

## III GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE VMY—LISBON 2010

### VMY, ROOTED IN CHRIST, SOWERS OF HOPE

#### FINAL DOCUMENT

In the context of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac and called together by Mary through the message of the Miraculous Medal, we discover that the Marian, Lay, Ecclesial and Vincentian spirituality is strong in our association and challenges us to continue the mission of evangelizing and serving as young people and serving other young people. As our hymn states: *we will not be afraid... we will follow our Lord, we'll serve the poor, our dear friends, with a humble loving heart.*

Since our last Assembly, the Association has become involved in many things, among which we highlight its internationality and cooperation with the Vincentian Family.

In this new Assembly and as a result of sharing moments of prayer, formation and exchanging life experiences, we have grown in our awareness of belonging to the Association.

As participants in the III General Assembly, we reflected on the reality of the VMY in the world and we discovered new needs which are urgent and which demand our response in order to project ourselves into the future.

The commitments that we now present are the fruit of the work of this Assembly and have implications on every level of our Association.

#### **1. Spiritual Life**

In this secularized society where we experience individualism, a lack of faith and a lack of meaning in life, we affirm the fact that a spiritual life strengthens our presence in the world and our growth as persons and children of God.

- 1.1 We will organize workshops so that young people can learn to pray as individuals and as a community and thus deepen their experience of God. We will give preference to the style of prayer and the sharing of prayer after the manner that Saint Vincent has taught us.
- 1.2 Inspired by the spirituality of the *Magnificat*, we will express our baptismal commitment by our Marian Consecration and thus with prophetic attitudes, become transforming agents of our reality.
- 1.3 We will strengthen and deepen our growth in faith through direct contact with the Word of God and through participation in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation.
- 1.4 We will motivate young people to insert themselves into the life of the church, especially in their parishes.

## **2. Formation**

In the midst of a society that does not make good use of God's creation we need an integral formation that enables us to defend the dignity of the human person and to live our faith with conviction.

- 2.1 The International Council will organize a team that will plan the content of a formation process for young people. This committee will give special attention to an integral formation, the sense of belonging to the Association, and responsibility within the Association. Through means of the web page of the International Secretariat they will offer courses and video-conferences to the Advisors and Animators of the groups.
- 2.2 The International Council and Secretariat will motivate and accompany the twinning process between National and Local Associations of the VMY and the Vincentian Family. This is important for the exchange of experiences, materials, prayer and funds.
- 2.3 Following the lines of the Second Vatican Council we will elaborate themes for a renewed Marian formation, themes that will help us to understand the role of Mary in the history of salvation. This same process will make us more aware of the Marian consecration and encourage the young men and women of our Association to celebrate this consecration during their formation process.
- 2.4 Through the web page of the International Secretariat we will indicate links and forums that are presently related to all aspects of the formation of young men and women and at the same time we will facilitate the exchange of materials..
- 2.5 We accept as our own and will make known the document "*Role and Functions of Advisors in the VMY*"; we do this with the hope of encouraging greater participation of the laity as advisors of our Association.

## **3. Service and Mission**

In the midst of a world in crisis, a world that encourages different faces of poverty, Systemic Change is the present response of the Vincentian charism that opens new frontiers for service, charity and mission and also transforms the reality in a creative manner.

- 3.1 We will form ourselves and work with present strategies in the form of projects so that we might learn how to draw up, carry out and evaluate our plans.
- 3.2 We will promote twinning between countries with the hope of overcoming dependency and thus providing opportunities for mutual enrichment at the level of projects, methodologies, witness, services, finances...
- 3.3 We will encourage all the young people of the Association to discover and live the richness of the Vincentian charism by engaging in direct contact with the poorest people and by doing this as individuals and as a community.

## **4. Vincentian Family**

To serve Christ in those who are poor and to evangelize them is the heritage that Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac have given to the whole Vincentian Family. To live as a family and to

work as a family implies that we come to know and accept one another, that we become united and work together as a team while being enriched by our differences.

4.1 We will actively participate in the councils of the different branches of the Vincentian Family that are organized at different levels.

4.2 We will promote and share with the branches of the Vincentian Family encounters, formation and service projects, as well as missions *ad intra* and *ad extra*, applying to all of these the process of systemic change.

4.3 As a part of the formation process we will make our members aware of the nature, identity, and lifestyle of each of the branches of the Vincentian Family. This will facilitate the process of Endways.

## 5. **Self-Financing**

In light of the financial challenge in the groups of the VMY, the sense of belonging to the Association and co-responsibility are a test of our maturity and our love for the Association. Solidarity with our Association should lead us to share from the depths of our own poverty.

5.1 We will collaborate in maintaining the Association through the payment of quotas.

5.2 We will attempt to be financially independent by implementing specific strategies adapted to our reality.

5.3 We will accept and make known the document *Solidarity*.

We conclude our General Assembly with hands filled with seeds, filled with seeds that will enable us to sow hope in the places where we are. With the grace of God and the effort of our hands we hope that during the next five years these seeds will grow to become strong plants, plants that are rooted in Christ.

*Those who go forth weeping carrying sacks of seed,  
Will return with cries of joy, carrying their bundled sheaves.*

--- Psalm 126:6

***The time is now!***