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Congregation of the Mission
Communication Office

The "Haste" of Charity

P. Salvatore Farì, CM

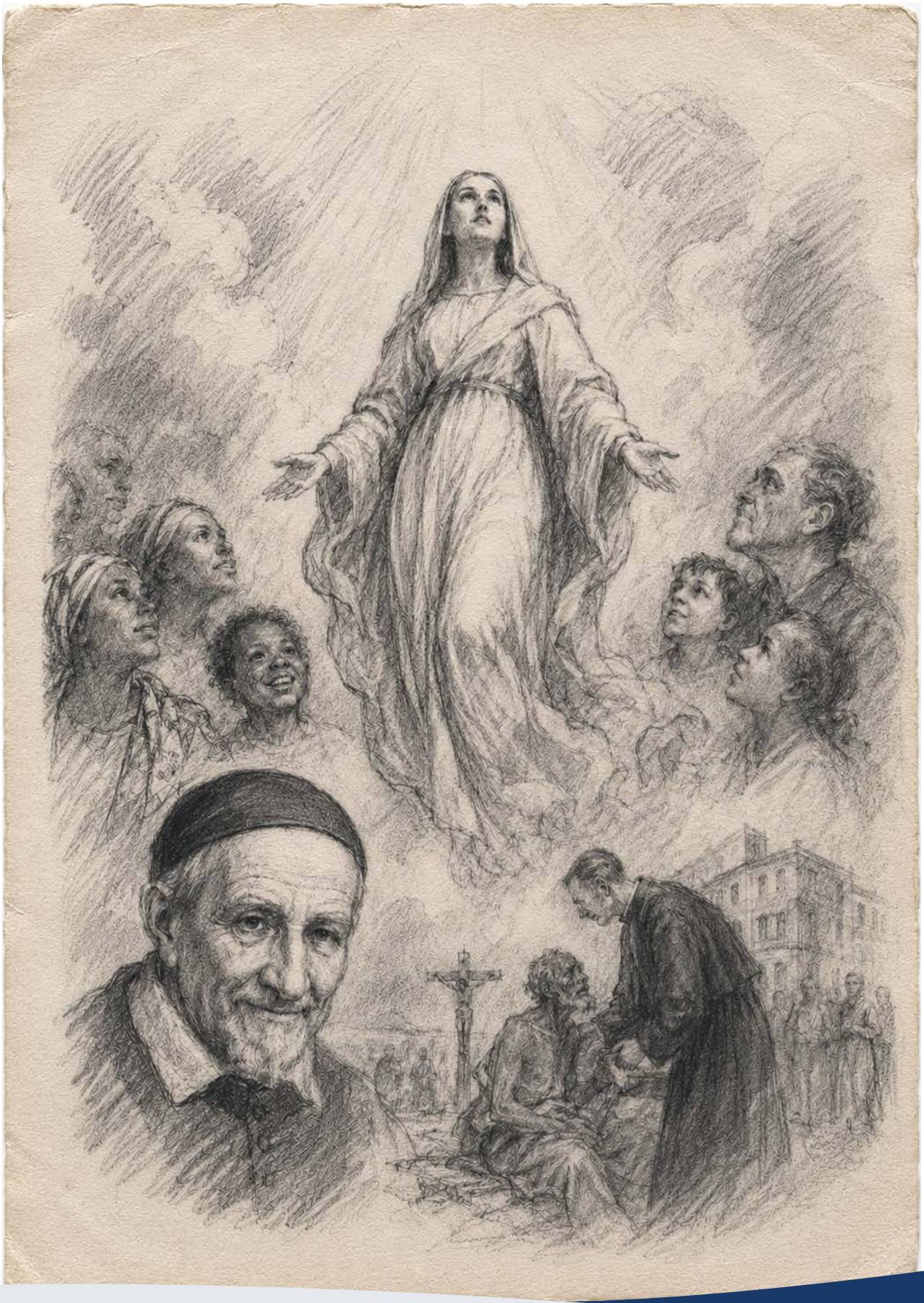


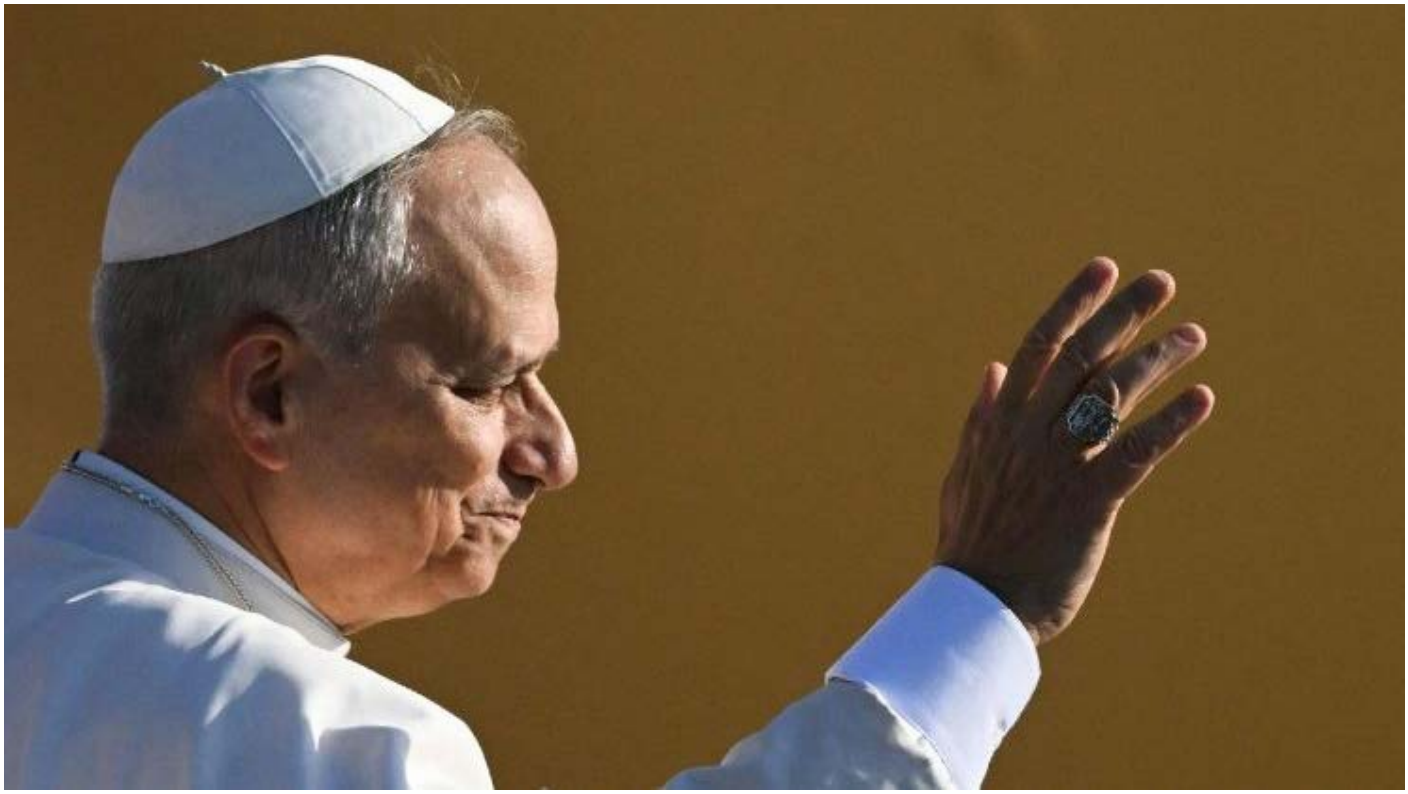
Each year, on August 15, the Church lifts her eyes to contemplate Mary assumed into heaven, body and soul. This is not an escape from the world but the fulfillment of a promise: the humble woman who believed the Word now goes before, in glory, the people who are still on pilgrimage. As the Second Vatican Council reminds us, the Mother of the Lord shines forth «as a sign of sure hope and comfort for the pilgrim People of God» (Lumen Gentium, 68). In a time marked by war, poverty, and uncertainty, this solemnity offers us a profound certainty: the final word over history belongs not to death, but to the risen life of Christ. Yet the Assumption does not draw us away from the earth; it leads us back to it. The liturgy places on our lips the Magnificat, the hymn in which Mary proclaims a God who «has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant», who «has brought down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly», who «has filled the hungry with good things». The woman raised to glory is the same woman who sang of God's reversal in favor of the little ones. Her exaltation is not the privilege of one person alone, but the promise made to all the poor and forgotten of the earth.

