

BULLETIN

International Vincentian Marian Youth



Today is the day!

PRESENTATION...



" For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life (John 3:16).

God has given us everything ... God created the world, the earth, water, the air, the sun, all the plants and animal and finally ... God gifted the human person with all the things that he had made. Each day we can see this, experience this, touch this reality and thus we are able to contemplate God's generosity. God has given us a soul and the freedom to choose. When was the last time that we thanked God for all the small and great things that God has given to us?

Each year during the season of Lent we have the opportunity to draw near to God or to allow God to draw near to us. Furthermore, Jesus invites us to experience the desert so that we can be alone with God and dialogue with God about the need to become rooted and grounded in God, about the need to allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit. To search for God implies allowing ourselves to be transformed by love and the handing over of our lives; it implies coming out of ourselves, out of our tombs of selfishness, pride and making the needs of others our own needs. In order to fill ourselves with God and his love we have to empty ourselves all other things: our concerns, fears, complexes, and doubts and trust wholly in the Truth, in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus died and was raised to life so that each one of us might have eternal life and the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus, the Son of man, the Son of Mary and the Son of God was condemned and crucified for us. On many occasions the crowd wanted to take hold of him and arrest him, they wanted to stone him and throw him off a cliff *but Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away* (Luke 4:30). None of these ways of dying would have been sufficient to save us and take away our sins. The cross is a sign of suffering and pain but also a sign of hope and commitment ... and above all the cross is a sign of the world's salvation. There is no resurrection without death and there is no salvation without Jesus. If we want to be Jesus' disciples then we have to do what he has told us: *those who wish to come after me must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me* (Matthew 16:24).

God loved us to the extreme ... God has given us the One whom he most loved, his only Son. Jesus is the clearest proof of God's love. What more could he give us? How do we thank God for all the gifts that we have received? In the Eucharist God continues to gift us and at every moment and in all situations God is with us. Do we experience this presence and are we grateful for this presence. Let us close our eyes, breathe deeply and say:

**THANK
YOU LORD!
ALLELUIA!**

Katarína Mazúrová
VOLUNTEER



VMY in the world...

ASIA

Indonesia:



During the month of April the Association continued to carry out its plan of service by providing health care and education to children in Cilincing (rural area of Jakarta) and Warakas. On April 29th the members will hold a bazaar as part of their plan to become financially self-sufficient.

Northern India: On January 29, 2011 the members celebrated a National Assembly. Seven centers gathered together in the Provincial House of Saint Vincent in Berhampur.

Philippines: On February 2 the National Council met to plan and prepare for their National Assembly which will take place on May 19-21. The objective of this Assembly is to strengthen the formation of the Association.

Japan: The earthquake caused no loses within the Vincentian Family. All the members of the Association are safe but now have a tremendous mission ahead of them: to help the many people who are in great need. The members in Japan thanked us for our prayers and ask that we continue to pray for them and for all the people of Japan who are suffering the consequences of this tragedy.

Thailand: On April 6th, Sister Violeta Cecilio, DC (advisor of the Vincentian Family in Thailand) visited the Secretariat. We are grateful for her visit and the opportunity to share with her.

Taiwan: On February 12th the young men and women of the Association organized a barbecue and on April 9th participated in a Lenten Retreat.

Vietnam: In February, on the occasion of the New Year (according to the custom of the country the New Year begins in February), the President and the National Council visited the areas of Can Tho, Vinh Long and Mien Dong to encourage the groups and the members in these areas. March 5-6: Regional Meeting of Lam Dong area was composed of time for formation, retreat, Marian promises and consecration. March 26-27: the National Council met in order to prepare for the National Assembly which will be help this summer and will include the participating of the EVJ and the JMJ.

EUROPE

Albania-Kosovo: The VMY is serving many poor people. The Daughters organize different activities with the young people and the children: visits to poor families and persons who are ill, summer camps, regular meetings and formation sessions. The groups also make different artifacts which are sold and the proceeds are used to help people who are poor. The activities vary in the different groups. In Kosovo there are 5 groups (Pristina, Pec, Kline, Zllakuqan and Gllogjan) and in Albania there are 4 groups (Drac, Skader, Rreshen)

Czech Republic



March 4-6 there was a planning meeting to organize the summer activities (summer camp and gathering of the Marian Families); on April 9th about 40 people (young men and women, children and parents) from throughout the country participated in the formation session that was held in Brno. These individuals were accompanied by Fr. Pavol Noga, Sub-director of the VMY.

Slovenia:



February 18-20: a weekend of spiritual formation for students (theme: the four stages of our life - childhood, adolescence, present and future) ... fourteen young men and women participated. On March 1st the National Council met to plan activities for 2011 (a weekend for children, catechesis, an excursion in May for all the members and some type of camp during the month of August); in May the members will celebrate the second anniversary of the presence of the volunteers in the rehabilitation center (SOCS) in Liubliana.

