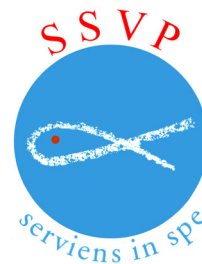
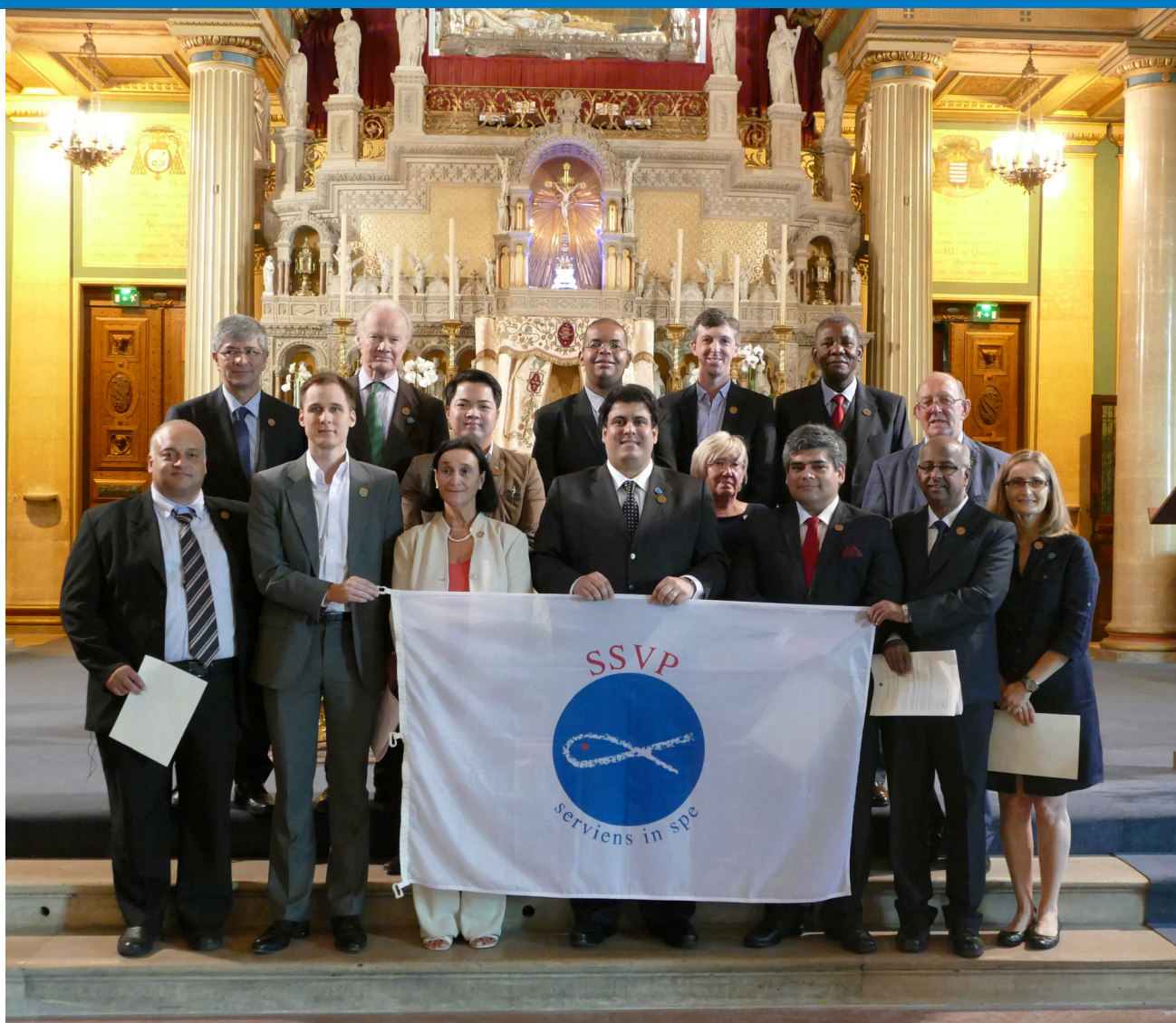


# International General Council NEWSLETTER



## *Special Edition - October 2016*



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# EDITO

My dear Vincentians from around the world,

We are truly happy to present to you the first edition of the Newsletter of the new board of the International General Council! The new term began on September 9th, 2016, after an installation ceremony of brother Renato Lima and his team, that was held in Paris, France. This ceremony was broadcasted live over the internet to give the opportunity for all our members to witness and participate as part of a global family.