Here the feast of the Assumption touches the very heart of our vocation. Saint Vincent de Paul read the Gospel through the eyes of the poor and entrusted to the Congregation Christ's own mission: «Evangelizare pauperibus misit me» — «He has sent me to bring the Good News to the poor.» For Vincent, the poor were «our lords and masters», and it was in them that the face of Christ was to be recognized. The Magnificat of the Assumption and the Vincentian charism illuminate one another: what Mary proclaims in her song, the Little Company is called to make visible through history, mission, and concrete service. We have recently celebrated the four hundredth anniversary of our foundation (1625–2025), a Jubilee of thanksgiving that concluded this past spring. As our Superior General, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, reminded us, we are not closing the book of our history; we are simply turning the page. And the new page bears an ancient response: «Here I am; send me.» It is the readiness that makes every missionary one who is sent. We live this mission within today's Church, accompanied by the teaching of Pope Leo XIV and his invitation to be, everywhere, signs of hope and builders of peace.

We therefore entrust this issue of NUNTIA, and the work of all our confreres throughout the world, to Mary Assumed into Heaven. May she, who was exalted because she was humble and a servant, teach us to bend tirelessly toward the poor; may she obtain for us the «haste» of charity and the perseverance of hope. Looking to her, who has already reached

the goal, we rediscover the meaning of our own journey: to bring Christ to the least of our brothers and sisters, until God may be all in all.





«Our world has known the essence and transformation of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.»

POPE LEONE XIV, ANGELUS, 12th JULY 2026

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Our relationships with one another

P. Erminio Antonello CM

REFLECTIONS ON CHAPTER VIII OF THE COMMON RULES:



Fraternity rooted in faith and mutual acceptance is the sign of the Kingdom that leaves its mark on the lives of the disciples brought forth by the Gospel of Jesus. In a living fraternity, Christ's love for humanity becomes visible. The genius of the Gospel is encapsulated in the command by which disciples are recognized before the world: "Love one another as I have loved you. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples" (cf. Jn 13:34–35). Human logic would have expected: "Love me as I have loved you." But instead, no. Here lies the surprise: evangelical love is not based on reclaiming what one has given but on the generosity of a gratuitous relationship that expects nothing in return. Fraternal relationships are governed by the principle of freely recognizing one another as persons worthy of our esteem.

Running like a watermark through all the practical norms set forth in Chapter VIII of the Common Rules is this guiding principle: "Let there be among you a genuine friendship" (CR VIII, 2). What Vincent had most at heart when drafting the norms of Chapter VIII was that the community should be a family—indeed, this is the term he consistently uses in his letters to describe each individual community. We may therefore say that what is distinctive about our community is its family spirit, where an affectionate bond exists that is not simply the result of an act of the will but springs spontaneously from an attitude of esteem toward the other. Just as a family is united by ties of blood, so here the bond of a common vocation gives unity to all the members of the community.

In the correspondence of St. Vincent, there is a beautiful spiritual elevation in which he expresses his joy upon learning of the harmony that existed between Fr. Blatiron and Fr. Martin in their missionary preaching:

"O Divine Goodness, unite all the hearts of the little Company of the Mission, and then send upon it whatever You will. Labor will be joyful, every task will become easy, the strong will support the weak, and the weak will tenderly love the strong and obtain from God an increase of their strength. Thus, O Lord, Your work will be accomplished according to Your will for the building up of the Church, and Your workers will multiply,

drawn by the example of such charity." (SV III, 267)

This prayer expresses the foundation upon which all the specific and practical norms enumerated in the Common Rules are built.

