

NUNTIA



Congregation of the Mission
of **Saint Vincent de Paul**

Special edition



JUBILEE 400

Congregation of the Mission

PARIS April 27 – May 1, 2025

Fr. Salvatore Fari CM

On April 25, 2023, in Rome, at the Leonian College, the Superior General, Father Tomaž Mavrič CM, with the liturgy of the Word, inaugurated the preparation period for the IV CENTENARY OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION (April 17, 2025), with the theme: "Clothe yourselves with the Spirit of Jesus Christ."

On this occasion, Father Tomaž handed over three dimensions to revive to the Priests and Brothers of the Mission and to the members of the entire Vincentian Family: "the prophetic dimension, which, by the grace of the Spirit of God who is 'upon us,' leads us to listen to the cry of the poor and to be available to care for them; the synodal dimension, which sees the overcoming of individualism for a communal journey and action; the missionary dimension whose authenticity comes from a deep spirituality, from intense communion, from proximity and friendship with Jesus."

A long preparation journey led us to Paris from April 27 to May 1, 2025.

April 27, 2025

The day was dedicated to the meeting of Archbishops and Bishops, members of the Congregation of the Mission, invited by the Superior General. At the beginning of the day, the Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by His Excellency Mons. Vicente Náchter Tatay CM, Archbishop Metropolitan of Tegucigalpa (Honduras). We recall some passages from his homily: In this Eucharist we are celebrating "eight days" after the announcement of Easter, the Gospel refers twice to the wounds of Jesus that return faith to Thomas. These wounds reveal the glorified continuity of the human condition of Jesus, which we continue to recognize in the poor. We, children of Saint Vincent de Paul, touch the wounds of the world with profound respect, in order to place a balm of hope in them... let us allow ourselves to be challenged by the poor and their sufferings; let us announce the Gospel even in the most remote places; let us be concretely and fraternally concerned with the priests; let us manage our resources well... is not this what our Holy Father Vincent taught us?

During the morning, there were two talks: the first by P. Andrés Motto CM on the theme Saint Vincent and the Bishops. In light of Saint Vincent's pastoral experience and the anthology of Vincentian texts, P. Motto outlined the qualities – virtues – of a bishop: centered in Christ, in love with the Church, a man of pastoral charity, prudence, simplicity, kindness, zeal. He also highlighted the vices a bishop must avoid: ambition, anger, attachment to money...

The second talk, with the theme The Mission of the Church Today, was given by His Excellency Mons. Joseph Dore, Emeritus Archbishop of Strasbourg. In his reflection, the Archbishop highlighted how the Church is called to understand itself, to organize, to behave, and to live as "the people of believers" and to take its vocation seriously to come together as a "community." He then looked at the present and future of the Church in the world starting from an observation by J. Ratzinger: "It cannot be excluded that we are at the threshold of a new era, completely different in the history of the Church, in which Christianity will exist rather under the sign of the mustard seed, in small groups that seem unimportant, but live intensely to fight against Evil and to plant Good in the world, that open the door to God."

The day concluded with a visit and the celebration of Vespers at Notre-Dame Cathedral.



April 28, 2025

In the morning, we celebrated the Eucharist in the Chapel of Rue du Bac, the site of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Catherine Labouré in 1830. We thanked God for the countless blessings and graces granted to the "Little Company" from its foundation to the present day. In his homily, the Superior General, Father Tomaž Mavrič, urged us to imitate the first Christian community, which was of one heart and soul, and none among them was in need because they shared their goods. He invited us to freely give ourselves, our time, our talents, and our financial resources, to help the poor. In this way, we continue Christ's mission on earth, and thus, we can be happy in caring for the poor.

At the end of the celebration, in procession, with the reliquary containing the heart of Saint Vincent, we arrived at the Mother House of the Vincentian Missionaries on Rue de Sèvres.

Saint Vincent de Paul, speaking about relics, said to his Missionaries: "We will prepare to receive these holy relics, as if the saints themselves, of whom these relics are, were honoring us by visiting us; we will thus honor God in the saints, and we will ask Him to make us participants of the graces He has so abundantly poured into their souls." During the day, the Visitor Conferences took turns in the Chapel for prayer.

In the evening, we attended a beautiful play about the life of Saint Vincent, performed by a group of young people from Calcutta – India.



April 29, 2025

The day was dedicated to the pilgrimage to Gannes (the place where Saint Vincent confessed the poor peasant) and Folleville (the place where on January 25, 1617, Saint Vincent delivered the first sermon of the Mission on general confession).

The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by P. Gregory Gay CM. In his homily, P. Gregory urged us to "go," to step out of our comfort zone to go to the peripheries of our world, to the people most in need of love, compassion; to go to be with the impoverished and victims of abuse of power... we are a community for the mission!

In Folleville, the place of mission and mercy, in the afternoon, we celebrated the Rite of Penance, presided over by P. Frédéric Pellefigue, Visitor of the Province of France.