In this issue, we are pleased to announce the lines of management and the profiles of our new leaders, who are undertaking important roles in the International Structure. Our team is truly multicultural as they come from different nations and continents. There is also an interview with our new President General that will help us get to know him better.

During our six-year term, we intend to streamline the General Council communications, enhancing the performance of the SSVP in various areas such as training and formation areas. Therefore, communication tools, social networks, and Vincentian information

vehicles are fundamental in this mission. We humbly request that the National Councils support our new Council in the dissemination of this newsletter, publishing it on the web page of each country, and if possible, sending it electronically to the Councils, Special Works and Conferences, so that every member is aware of the projects and initiatives of the International General Council. Finally, I want to thank our fellow Vincentians all over the world for praying for the success of the actions being taken by the new management of CGI.

The Board, for the 16th President General, Renato Lima de Oliveira

## Renato Lima de Oliveira took office on Friday September, 9th in Paris

The XVI International President of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, elected on June 5, took office Friday morning

September 9, 2016 during an installation ceremony held at the Chapel of Saint Vincent de Paul in Paris.



Succeeding Dr. Michael Thio, Renato Lima de Oliveira will lead the International Confederation of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul for a term of 6 years (2016-2022).

The ceremony was led by the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mis-

sion, Father Tomaz Mavrich, also newly elected. In addition to Dr. Michael Thio, outgoing President, two other former International Presidents have also addressed a message to Renato Lima de Oliveira.

The entire ceremony was broadcast by Ozanam.TV's team, (Web TV : [www.ozanam.tv](http://www.ozanam.tv)) the live broadcast is also available on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbXFlkWsQwE>

After the swearing in, the new International President has officially introduced the members of the International Board, composed of representatives from all 5 continents.



# President General's programme :

## 20 points for a 6 years term

<b>1. Spiritual life and holiness</b>	Strengthen the SSVP's nature as a global network of people seeking Holiness through a responsible commitment to those who live in deprivation and need.
<b>2. Training</b>	Stimulate, spread and modernise Vincentian Training (person-to-person and remote), by making training courses and materials available on the International Council General's website, covering various topics and in several languages.
<b>3. Youth</b>	Encourage actions for children, teenagers and young Vincentians, supporting any projects and initiatives for this; promote the 2nd International SSVP youth meetings (Salamanca 2018).
<b>4. Communications</b>	Add material to the CGI website. Publish an annual magazine in various languages as a marketing strategy for external audiences (Church, NGOs, private sector, universities, governments, etc.).
<b>5. Vincentian Family</b>	Add material to the CGI website. Publish an annual review in various languages as a marketing strategy for external audiences (Church, NGOs, private sector, universities, overnments, etc.).
<b>6. International Rule</b>	Include new features in the "Required conditions" section of the Rule, relating to the operation of Conferences and Particular Councils (Zone).
<b>7. General Ombudsman</b>	Create the position of GENERAL OMBUDSMAN to receive criticism, suggestions and comments about the work carried out within Council General.
<b>8. Internationalisation</b>	In partnership with Superior Councils, develop an expansion project to ensure the SSVP is present in every country in the world (with annual targets).
<b>9. Permanent Section</b>	Strengthen the role of the "Permanent Section" as a consultative body to provide institutional and technical support to the International President General in the decisionmaking process.
<b>10. Structure</b>	Strengthen the role of Zone Coordinators (within Territorial Vice-presidencies) and restructure CGI Commissions and Departments to reduce costs and increase efficiency.
<b>11. Languages</b>	Hold events and training sessions, bringing together Superior Councils in language groups, to share experience and best practice, as well as for initiatives relating to training, teaching, leadership and development.
<b>12. Founders</b>	Adopt the "Themed years" project between 2017 and 2022 (e.g.: "2017 – Lallier Year"; "2018 – Devaux Year; etc.), holding academic conferences and calls for papers to stimulate historical research about the founders.
<b>13. Aggregation and Institution</b>	Implement five-yearly review of Aggregations (of Conferences) and ten-yearly review of Institutions (of Councils).
<b>14. Circular letters</b>	Resume the annual "Circular Letters" written by the President General, a Vincentian tradition, issued in JANUARY each year.
<b>15. Partnership</b>	Incorporate Superior Councils into the Council General' decision-making process, through consultations and shared projects.
<b>16. Electronic media</b>	Broadcast Board meetings live over the internet (from Paris) as well as the June General meeting. Use video-conferencing to reduce travel and accommodation costs in Paris.
<b>17. Strategic planning</b>	Develop Strategic Planning 2017-2022, collaborating closely with Superior Councils.
<b>18. Institutional Cooperation and working agreements</b>	Develop working agreements and institutional cooperative partnerships with Médecins sans Frontières and the Red Cross among others, to make the work of the SSVP in case of natural disasters and tragedies more effective.
<b>19. Institutional support fund</b>	Provide economic help to Superior Councils in developing countries, to establish a minimum operational structure in order to improve coordination of the work in each country.
<b>20. Fraternal Aid and Development</b>	Expand social projects for combatting poverty throughout the world, strengthening the role of CIAD, and increasing partnerships with other entities of the Catholic Church.