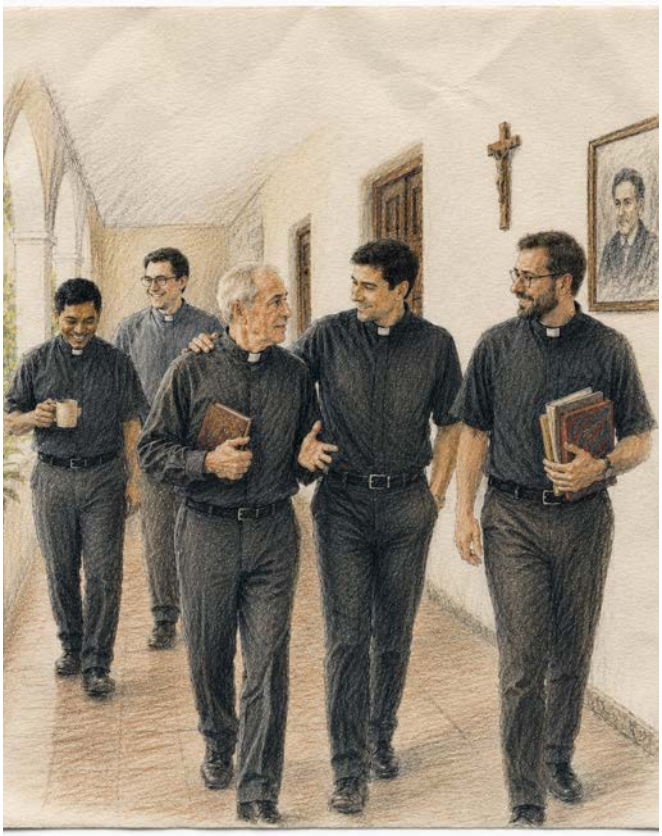
It is precisely against this background that the behavioral guidelines contained in the Rules acquire their authentic meaning, thus avoiding the risk of reducing them to mere moral prescriptions. Their purpose is to foster harmonious living among people who differ in temperament, history, and sensitivity. Among these norms, several deserve particular attention: "to be reconciled immediately if any disagreement should arise" (CR VIII, 1); to avoid seeking prominence and "become as the least" (CR VIII, 1); "during recreation to combine dignity with cheerfulness" (CR VIII, 7); "in conversation carefully avoid every kind of obstinacy and quarrelsomeness, even in jest" (CR VIII, 9); "present one's opinions courteously, calmly, and humbly, avoiding any sign of annoyance, impatience, or resentment" (CR VIII, 9); "never injure, even slightly, the good reputation of others, especially that of superiors, by avoiding gossip and detraction" (CR VIII, 11); and "strictly refrain from discussions concerning political affairs or other secular matters" (CR VIII, 16).

Other elements that contribute to the harmony of community life also deserve emphasis: respect for others and silence—or, at least, a reserved attitude that should be set aside only when it is necessary to speak on behalf of someone in need (CR VIII, 4); "the scrupulous observance of confidentiality" (CR VIII, 10); and "refraining from curiosity" (CR VIII, 12). These are simple rules of human prudence that foster peaceful and harmonious relationships.

The golden rule underlying all these attitudes is to cultivate genuine esteem and appreciation for others. Yet sincere esteem does not arise from what another person does or from the degree of sympathy they inspire. Rather, it is born of a perspective of faith that knows how to honor each person because he or she is a creature loved by God.

Fr. Erminio Antonello CM

(Italian Province of the C.M.)



Visit of the Superior General to the Region of Haiti

From June 19 to 23, 2026, the Region of Haiti had the great joy of welcoming the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, C.M. His visit was a profound sign of closeness, communion, and hope for the missionaries, seminarians, Daughters of Charity, and the entire Vincentian Family in Haiti.

Upon his arrival at Port-au-Prince International Airport on the morning of June 19, the Superior General was warmly welcomed by the Visitor of the Province of Puerto Rico, Fr. José Israel Santos Núñez, C.M., the Regional Superior, Fr. Elicien Estinor, C.M., several missionaries, Daughters of Charity, and representatives of the various branches of the Vincentian Family. Upon reaching St. Vincent de Paul Major Seminary, the first moment of the visit was an hour of Eucharistic adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, recalling that every mission is born of prayer and finds its source and strength in Christ.

During his stay, the Superior General held several important meetings. The first was with **the missionaries** serving in Haiti. In a simple and fraternal atmosphere, he learned firsthand about the reality of the Region, marked by enormous social and security challenges, the ongoing projects, the pastoral priorities, and the daily ministry carried out by the confreres in service of the poorest. At the same time, he encouraged them to continue strengthening their spiritual life, fraternity, and ongoing formation. He urged the Region to move forward with hope toward its continued growth and consolidation.

The visit also included a meeting with the **Daughters of Charity**, who shared the reality of their mission throughout Haiti. Through their schools, healthcare centers, and works of human promotion, the sisters continue to make Christ's love visible among those most in need. Their witness demonstrates that the Vincentian charism remains a concrete response to the wounds





experienced by the Haitian people.

Another significant moment was the gathering with the **Vincentian Family.** Representatives of its various branches presented their ministries and renewed their commitment to work together in the service of the poor. The Superior General reminded them that the richness of the Vincentian charism lies precisely in this communion, where each branch contributes its own gifts to the same mission. He encouraged them to deepen their collaboration, emphasizing that the Vincentian charism reaches its fullest strength when lived in unity.

Later, the Superior General met with the **formators and seminarians** of St. Vincent de Paul Major Seminary. He encouraged them to nurture their vocation, deepen their understanding of the charism and spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul, and recognize that formation does not end with seminary studies but continues throughout the life of every missionary. He also invited them to "put on Christ" and to live the Vincentian virtues joyfully in the service of the evangelization of the poor.

