

NEWSLETTER

International General Council

issue : September 2016



Brother Renato takes office next Friday as the new International President General of SSVP

On September 9th, from 09 AM (Paris time), will take place the inauguration of the new International President General of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, brother Renato Lima de Oliveira.



Social Media Accounts (Facebook and Twitter). The program of the ceremony includes the celebration of the Holy Mass in thanksgiving for the new President General and the new Board of the International Council General, and the installation of the new leaders.

The former Presidents of the International Council General will also deliver messages at the ceremony: brothers Amin Andre de Tarrazzi (12th President General), Jose Ramon Diaz-Torremocha (14th General President) and Michael Thio (15th President General, and outgoing president).

The speech of brother Renato will be done in Portuguese so that all the Lusophone communities can follow him more closely.

Once sworn in, brother Renato will be leading the members of the entity's board of directors, made up of 11 people, chosen by him, coming from the following countries of the five continents: India, Canada, Botswana, Argentina, France, Ireland and Australia.

The motto of Renato's term will be: "[If anyone wants to be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.](#)" (Mark 9, 35).

The mandate of President Renato is six years, which starts on September 9, 2016 and ends on September 9, 2022. The strategic planning of the new

The inauguration of the new International President General of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP), brother RENATO LIMA DE OLIVEIRA, will take place next Friday, September 9, 2016, at 09:00 CET.

Brother Renato lives in Brasilia (Brazil). He is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Conference. He is 45 years old, married with two children. He is also a journalist with master's degree in Political Science and a public employee of the Brazilian government. He is an author of four Vincentians books and a member of the SSVP for 30 years.

The inauguration ceremony will be broadcasted live over the Internet through the OZANAM TV (www.ozanam.tv) and the SSVP CGI

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President General consists of 20 projects that will be implemented throughout the term. One new feature is the creation of "thematic years", declaring 2017 as the "Year Theme of Bailly".

The inauguration party will take place on September 9, 2016, the Feast Day of Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Let us pray for the success of the ceremony, especially for brother Renato Lima and his team. May they have an excellent term at International Council General.

What's up at CGI?

International Youth Video Conference

As announced by Brother Karl Hila (International Vice President for Youth) in a mail sent to all the National Councils, the annual International Video Conference for the SSVP Youth, already on its 3rd year, will take place on Friday, September 2 - 3:30PM, UTC-4 Timezone.

Aside from the usual sharing, the

new International President General, Renato Lima de Oliveira, will give a short message to the SSVP Youth, the winners of the SSVP Founders' Awards will also be announced, and the incoming International Vice President for the Youth, Willian Alves, will also be introduced.



Founders Awards : and the winners are...

The long wait is over! On September 2, 2016, at 3:30 PM UTC-4, during the SSVP International Video Conference for the Youth, the winners of the Founders' Awards will be announced.

The SSVP International Commission for Youth organized this award to recognize and affirm the contributions of the youth and youth ministers to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The said committee is very grateful for the support of the National Councils regarding this initiative, receiving more than 40 nominations. Jason Hunt, from

Canada was the first winner officially announced during the Vincentian Youth Day in Krakow, Poland last July. The Commission had selected 14 other finalists:

South America

Jose Mario Almeida - Brazil
Wesley Ribeiro Raimundo - Brazil
Marin Arley Franklin - Colombia
Mario Osvaldo Andre Castro - Bolivia

North and Central America

Roula Hadchiti - Canada
Gayle Marie Westfahl - USA

Europe

Nora Musenbichler - Austria
Stephan Georg Michalek - Austria

Africa

Aderito Domingos Egidio - Mozambique
Rita Laffin Uchiche - Nigeria
Daniel Joseph Davies - Sierra Leone
Robert Kiggala - Uganda

Asia and Oceania

Rolly Toledo Noarin - Philippines
Elie Khoury - Lebanon

National Councils of South America have new Presidents

The election of new leaders at various levels is one of the features of the existing democratic spirit in the Society. Fulfilling this tradition, two countries in South America elected their new SSVP National Council Presidents.

Venezuela, where SSVP is present since 1885, having 48 SSVP conferences, elected Sister Josefina De Gonçalves as their New National President during their SSVP annual meeting last May.

Colombia, where SSVP existed since 1857, having 485 active conferences, elected Rafael Enrique Mora as their new National President during their annual meeting last 06 August in Bogota.

Julio César Marques de Lima, America 3 Territorial Coordinator for Zone 1, represented the International Council General in the aforementioned national meetings.

