her husband and several members of her family. She lived in her house in Sèvres, although was unfortunately unable to enjoy the garden she had loved so much and its lovingly tended roses.

Dear Marie-Noëlle, many people mourn your passing and miss all the wonderful moments shared with you.

We entrust you to the all-loving, all-merciful Jesus, certain that God our Father will welcome you into his eternal peace and joy.

Rest in God, dear Marie-Noëlle.

Marie-Françoise Salesiani-Payet



MISSION

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

VISION 2022

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

Build a global network of spiritual and material support

4

Expansion

Presence in all countries

5

Vincentian Family

Permanent and deep collaboration

6

Solidarity

International and local partnerships

7

Global Aid

Revamp fraternal aid and development processes

8

Communications

Renew with the use of world-class technology

9

IGC structure

Constant search for accountability and efficiency

10

National Councils

Support to maximize effectiveness



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Ssvp-Conseil Général International

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