April 30, 2025

After the celebration of Morning Lauds, at the Auditorium of the Mother House of the Daughters of Charity, the conference by P. Robert Maloney CM on the theme: Revitalizing the Charism of the Congregation of the Mission took place. He presented five challenges: opening new missions ad gentes, helping and forming diocesan clergy, forming the members of the Congregation and, especially, the formators, promoting the Project "Vincentian Family Alliance with the Homeless (13 houses)," working closely with the various branches of the Vincentian Family, developing an active and deeply prayerful spirituality, and having "necessary prudence."

The second part of the morning was devoted to a roundtable moderated by the General Assistant P. Nélio Pereira Pita, with the participation of five confrères representing the five Visitor Conferences: For the United States (NVC) father Thomas Esselman CM listed five challenges:

- Wealth and security often distance confrères from sharing life with and among the poor.
- Aging and decreasing membership.
- Difficulty in developing a vocation culture.
- In the past, the U.S. provinces sent confrères to other provinces; now the U.S. is a mission territory.
- Developing a strategy to collaborate more with the Vincentian Family.

To meet these challenges, several commitments have been made: greater pastoral closeness to the poor, interprovincial collaboration, creating a culture of vocation in each province, developing meaningful partnerships between the Congregation, provinces, members of the Vincentian Family, dioceses, and benefactors...



Latin America (CLAPVI): P. José Israel Santos Núñez CM shared the wealth of pastoral experiences in Latin America despite the diversity of local realities and social and ecclesial difficulties. Among the challenges, he emphasized: rethinking Vincentian parish pastoral care, investing in formation, revitalizing popular missions, renewing our evangelical option for the poor, overcoming provincialism, and promoting an authentic vocation culture.

Europe (CEVIM): P. José Luis Miguel Rojo CM presented the challenges at three levels:

- Personal level: overcoming individualism through meetings, spiritual conversations, and pastoral collaboration.
- Community level: building prophetic, open, listening, and discernment communities.
- General Congregation level: we face a global crisis: aging, declining vocations, institutional crisis. Hence the urgency of initiating synodal processes to overcome the difficulties with prophetic choices courageously and audaciously.



Africa and Madagascar (COVIAM): P. Mekonnen Butta CM outlined the essential commitments to ensure the revitalization of our mission: common theology, cultural exchange, missionaries as agents of evangelization in their continent, vocation culture, the establishment of a Theology Institute, new strategies to improve the financial situation, alignment with outcomes from the last General Assembly, and strengthening of joint projects. He highlighted the lack of infrastructure and financial resources to support seminaries and seminarians.

Asia-Pacific (APVC): P. Daniel Franklin E. Pilario CM addressed three urgent issues representing the new faces of poverty in our time: 1) War, violence, and drugs, 2) Migrants and refugees, 3) Victims of climate change.

What should we do? Rethink corporal and spiritual works of mercy, rethink our traditional apostolates, rediscover the Social Doctrine of the Church, defend human rights, solidarity with workers and indigenous peoples, justice and peace, the common good, and care for our common home.

In the afternoon, training continued with the presentation by P. Corpus J. Delgado Rubio CM on the theme: The Mission of the Congregation of the Mission at the Beginning of Its Fifth Century of Life. The speaker highlighted five aspects of our Mission in the Church today:

1. Persevere in continuing Jesus' mission.
2. The priority of the first announcement and the joy of encountering Jesus Christ.
3. Develop and deepen synodality as members of the people of God.
4. Go beyond in the service of Christ to the poor, showing our proximity to the needy and abandoned at the peripheries of the world and the margins of a superficial throwaway culture.
5. Celebrate in the Eucharist the presence of Jesus Christ who is given to us: love to love.

The day concluded with the solemn concelebration of the Eucharist, presided over by the Visitor of France, P. Frédéric Pellefigue, at the Chapel of Saint Vincent at Rue de Sèvres. In his homily, P. Frédéric urged us to rediscover our bond with Christ, who is the living source of Vincentian spirituality, the very heart of our faith, to announce Christ to our brothers and to all those to whom we are called.



May 1, 2025

At the Parish of Saint-Eustache, with the presence of many faithful and the Vincentian Family of France, Auxiliary Bishop of Paris Mons. Emmanuel Tois presided over the solemn Eucharistic celebration concluding the Parisian festivities of the IV Centenary of the Foundation of the Congregation of the Mission, founded by Saint Vincent de Paul in 1625. In his homily, he invited us to live our mission in this time when hope is needed, prolonging the mission of Christ, the disciples, and Saint Vincent de Paul. God's goodness – said the Bishop – gives us the strength to restart with the awareness that He is the "event" to announce!

Lunch with the Poor during the 2025 World Day of the Poor

Father Tomaž Mavrič announced that the next stop of our Jubilee celebrations will be in Rome, from November 14 to 16, 2025, on the occasion of the World Day of the Poor, when the Holy Father will bless and hand over the 13 keys to the 13 houses to 13 families arriving from various countries.

As a concrete sign of charity, the Congregation of the Mission, on Sunday, November 16, 2025, will offer lunch to 1,300 poor brothers. The Holy Father will be present at the lunch. The Vincentian Missionaries will be in charge of serving at the tables, along with a representation of the Vincentian Family of Italy, who, at the end of the lunch, will offer the poor "Saint Vincent's backpack" with food and hygiene products. In this way, we will witness not only with our economic resources but also with our presence and service our commitment to the poor. The invitation to participate was addressed to all the Visitors of the world.