Photo: Brother Julio with the new SSVP National President of Venezuela (on the right)





Vincentian Youth Day 2016 held in Krakow (Poland)

The Vincentian Youth Gathering (VYD) 2016, the week preceding the World Youth Day (WYD) 2016, took place at the Education Center “Radosna Nowina 2000” [Joyful Hope 2000] in Piekary, Krakow last 23 – 26 July 2016.

The organizing committee of the VYD2016 welcomed more than a thousand youth delegates from the various branches of the Vincentian Family coming from more than 30 countries of the world. All language barriers were swiftly overcome by a common desire to share and celebrate the gift of Vincentian Mission. With this, the participants quickly began to feel “at home”. Some had difficulties in entering the country but this reality did not even discourage the young Vincentians in pursuing participation in the VYD2016.

The opening program started with a presentation of the History of Christianity in Poland including the arrival of the first Vincentian Missionaries and Daughters of Charity. The Visitor and the Visitatrix of the Province of the Poland extended words of welcome, as well as the Superi-

ress General of the Daughters of Charity, Sister Kathleen Appler, DC, and the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and Director General of the Vincentian Marian Youth, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM. Father Tomaž encouraged the participants to be fearless in following their vocation and to be open to the grace of God and the gift of charity. Asian and Australian Cultural Night concluded the opening day.

Inputs and Workshops were done the following day which developed the theme: “Vincentians, Faithful to Charity”. The participants were divided into language groups to further internalize and deepen the theme. The afternoon began with the praying of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, followed by powerful witnessing of the young Vincentians doing apostolate in various conflict areas of the world. Father Tomaž, presider of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, invited the young Vincentians, in his homily, to seek for that precious pearl and that priceless treasure which is Jesus, our brother and our savior. After dinner, the participants gathered together for

a cultural night organized by the host delegation, the young Vincentians of Poland.

The following day, the environment of fraternity and cordiality among the participants were becoming more intense. In the morning, there was another presentation and also an opportunity to share experiences in the apostolate. In the afternoon, after praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, several young Vincentians gave witness to the mercy that has changed their lives. A festive cultural night was hosted by the American, African and European.

The following morning, the young Vincentians set out to various accommodations sites in order to join the bigger Catholic Church in celebrating the WYD2016 with Pope Francis, the Vicar of Christ here on earth.

The SSVP International Council General was represented by the Secretary General, Julien Spiewak, and the International Vice President for the Youth, Karl Michael Hila in both gatherings.



Global training modules now on line!

As announced at the general assembly in June 2016, the General Council has decided to make the global training modules available on line, from now on, in four languages: French, English, Spanish and Portuguese. The aim is to give all members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul an identical, consistent message, without subjective interpretation, but imbued with the spirit of the Society and describing the way our association works internally. It is a huge programme, implemented following a diagnosis which found that many of the problems faced by our movement originate in a lack of training among members.

It was therefore a certain sense of urgency that led two international officers, Brian O'Reilly, Vice-President General and Marie-Françoise Salésiani-Payet, Vice-President responsible for training and development, to get to grips with this issue. In record time, a whole or-

ganisation was set up, distributing the tasks as follows: an initial phase of reflection and proposals for modules given to some Vincentian countries with great experience in the field of training (Brazil, England & Wales, Italy, Ireland, the United States, Canada, and France). This was followed by a careful revision of the modules by Marie-Françoise and her team. Finally the historians (Mathieu Bréjon de la Vergnée) and experts, especially David Williams for the Rule, played their part, confirming that there were no historical errors in the texts, and that they complied fully with the teaching of the Rule.

The Council General hopes these will be effective, useful tools for members, who now have the opportunity to be trained, in groups or alone, using the Powerpoints. Although there is still much to be done in this area, we can be proud that the process has begun, and an irreversible movement is now underway.

Other initiatives will emerge from now on, and we should acknowledge the determined efforts of Brian O'Reilly and Marie-Françoise Salésiani-Payet which have enabled this decisive step forward, "so that all may be One", in order to serve those in need even better!

The modules are as follows:

- History /Origins
- Spirituality
- "Systemic change"
- Visiting people in need
- The Rule
- Conference life
- Vincentian Solidarity (specialist works, projects, twinnage)
- Relations with the Church and International organisations

Modules are available on the CGI's website, in the Training section. Please visit : en.ssvpglobal.org/Training

Italy : Vincentian help organised after the earthquake



On 24 August, an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale struck the centre of Italy, mainly affecting the town of Amatrice and the surrounding area. There were 291 people killed and 400 injured, with 2500 people homeless following the destruction of many buildings and houses.