The high point of the visit came on Sunday, June 21, with the blessing and inauguration of the expansion of St. Vincent de Paul Major Seminary, a project that represents far more than new buildings: it is a true sign of hope for the future of the Congregation of the Mission in Haiti.

The origins of this project date back to January 12, 2010, when a devastating 7.3-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, causing tremendous loss of life and widespread destruction, particularly in Port-au-Prince. Within seconds, thousands of buildings—including homes, schools, churches, and public and private institutions—collapsed. Among the many damaged structures was St. Vincent de Paul Major Seminary, which suffered severe destruction. In the aftermath of the disaster, the seminarians' living and study conditions became extremely precarious, and the Congregation was no longer able to accommodate new candidates adequately. During his visit to the Province of Puerto Rico in August 2024, the Superior

General became aware of this reality and requested the preparation of an expansion project that would respond to the growing number of vocations in Haiti.

Thanks to the support of the Vincentian Solidarity Office (VSO) and the generosity of many benefactors, the project became a reality. The expansion includes thirteen new seminarian rooms, a multi-purpose hall, and additional community spaces, increasing the Seminary's capacity by 50 percent while providing more dignified conditions for the formation of future missionaries.

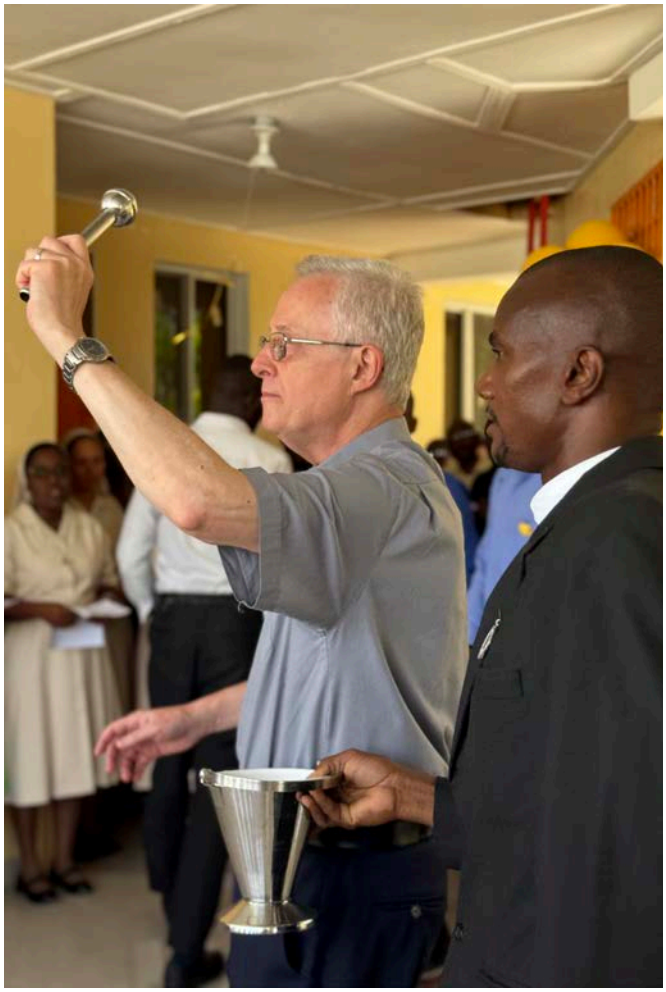
The blessing ceremony brought together missionaries, seminarians, Daughters of Charity, Salesians, representatives of the Vincentian Family, and numerous guests. The Visitor of the Province of Puerto Rico expressed his gratitude to all who made this project possible, while the Regional Superior and the Seminary Rector emphasized that this expansion represents an investment in the future of the Vincentian mission in Haiti.

The visit continued with tours of several ministries of the Congregation, including the construction of the parish church of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, the future Postulancy, and the educational and healthcare works carried out by the missionaries in service to the local population. Each of these visits allowed the Superior General to witness firsthand the confreres' daily commitment to evangelization and service to the poor.

Before departing, the Superior General presided over the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with the Seminary community, entrusting to the Lord the future of the mission in this land so deeply marked by suffering, yet sustained by a steadfast and persevering faith.

In a country that continues to face immense challenges, the Congregation of the Mission continues to invest in the future. The visit of the Superior General reaffirmed that the mission remains alive and that, even amid adversity, God continues to call and accompany those who generously dedicate their lives to the service of others.