# Getting to Know the New President General

*During his introduction in last September 2016, Renato Lima de Oliveira has been video interviewed by Alison Souto, (Ozanam TV brazilian webTV of the SSVP Brazil.*

**A.S: Brother Renato, what would you say that are your main characteristics as the new President of the International General Council? Who would you say you are as a vinctian?**

R.O: Everyone who knows me, already knows that I am the same person as I have always been. It doesn't mean that just because I became President General, I am better than any other Vincentian. I am the same person as a Vincentian, I regularly go to my conference, and attend the home visits. By the way, a president who doesn't attend visits neither goes to the meetings, can't be an example of leadership and hard work. Actually, I aspire to be a democratic president. We will bring our ideas and our vision, but obviously we will always approve anything in the board of directors in collegial spirit. Because that's how

the SSVP started. It started in collegial spirit. Answering to your initial question, I believe that my main characteristic as president, will be to work democratically.

**A.S: How did you start in SSVP?**

R.O: I was about sixteen years old, when I was presented to the SSVP, and it had a great impact on me since the first moment. Actually I started in SSVP, to occupy my free time on weekends. I was studying in Campinas-SP, and I didn't have much to do. My parents lived in Brasilia, but I wasn't able to go there all the time. To say the truth, what really motivated me at first, wasn't the charity itself, but the healthy occupation on weekends that I had. Although, when I started to do the visits, when I started to go on the conference, then I said to myself: "This is where I belong". So I can say that I am the son of the Vincentian youth movement, since 1986.

**A.S: Among so many works, what exactly marked you?**

R.O: I think that the presidency of

the conference was an extremely interesting time for me. Our group had twenty people in it, and we did a dismemberment, there were some resistances, but that's natural, when the group is too big sometimes people don't want to go out. But we were able to succeed with a lot of prayers, and hard work, managing to do the dismemberment of the conference, which was a fantastic experience for me. And then to preside over the Central Council with eight Particular Councils and with eighty Conferences. Had a fantastic team, aligned. And we could do several things. I think that to be president of the Conference and of the Central Council, helped me to get to this position where I find myself now.

**A.S: Brother, you have arrived to the presidency of the International General Council. You are a remarkable leadership. How did you accomplish all of that?**

R.O: I work for the CGI, making this volunteer work for ten years. I worked



eight years with Brother Michael and two years with Brother Torremocha. I believe that this really impacted when voting, during the elections. I already knew people and the departments, of all the areas. And that's why we presented now the new organization chart proposal to the Society, for the reason that we already had this experience before. I believe that this ten years journey in the General Council has prepared me for my current function. That much I honor.