The Council General of the SSVP, via CIAD (International Commission for Aid and Development), has immediately released and sent a sum of 5000€ under its emergency procedure. Vincentian help is being organised on the ground: the National Council of Italy and its newly-elected President, Antonio Gianfico, are in constant contact with the Presidents of local Conferences.

To meet immediate needs, a collection of clothing, blankets, food, medicines

and essential items has been organised, with logistical support from the Italian state civil protection department.

A call for donations has also been made, and a bank account opened to receive funds to be used after long-term needs have been properly assessed. Mobilisation in the days immediately following this kind of catastrophe is often unable to meet the needs that only emerge later on, when the incident is no longer headline news and is forgotten. It is vital to manage medium and long-term help to support reconstruction and help local people to recover something of a normal life.

This is the second major earthquake to strike Italy in the last 10 years. The last one, reaching 6.3 on the Richter, occurred only 45 km away, in Aquila in 2009, destroying in particular a student

hostel managed by the SSVP, with 8 victims among the young people. The reconstructed building was officially opened in 2015.

To help the Italian SSVP, you can send your donation to the following bank account:

BANCA PROSSIMA

Account's references

IBAN:

IT23M0335901600100000018852

To : Federazione Nazionale Società di San Vincenzo De Paoli

**Consiglio Nazionale Italiano ONLUS
Via G. Ziggotti, 15 – 36100 VICENZA**

Object : Terremoto Centro Italia 24 agosto 2016.



SSVP partnership with Caritas in Nepal : common commitment to reconstruction

On 25 April 2015, a powerful earthquake, followed by strong aftershocks, struck Nepal, a poor country in the Himalayan region. With 9000 dead, over 740,000 homes destroyed, entire villages wiped from the map, this tragedy only served to aggravate the poverty in this country, which has few advantages despite being so attractive to tourists.

Over a year after the earthquake, the inhabitants are living in utter destitution, and reconstruction is making little progress. Despite many obstacles and logistical problems, the Nepalese SSVP first implemented emergency aid to assist those affected, through local conferences. With the support of the International Council General (via CIAD),

it then began projects to help the most vulnerable populations, giving them a minimum source of income so they can escape their poverty.

At the end of June 2016, a meeting was held in Kathmandu attended by members of the CGI (John Lee – Vice President for the International Structure; Joseph Pandian – Territorial Vice president West Asia; Andrew Kang – special projects coordinator; Gabriel Mondal – regional coordinator; Dominic Dunstan) as well as Pranita Niruala (President of National Council, SSVP-Nepal) and the Presidents of Nepalese Conferences.

One aim of this meeting was to report on the work of the SSVP, such as the

projects initiated by Conferences. The second aim was to continue collaboration with local Caritas officials, and reach a partnership agreement.

Animal rearing

With financial support from CIAD, Vincentians have set up micro-projects to help the most vulnerable people. The aim was to give them a long-term source of income, and animal rearing was considered the most suitable means for this. In the village of Madhumalla (5 km from Damak in eastern Nepal), widows with no family support were given piglets for rearing, so that once grown some could be sold and the rest kept for breeding, so maintaining the operation. Every pig sold gives a return of about

10,000 Npr (Nepalese rupee – about 85 euros). The Amgashi Conference did the same for members of a traditional group of smallholders (“santhali”), who own no land and are living in conditions of great poverty. Other assistance includes financial support for education of orphans. Nepalese conferences do not work alone, but by sharing their resources, both financial and logistics.

Pranita Niruala (President of National Council, SSVP-Nepal) explains, *“Both teamwork and our combined forces enabled us to set up these projects. We have tried to share our knowledge and skills in every project, and worked for a common goal”*.

Accommodation

The 2nd aim was to reach agreement with Caritas Nepal to formalise the partnership between the 2 organisations. With 4 million people still living in temporary shelters, it is more than ever a priority to rehouse them and reinstate sanitation infrastructure. Like most Church organisations, the Nepalese SSVP collaborates with Caritas Nepal to implement a reconstruction plan. A protocol of understanding was signed on 28 June by representatives of both groups. In particular, this document will allow Caritas to demonstrate the involvement of its partners to the Nepalese government, in order to

obtain land grants for house-building. The SSVP is committed to contribute 772,000 euros for this.