Fr. José Israel Santos Núñez, C.M., Visitor



Beyond the Comfort Zone: Young People Discover the Vincentian Mission - Indonesia

From 24 to 26 June 2026, 57 young men from ten parishes across Surabaya, Blitar, Malang, Kediri, and Pandaan participated in a three-day Congregation of the Mission (CM) Vocation Retreat. More than simply introducing religious life, the retreat invited participants on a journey of encounter—with Christ, the Vincentian charism, and the possibility of discovering God's call in their own lives. Throughout the retreat, they were accompanied by CM confreres, who guided them through prayer, reflection, and vocational discernment.

The retreat began at the CM Provincial House in Surabaya, where the participants were officially commissioned by Fr. Stephanus Rudy Sulistijo, CM, Visitor of the Indonesian Province, before departing for Kediri. The first day offered them an opportunity to discover the living face of the Vincentian mission. At the Mission Office, they learned about the rich history of the Congregation's missionary work in Indonesia. They then visited the CM residence for elderly confreres at St. Joseph Kediri, where they witnessed firsthand the ministry of compassionate care for senior members of the Congregation. The day continued at Gubug Lazaris, the ecological ministry of the Indonesian Province, where outdoor activities, inspiring talks by missionaries serving in mission territories, and sharing sessions on parish ministry and





social outreach enabled the participants to appreciate the richness and diversity of the Vincentian apostolate. The evening concluded with an overnight stay at Gubug Lazaris, where fraternity and joyful fellowship naturally flourished.

On the second day, the group travelled to St. Vincent Major Seminary in Malang, where they participated in the celebration of Bonum Propositum and Admissio—important milestones in the formation journey of CM seminarians. Witnessing these celebrations gave the participants a meaningful glimpse into the life of those preparing for the priesthood and religious life. Later that evening, the seminarians shared their personal vocation stories, speaking honestly about their struggles, hopes, and the joy of responding to God's call. These encounters transformed vocation from an abstract concept into a living testimony.

The final day began with a morning walk and sports activities alongside the seminarians, strengthening the bonds that had grown over the previous days. The retreat then culminated in a reflection session entitled "Follow Me Beyond the Comfort Zone," inviting participants to listen more deeply to Christ's invitation and to embrace the courage needed to step beyond their comfort zones in order to follow Him. The experience concluded with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, during which the community gave thanks for the many graces received throughout the retreat.

For many participants, the retreat became more than a three-day programme—it marked the beginning of an interior journey. They returned home with a deeper understanding of the life and mission of the Congregation of the Mission and with hearts more open to God's invitation. Several participants expressed a sincere interest in discerning a vocation to the priesthood or

religious life. The retreat also highlighted the vocation of the Brother, made especially meaningful by the presence of a Brother candidate during the Admissio celebration. By presenting both the priestly and Brother vocations, the Congregation reaffirmed that every vocation is a unique response to Christ's call and an indispensable gift to the Church.

In a world where many young people are searching for meaning and direction, vocation retreats such as this provide a sacred space to encounter God through silence, fraternity, service, and prayer. As Saint Vincent de Paul often reminded his followers, every authentic vocation begins by listening to Christ and allowing oneself to be sent in service of the poor. It is our hope that many more young people will find the courage to step beyond their comfort zones and joyfully respond to the Lord's call to become Vincentian missionaries in the service of the Church and those most in need.



A Courageous Shepherd - Etiopia

In a world that many times seems overshadowed by uncertainty, conflict, and unrest, the story of Bishop Getahun Fanta shines as a compelling testament to unwavering faith and courageous leadership. His recent journey into the most volatile regions of the Nekemte Vicariate invites us to reflect deeply on what it truly means to be a shepherd — to lead with compassion, resilience, and unwavering commitment, even in the face of danger.

The situation in Nekemte Vicariate underscores the profound challenges faced by faith communities in volatile regions. Historically a vital missionary hub in Ethiopia, it has been ravaged in recent years by violence and displacement, particularly in areas inhabited by groups such as the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and FANO.



Parishes have remained shuttered for over four years, leaving the faithful deprived of essential sacraments and spiritual nourishment. This abandonment weighs heavily on the heart of the Church, calling for exemplary leadership and sacrifice.



Bishop Getahun Fanta, consecrated in September 2024, embodies the spirit of a true shepherd—someone who refuses to abandon his flock. His response to the crisis reflects a leadership rooted in love, hope, and divine calling. Despite the formidable obstacles, he took proactive steps: inviting missionaries to return, urging priests to stay close, and maintaining vital contact with catechists and the community. These efforts speak of a pastoral heart committed not just to the spiritual well-being of his people but also to their dignity and hope in adverse circumstances.