In Memory of Pope Francis

During these days, the memory and prayer for Pope Francis, who passed away on April 21, 2025, were not forgotten. We remember that Pope Francis had sent a message to Father Tomaž Mavrič in December 2024 on the occasion of the IV Centenary of the Foundation of the Congregation of the Mission, expressing his closeness to the Vincentian Family and his desire that this anniversary be an occasion for renewed missionary zeal:

"I will pray that this significant anniversary is an occasion of great joy and renewed fidelity to the concept of missionary discipleship, based on the imitation of Christ's preferential love for the poor."

Father Tomaž Mavrič emphasized that the Congregation of the Mission "lives the legacy of Pope Francis with deep gratitude and renewed commitment. His life and ministry are a constant source of inspiration for us."



Media impact of the Triduum

1. Streaming

The three Masses of the Triduum and the Solemn Mass at Sant'Eustachio were streamed live on the Congregation's YouTube channel as well as on its Facebook page. In total, the Masses reached 27,621 views, with the May 1st Mass being the most watched, totaling 18,258 views (live or on-demand).



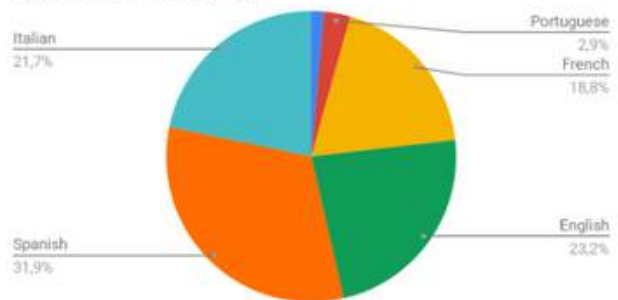
1.2. Press

The Triduum celebrated in Paris received worldwide coverage in numerous media outlets, both digital and print. A total of 69 articles were published, coming from 12 different countries and in 6 languages.





Impacts per language



1.3. Social Media

Social media also experienced growth during the days of the Triduum, both in terms of followers and views. The final video, for example, reached 200,363 views. Each day, photos, the day's homily, the conferences, a testimony, and a recap reel were published, along with the final video in 4 languages. The posts continued after the Triduum with a few additional testimonies. The number of followers increased by 462.



4. Website

We also took advantage of this event to further develop our web presence by publishing the daily homilies and conferences in 4 languages, as well as a final summary of the event. The increase in website traffic was also linked to the daily email sent to Nuntia Express subscribers.



Meeting of Visitors 2025

WALKING TOGETHER
TOWARDS A NEW PENTECOST

400

At the conclusion of the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the foundation of the Congregation of the Mission, the Meeting of Visitors was held at the Motherhouse from May 2 to 11, 2025. It was a space for discernment and reflection, aimed at evaluating the present of the Congregation and projecting its future steps, in creative fidelity to the legacy of St. Vincent de Paul.

The meeting had three fundamental objectives: to evaluate the current state of the Congregation in the light of the priorities of the 2022 General Assembly and the eleven points raised by the Superior General; to encourage the Visitors and their respective Provinces to assume this Document with renewed commitment; and begin preparations for the next General Assembly in 2028.

Each day began with community prayer (meditation, Lauds and Eucharist), which helped to create an environment conducive to discernment. The methodology used, participatory and synodal, allowed the exchange between different realities, favoring mutual listening and the construction of joint proposals. The presentations addressed topics such as Vincentian identity, community life as a source of mission, the contemplative dimension of the charism, popular missions, formation, current challenges and challenges, among others.

During the meeting, the new Ratio Formationis, the result of extensive international work, was presented and discussed. Conceived as a flexible and open tool, it is designed to be adapted to the reality of each Province. Its mission is to form missionaries capable of evangelizing in today's world, not only with theological solidity, but also with human maturity, fraternal life, intellectual competence, pastoral sensitivity and spiritual depth. The document The Vincentian Community was also presented, an inspiring proposal that, without being normative, invites us to renew community life as a missionary experience, in fidelity to St. Vincent de Paul and in dialogue with the challenges of the present.

A space was also created to think together at the 2028 General Assembly. From various dynamics, proposals for topics, concerns and desires were shared, looking for possible paths for the future. In this atmosphere of listening and discernment, the Superior General encouraged us to continue on the path by promoting bold, "radical and heroic" changes, which will allow us to live a true New Pentecost.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of fraternity, collaboration and shared search. Common prayer, informal dialogues, liturgical celebrations, spaces for conviviality and even walks reminded us that, beyond cultures, languages, countries and Provinces, we are one family at the service of the Gospel. Brothers united by the same charism, whose 400th anniversary we celebrate with gratitude, and whom today we feel called to keep burning more strongly than ever. Because the charism that gave rise to us is still the way, it is still fire... and it is still a promise.



Fr. José Israel SANTOS NÚÑEZ, CM,
Visitor Province of Puerto Rico



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