**A.S: What was the decisive motivation that led you to dispute the election?**

R.O: This is an easy question. When I received the indication from Bangladesh and India, indicating my name, it was irrecusable. It was a very powerful emotion, because sometimes who is close to you is your friend, and it's important. But when you receive an indication from countries like Bangladesh and India, very distant countries from Brasil, recognizing in me a potenciality and a capability for this position, it's simply irrecusable. I couldn't ever say no to stick with this elective process.

**A.S: An election is made of several stages and moments. In the decisive day in Rome, what were your emotions?**

R.O: If it wasn't for my wife beside me, I wouldn't know where to go to. All the prayers I received, I actually felt the prayers that were made to me. I only felt this two times in my life, when my two children were born. I felt this prayer around me, this energy. This I felt in Rome. And it was my wife that held and helped me to reach the public and make the speech after the election. This was the strongest feeling, because I wouldn't be able to do it myself. I say it honestly, were really the hands of God, of the Holy Spirit, Saint Vincent, Ozanam, Baily and all who are praying for us in heaven.

**A.S: The challenges of a President of the International General Council is**

**similar to the size of the SSVp, which is in the entire world. How do you organize your agenda from this moment on?**

R.O: I'm oftenly asked this question. I was asked about it even when I was vice president for south america. The questions were: "How do you manage it? Twelve countries, you have your job and family. You pay your bills, take the children to school and go with your wife to the market". In other words, I think that God prepares us. All the vincentians. God comes to enable us. We promote the Poor, but God promotes us as well. Everytime we go to the poor's house, to promote him, materially and spiritually, while we are doing it, God is promoting us. Our days increase from 24hs to 30hs in a sense that our habilities multiply, and everyting grows. This is the blessing of beeing a vincentian. We are blessed. I don't have an easy answer to your question, and I also don't think about it much. Because if I do, it makes me want to come back and do it all again. Therefore, I always stick ahead. We attack every aim, facing all the needs. Along with God's support and our friend's help, we will make it. There are six years of warrant, and I have a lot of good people in my team. The brazilians working with us are incredible, people of extreme confidence, who will help me make the CGI shine. It's not the Brother Renato who has to shine, I am a server as all of you are. It's the SSVp that has to shine.

**A.S: Brother, in terms of the role of the family, I'm refereing to your family, how important was it?**

R.O: It's important to say that without my family I wouldn't be here. Actually I asked my wife about the entire elective process, I said to her: "Andréia, some countries intend to put my name, should I stick with it?" and she said: "Look Renato, I support you, and I will be close to you". Therefore, without the support of my family, my wife and my children I would never be here. And here I leave a message to the Vincentians. Firstly we need to have a good relationship with

our family, in order to take any function in SSVp. if does not speak with his father and mother, has problems with relatives, you do not have conditions. In the first place, It's necessary to be well with God and peaceful with your family, and then to be a full vincentian in SSVp.

**A.S: Let's do a quick game? Are you in?**

R.O: Yes.

**A.S: Renato by Renato**

R.O: Anxious

**A.S: The Poor**

R.O: They are the reason for being of the vincentian

**A.S: Ozanam**

R.O: A fantastic example for our lives.

**A.S: Now, I would like you to let us a message to everyone who is watching, and your considerations. And if you have anything that was not asked, this is the time.**

R.O: first I would like to hugely thank OzanamTV, for beeing here in Paris, and for everything you are doing. I am certain that you will remain with us for a long time. Secondly, what I ask from all of you who are watching us, especially the brazilians, is to pray for us, for this is not a easy work, and it's necessary to have spiritual support to reach our aims. I also ask for your generosity, not only in terms of material resources, but for example, the Ozanam gathering which is made on september 9th every year. What is its goal? The money gathered goes to the CGI, and if the brazilian vincentins are really generous with their donations, the General Council will have more resources to obtain more results for all of you. I ask for your generosity on the donations. I also ask that Brazil is very much aware of the national council's projects. And, lastly, I ask for your prayers, this is what I ask from you.



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# Getting to know the Members of the CGI team



## **T. Joseph Pandian**

*Our new General Vice-President has been a member of SSVP in India for 30 years. Outside SSVP, he is a retired Professor of English.*

**What do you feel about your appointment ?** : Yet another opportunity to serve the Lord's poor with greater commitment.