One of the most inspiring aspects of his leadership was his decision to personally visit Anger Gutin and Kamash—areas deemed unreachable and dangerous due to rebel control and hostility.

His first attempt to Anger Gutin in 2024 was fraught with peril; the journey led through burned villages and deserted churches, remnants of ongoing conflict. Yet, the presence of Bishop Getahun and his team became a symbol of hope amid despair. Despite the road's hardships the visit renewed the faith of the resilient community, proving that God's work and presence transcend even the darkest of circumstances.

The journey to Kamashi, in the Gumuze region, June 19-21 epitomizes courage and faith. Entering a zone embroiled in ethnic conflict and rebel activity, Bishop Getahun and his companions, Fr. Addisu Etafa, pastoral coordinator, and Mr. Mamo a driver faced immediate challenge when confronted by armed rebels of the OLA. The rebels challenged their purpose, took their phone cells and the money they had , and questioned their intentions—an ordeal that tested patience, respect, and calm dialogue. Yet, through respectful communication and trust in divine guidance, they succeeded in meeting the rebel chief, who ultimately allowed them to continue their mission. Their arrival in Kamashi was a moment of joy and renewal for the community — a concrete sign that faith and perseverance can triumph over fear.

Celebrating Holy Mass, baptizing children, and engaging with community elders after years of absence, Bishop Getahun's journey reaffirmed the resilience of faith amid adversity. It is a profound reminder





that shepherds must sometimes walk into the storms, not just to deliver spiritual aid but to rekindle hope and unity within their flocks.

This reflection invites us all to consider what it truly means to be a shepherd—a leader who goes beyond comfort and safety, who faces risks for the sake of others' spiritual well-being. Bishop Getahun's journey embodies the core of Gospel compassion: risking everything to serve, to seek, and to bring hope. His courage inspires us to reflect on our own commitments—whether in faith, service, or social justice—and to ask ourselves how we can emulate such steadfastness in our own lives.

May Bishop Getahun Fanta's example encourage us to be shepherds of hope in our communities, boldly walking into the challenges we face with trust in divine guidance. Let his journey remind us that, even amid chaos, faith, courage, and love can be powerful forces for change and renewal.



Congregation of the Mission celebrates a priestly ordination and two diaconal ordinations in Portugal



On 18 July, the Portuguese Province and the Vice-Province of Mozambique of the Congregation of the Mission experienced a moment of particular joy and thanksgiving. At the Church of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Lisbon, António José Clemente, CM, of the Portuguese Province, was ordained a priest, while Pedro Júlio Miranda, CM, and Vilarino Calisto, CM, of the Vice-Province of Mozambique, were ordained deacons. The celebration was presided over by Bishop Nélio Pereira Pita, CM, Auxiliary Bishop of Braga, and was also attended by Bishop Augusto César Alves Ferreira da Silva, CM, Bishop Emeritus of Portalegre-Castelo Branco.

The ordination of Fr António José Clemente held special significance, as the last priestly ordination of a member of the Portuguese Province had taken place in 2020. Pedro Júlio Miranda and Vilarino Calisto are currently in Portugal, where they are continuing their studies and contributing to the community, pastoral and missionary life, within the framework of the cooperation between the Vice-Province of Mozambique and the Portuguese Province.

In his homily, Bishop Nélio Pita presented the words of the prophet Isaiah — "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me" — as a programme for life and mission. He encouraged the new ministers to proclaim hope, heal the wounds of humanity, proclaim freedom to

captives and bring the Good News to the poor. He also reminded them that "being chosen does not mean being privileged, but accepting the call to be the servant of all," and that ministry must be lived in constant conformity with Christ, the Good Shepherd. He further invited them to cultivate the Vincentian virtues of simplicity, humility, meekness, mortification and zeal, always placing love before technique.

These ordinations are a reason for thanksgiving for the entire Congregation of the Mission and a concrete expression of the missionary communion between Portugal and Mozambique.





The Gift of the Keys and the "Jesus Mary" Bell to the Motherhouse on Rue de Sèvres

The "Jesus Mary" bell was already ringing at Saint-Lazare when St. Vincent de Paul arrived there in 1632. It witnessed the lives of the first missionaries and the many activities carried out in service of the poor and the formation of the clergy.