**Slovakia:**

April 10-18: Lenten Retreat of the VMY was held in Vranov nad Toplou; April 9-10: a course for advisors was held in Nitra and this session was directed by Fr. Pavol Noga. April 15-17: meeting of the National Council. In 2011 the Vincentian Marian Youth in Slovakia will celebrate two anniversaries: 150th anniversary of the creation of the first groups (Daughters of Mary) and the 10th anniversary of the civil recognition of the Association. We congratulate the members of the Association and hope that these celebrations will be an occasion for even further growth.

**Ukraine:**

The Daughters of Charity and the Missionaries of the Congregation have decided that in all the places where they are ministering they will establish a VMY group. The Daughters hope to begin groups in two new places. May God bless this work!

**Greece:**

April 16-17: twenty-two young men and women participated in a spiritual retreat in Athens in the Miraculous Medal Center.



Financial Self-Sufficiency in the VMY...

We have just concluded the celebration of Easter Sunday and we, together with the Apostles, are all invited to live anew **the surprise of the Resurrection**. Surprise is something that is very important in Christianity and should be something essential for our Association. Surprise awakens us and demands something further of us. Surprise invites us to view our Christian and Vincentian commitment in a serious manner.

I want you to live another surprise of our Association. This is a surprise not so much for others as for ourselves as members of this Association. This surprise places a demand upon us and stimulates our creativity. I am referring to financial self-sufficiency. To be dependent on others, to have to ask for money from our parents and grandparents is not creative but is our custom and is also comfortable. But as we continue to grow, we begin to realize that we have to do something different in order to obtain certain resources.

The same can be said for our Association. We are growing and maturing in our identity. For a long time we have relied on the unconditional financial support of the Daughters of Charity and the Congregation of the Mission but has not the time arrived for us to do something different in this area ... something that demands more creativity on our part and something that forces us to leave our comfort zone and give new life to the surprise in our Association?

If we are proud of our membership in the VMY then we must break with certain customs in the financial area. In light of this the Secretariat will very soon initiate a campaign in the area of financial self-sufficiency, a campaign that will be extended to the national and international levels. This will demand courage, the courage to give something more of yourself, something more of ourselves. Will you allow yourself to be surprised? Can we rely on you?



Fr. Pavol Noga, CM
Sub-director General

Testimony...

JMV Nigeria.

The idea of a Farm Project for the Vincentian Marian Youth in Nigeria was formally conceived by our brothers and sisters in Enugu who use a similar project to finance some of their apostolic works. Part of the harvest is given to our supporters who helped by providing financial support to the project; another part is given to the poor in our community and the rest is sold.

Our group in Port Harcourt presently participates in the farm project. We have planted corn, yucca and vegetables and in the near future we hope to plant yams and other crops. Below we include some photographs of the farm which we have rented. During the next couple of years we hope to use this land to grow corn.

This is part of our plan to obtain financial autonomy. We will use the harvest to finance our apostolic works.

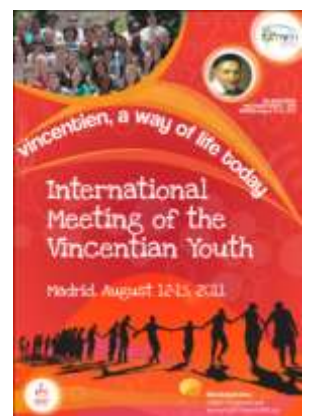


Arinde O. Patrick - President VMY Nigeria

Council and Secretariat

INTERNATIONAL

- ✚ The Director General has confirmed the following **appointments**: Sister Gilberta Escobar (Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay), Sister Lourdes Feliberty (Puerto Rico), Sor Sandra Lorena (Honduras), Fr. Hugo Ricardo Sosa (Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay).
- ✚ March 25-27, Sister Bernardita, together with the volunteers of SIJMV, participated in the **Lenten retreat** of the group from Valencia. This retreat was held in Siete Aguas.
- ✚ We are grateful for all the countries that have paid their **annual quota** and we encourage those that still have outstanding accounts to forward your money to the Association during 2011.
- ✚ We remind all the countries that have not sent us their **formation plan** yet to do so before June 30. With your collaboration we will be able to elaborate a formation document useful to everyone. Thank you!
- ✚ The VMYIS participated in Rural (Malaga) and Youth (Country of Basque) **Easter**.
- ✚ The registration period for the **Vincentian Youth Gathering and World Youth Day** in Madrid (2011) is extended until May 25. Sign up now!



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