## **Larry TUOMEY**

*Our General General Treasurer has been a member of SSVP in Ireland since schooldays. Outside SSVP, he is a company director.*

**What do you feel about your appointment ?** : Surprised to be invited; a little daunted by the responsibility but confident that with prudent stewardship and the support of members throughout the world the challenge of finding the financial resources CGI needs to carry out its mandate will be met

**What made you say yes when our President General offered you a role in the CGI ?** : When I was on the CGI before as vinpaz Coordinator, I worked with Bro Renato on a number of projects in South America and I was impressed with his vision for the Society and his positive "can- do" attitude. The opportunity to work closely with him as President General was not one to be missed as I share many of his aspirations and values.



## **Julien SPIEWAK**

*Our new General Secretary has been member of the SSVP in France for 16 years. Outside SSVP, he is a journalist.*

**What do you feel about your appointment ?** : I am very happy to continue to serve the Society. Furthermore, as I live in Paris, I am very close to the CGI. I have been General Secretary for 3 years and there are still many things to do.

**What is your inspiration in the mission ?** : To be at the service of the others.



## **Carmela Addante**

*Our new 1st General Vice-President has been a member of SSVP in Canada for 15 years. Outside SSVP, she is Mortgage agent.*

**What is your inspiration in the mission ?** : Knowing that decisions and actions taken by our team will impact not only our members but also those we serve in a positive manner; being grounded in the mission, and vision, of our founders to build a global network meant to support and inspire each other.



## **Joseph Makwinja**

*Our new 3rd General Vice-President has been a member of SSVP in Botswana for 28 years. Outside SSVP, he is retired.*

**What made you say yes when our President General offered you a role in the CGI?** : I said yes to the request in order to continue to serve. I will have more responsibilities but I want to be efficient to increase the activities around the world.



## **Sebastian GRAMAJO**

*Our new 3rd General Vice-President has been a member of SSVP in Argentina for 23 years. Outside SSVP, he is a lawyer.*

**What made you say yes when our President General offered you a role in the CGI ?** : I felt that I had to take this responsibility to serve in the hope.

**What is your inspiration in the mission ?** : We are in a world full of poverty and we're in the Year of Mercy. We have to fulfill our vocation of service and charity.

**Basile ONDIGUI FOU DA**

*Our new International Vice-President for Structure has been a member of the SSVp in Cameroon for 18 years. Outside SSVp, he is coordinator of the Human Rights*

*Division at the United Nations in Bangui (Central Africa)*

**What do you feel about your appointment ?** : Joy, trust from my Vincentians Brothers and Sisters, namely our PG Reanato. I thank very much our Lord. He is confident on me because he told me that through his message of appointment: «I know that you can fulfill this task correctly for, you have a great experience that you can carry out for the SSVp...” I have believed on what I had said and I have accepted

**Maria Luisa TELLEZ**

*Our new International Vice-President for Formation and Training has been a member of SSVp in Spain for 46 years. Outside SSVp, she is retired.*

**What do you feel about your appointment?** Two elements are very important for me: developing the feeling of belonging in each member in the conferences and developing the service near the excluded people in our society through the formation.

**Willian ALVES**

*Our new Vice-President for Youth, Children and Teenager has been a member of SSVp in Brasil for 19 years. Outside SSVp, he is professor of Portuguese language.*

**What do you feel about your appointment ?** : I feel a great responsibility to be the voice of thousands of young people, children and adolescents who are in the SSVp to serve the poor. At the same time a great joy, because I know that the Vincentian youth has the strength, the willingness and boldness that Ozanam always had and this motivates me to do the best with all this team is the Vincentian Youth throughout the world, now adding the staff, children and adolescents.

**What is your inspiration in the mission ?** : My biggest inspiration is the Ozanam himself, who gave his entire life to the service of the SSVp and the poor and know that we have thousands of young people in the world who give themselves daily to the SSVp and the poor.