As time passed, the "Jesus Mary" bell also bore witness to the tragic events of the French Revolution, including the expulsion of the Congregation of the Mission. In 1792, when Saint-Lazare was transformed into a revolutionary prison, the bell remained in place. At that time, the prison became known as the "cursed house," since most of those confined there were sentenced to death by an arbitrary popular tribunal.



Years later, in 1825, Saint-Lazare underwent another transformation, this time becoming a women's prison. Because many of the inmates were prostitutes suffering from venereal diseases, a hospital for sexually transmitted diseases and a general prison hospital were built alongside it. During the popular and social uprising of 1848, it also served as the place where wounded insurgents were brought.

Throughout these very different periods of history, the "Jesus Mary" bell continued to ring with its clear, silvery tone. It also rang to announce the arrival, on December 31, 1849, of 39 Sisters of Mary Joseph, who had been called by the government to care for the female prisoners. Who were these sisters? Popularly known in France as the "Prison Sisters,"the Sisters of Mary Joseph devoted themselves exclusively to the custody, accompaniment, and reintegration of incarcerated women.

Saint-Lazare was closed as a prison in 1932 and largely demolished the following year. When the "Jesus Mary" bell was removed, it was entrusted to the Sisters of Mary Joseph in recognition of their dedicated service to the prisoners. Sister Mary of Fourvière, Superior of the congregation, received the bell and preserved it at the congregation's Motherhouse in Le Dorat, about 350 kilometers (220 miles) from Paris.

In addition to the bell, the sisters also safeguarded the keys of Saint-Lazare. Since it had been a nineteenth-century prison (with structures dating back to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries), its main keys were large, hand-forged iron pieces of remarkable size and weight, designed for the imposing outer gates and the heavy locks of the principal sections.

The bell and the keys are deeply connected, as together they regulated daily life at Saint-Lazare. The bell awakened the prisoners, marked the beginning of work, announced mealtimes, signaled hours of silence, and called the community to religious services. Yet after every toll of the bell came the unmistakable sound of the keys turning as the prison wings were locked or unlocked.

On June 16, 2026, the bell was donated to the Congregation of the Mission to be installed at its Motherhouse in Paris. The sisters presented it wrapped in a blue cloth recalling the veil of their religious habit, symbolizing their desire to bring "a little corner of blue sky into the prison," as well as their consecration to Mary, Mother of Mercy.





NOMINATIONES

BERNARDO MARTINS Antonio Manuel	10/07/2026	Director HC de Portugal

ORDINATIONES EPISCOPALES

✠ MARÍN ARBOLEDA Homero	15/08/2026	Obispo de Tierradentro, Colombia

ORDINATIONES

DE FREITAS BRITO DA SILVA Raimundo	Sac	FOR	29/05/2026
AYINA Vincent Cédric	Sac	CAM	04/07/2026
SINANG Marcel	Sac	CAM	04/07/2026
CHUKWU ENWELU Kizito Ifunanya,	Sac	NIG	17/07/2026
DOMINIC Caleb Bakam	Sac	NIG	17/07/2026
EMAVWODIA John Mary	Sac	NIG	17/07/2026
NNONYELU Ignatius Ofoma	Sac	NIG	17/07/2026
OBILOR Matthew Ogbonna	Sac	NIG	17/07/2026
OLISA Kenechukwu Dominic	Sac	NIG	17/07/2026
NUNES CLEMENTE António José	Sac	LUS	18/07/2026
NDAYIZEYE Leopold	Sac	COL	01/08/2026
FERREIRA LOPES Guilherme Felipe	Sac	FOR	01/08/2026

NECROLOGIUM

Nomen	Cond.	Dies ob.	Prov.	Aet.	Voc.
PILETIC William R.	Sac	12/06/2026	OCC	88	58
FANZAGA Pietro Angelo	Sac	02/07/2026	ITA	82	65
LITEWKA Marian	Sac	07/07/2026	CUR	88	70
SIEMIŃSKI Andrzej Władysław	Sac	08/07/2026	POL	69	50
CUEVAS CUEVAS Jerónimo	Sac	11/07/2026	SVP	97	79
DORR James F.	Sac	23/07/2026	ORL	95	74
ESCOBAR BOTERO Fernando	Sac	30/07/2026	COL	89	73
KLIDZIO Valeriano Pedro	Sac	02/08/2026	CUR	81	61
SHELBY Charles F.	Sac	06/08/2026	OCC	85	63
RIVAS VILA Enrique	Sac	08/08/2026	SVP	88	70