SSVP members were also received by Mgr Paul Simick (Bishop of Kathmandu and Apostolic Vicar). Once more he gave his full support to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, valuing its work in the field since the earthquake. He also encouraged the SSVP to collaborate with Caritas.

As a reminder, the SSVP was founded in Nepal in 2010, with support from Malaysia, the country twin. The Society now has more than a dozen Conferences.

Lebanon : a new professional training center

The CIAD (International Commission For Aid and Development) has financed the expansion of a room within the Conference of Saint Etienne of Batroum

This project, which has been delayed because of some building permit's troubles, is finally established.



The National Council of Lebanon sent recently a report detailed of the use of the funds: thanks to the financial support of the CIAD, 11.500 € have been affected, among others, to the exten-

sion of the surface area, to the installation of a tiled roof over the terrace with a metal structure, glazed and furnished.

A 22 square meters room will be used for training courses for sewing, beauticians, and cooking. One part will also be used as an office for a psychologist.

The SSSVP is very active and drives a lot of projects, in favour of the refugees who represent almost half part of the global population in Lebanon. Ella Bitar, National President of the Society in Lebanon explains that *“ [...] the war in Palestine, in Iraq, in Syria, in Lebanon, the injured and killed,*

the mass exodus, all these have awakened our consciences, have made us aware of our responsibility to all Christians and to all our suffering brothers and sisters, without distinction [...]”. Last June, she gave us a testimony about the actions driven in Lebanon during a conference in Roma *“we have adopted refugee families, treating them as our own within the Conferences, offering them the same services: medical care and medicines, vaccination, distribution of milk and nappies for children, food, hygiene packs, fuel oil and blankets for heating, education sponsorship, help with accommodation and clothing, two meals a day just for them at the Ozanam Centre, not forgetting celebrations of feast days with meals, entertainments and gifts.”*

South Tyrol, a former President of SSVP will be beatified in 2017

Pope Francis has approved promulgation of a decree recognizing the martyrdom of Josef Mayr-Nusser and his upcoming beatification.



His holiness Pope Francis has approved promulgation of a decree recognizing the martyrdom of Josef Mayr Nusser, an Italian layman sentenced to death for refusing to swear allegiance to Hitler during World War II.

Born Dec. 27, 1910 in the northern Italian city of Bolzano, Mayr-Nusser grew up on a farm and was instilled with Christian values by his parents from a young age.

Since his family was poor and his older brother Jakob was in seminary studying for the priesthood, Mayr-Nusser didn't study himself, but worked on the farm and later as the clerk for the Eccel company in Bolzano.

He dedicated much of his free time to reading, including many religious works. Among his favorites were the works of Frederic Ozanam, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Thomas More, and the life of St.

Vincent de Paul.

At the age of 22 he joined the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Mayr-Nusser was also involved in Catholic Action, and became head of its division in the Diocese of Trent in 1934. In 1937 he became president of the Bolzano branch of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, spending a large amount of his time visiting the poor and providing them with both material and spiritual support.

When World War II flared up in Europe in 1939, Mayr-Nusser wasted no time in joining the anti-Nazi movement "Andreas Hofer Bund."

A few years later civil war also broke out in Italy following the 1943 ousting of Benito Mussolini from power, which led to the German occupation of the northern half of the country. The regime forced conscription of men from the occupied territories. Mayr-Nusser

was among them, and was enrolled in an SS unit, forcing him to leave his wife and newborn son for training in Prussia.

However, when it came time for the SS members to swear an oath to Hitler, Mayr-Nusser refused.

According to a fellow comrade, he told the general with a "strong voice" that "I cannot take an oath to Hitler in the name of God. I cannot do it because my faith and conscience do not allow it." Although his friends tried to convince him to retract his statement and take the oath, Mayr-Nusser refused, believing that Nazi ideals could in no way be reconciled with Christian ethics and values.

As a result he was jailed while he awaited trial. In 1945 he was sentenced to death for treason, and was ordered to march to the Dachau concentration camp, where he was to be shot by firing squad.

However, he fell ill with dysentery along the way and died Feb. 24, 1945, before reaching the camp. When his body was discovered on the train, he had both a Bible and a rosary with him.

The beatification of Josef Mayr-Nusser will be held March 18, 2017 in the Cathedral of Bolzano. His memory is on 3 October. Many places bear his name: streets, schools ... he is also an honorary citizen of Bolzano, his hometown.