**Edmund KEANE**

*Our new Vice-President for Institutionnal Relationships has been a member of SSVp in United States for 24 years. Outside SSVp, he is retired.*

**What do you feel about your appointment ?** : I feel very humbled to have been asked to serve.

**What made you say yes when our President General offered you a role in the CGI ?** : I prayed to The Holy Spirit to direct me how to respond.

**Alfons Ten Velde**

*Our new Vice-President for Management and Innovation has been member of the SSVp in Netherlands for 36 years. Outside SSVp, he is policy advisor at the welfare*

*department of the City of Rotterdam.*

**What is your inspiration in the mission ?** : My inspiration is that almost 800.000 members, who are inspired by the Lord, Vincent de Paul and blessed Frederic Ozanam are doing every week there work for the poor and the needy. In my role in CGI I hope to contribute to make there work possible and maybe a little bit easier. The dedication of every Vincentian brother and sister gives me inspiration to do my work in CGI.

**Maurice Yeung**

*Our new International Vice-President for Special Projects has been a member of SSVp in Hong-Kong for 19 years. Outside SSVp, he is a professional Engineer.*

**What do you feel about your appointment ?** : I am so blessed to have the opportunity to serve God through the platform of SSVp. I am truly excited about the appointment as it provides me with a platform to contribute my skills and my experience, so that I can serve the poor and those in needs. Equally important, the chance to work with a team of dedicated SSVp members from around the world, so that my engagement with The Society is widen and can be further developed.

**What made you say yes when our President General offered you a role in the CGI ?** : I am impressed with the new structure. I shared the same vision of what the President General is creating, and the means to achieving our service in the SSVp. With the new directives, I trust we can all provide and support SSVp in the most effective manner. A great move for SSVp!



### **Graham WEST**

*Our new Chairman of IFAC and Concordat has been a member of SSVP in Australia for 25 years. Outside SSVP, he is consultant.*

**What is your inspiration for the mission ?** As a lay Catholic Social Movement, we are privileged to share in people's life, hopes and dreams and to grow together in friendship.



### **Marie-Françoise SALESIANI-PAYET**

*Our new Ombudswomen and representant of the SSVP at the United Nations has been member of the SSVP in France since the age of 13.*

**What do you feel about your appointment ?** : Belonging to the vincentien family is a great chance. I am lucky to have met Frederic Ozanam and his friends through some members of my family who were vincentiens too. I am honored to continue to serve the Society through the spirit of faith, charity, fraternity and humility.

**What is your inspiration in the mission ?** : To be very attentive to people's needs, and to put humility, joy and hope in every action.



### **Eduardo MARQUES**

*Our new Coordinator of Strategic Planning has been a member of SSVP in Brazil for 45 years. Outside SSVP, he is Country Representative at the Interamerican Development Bank, in Paraguay.*

**What is your inspiration in the mission ?** : I hope I can put in a Plan the aspiration of the Society worldwide for the years to come, particularly, for the bicentenary celebration. It is my desire that the strategic plan can reflect this aspiration and generate a commitment from every Vincentian, to work together to accomplish a common vision and mission.



### **Karl HILA**

*Our new Chairman for the International Commission for Communication has been a member of SSVP in Philippines for 19 years. Outside SSVP he is an IT engineer.*

**What do you feel about your appointment ?** : Overwhelmed and afraid, at first, as I balance my CGI responsibilities with my other SSVP tasks, my family, and my work, and happy to be given a chance to contribute and make a difference in the lives of the poorest



### **Bertrand OUSSET**

*Our new President of the CIAD has been a member of SSVP in France for 21 years. Outside SSVP, he is retired.*

**What made you say yes when our President General offered you a role in the CGI ?** : I am interested in project development.

**What do you feel about your appointment ?** : I wanted to have the opportunity to promote in the different countries of the IEC, the involvement of the poor in our conferences.



### **Tony MUIR**

*Our new Chairman for Twinning has been a member of SSVP in Australia for 27 years. Outside SSVP, he is retired.*

**What is your inspiration in the mission ?** : My inspiration in the Mission is to work closely with my team to do our best to promote Twinning in every Country the Society is in. To continue to update the database and gather as much information so that CGI has greater understanding of all Countries.

This information letter is edited by the General International Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

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