Vincentian Marian Youth
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INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

TO JESUS WITH MARY, PILGRIMS OF HOPE!

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CONTENTS

FORMATION
- International Delegate

ACTIVITY
- VMY RWANDA-BURUNDI

TESTIMONY
- VMY POLAND

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER
- VMY COLOMBIA

VMY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
- Africa
- America
- Europe
- Asia

VMY INTERNATIONAL

EDITORIAL

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Virgin Mary for the graces that, without having asked for them, for being part of this great family of the Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY).

Mary represents, above all, the mother of Jesus, occupying a central place in my life and hopefully that of all the members of the VMY as the supreme model of faith, hope, and devotion.

Her role in my spiritual life and ours makes her a constant reference of virtues: humility, total surrender, and trust in the divine will. Mary embodies active faith, the one that sustains us in times of daily difficulties and challenges.



Her "yes" to God's will, expressed in Luke 1:38, is an example of obedience and trust in the divine plan, inspiring our own commitment to the VMY International Secretariat. Her unwavering hope, manifested even in situations of uncertainty and suffering, teaches me to keep my eyes on God's promises, strengthening our trust in God's mercy.

Devotion to Mary is not limited to external veneration but requires imitating her virtues and following her example of total surrender to Christ. To conclude, Mary illuminates the path of young people towards an authentic faith, a firm hope, and a sincere devotion, essential for our spiritual growth and the evangelizing mission of the VMY.

Lassana N'DJAI
VMY Portuguese-Speaking Volunteer

FORMATION

The Immaculate Heart of Mary: School of Faith, Hope, and Love

When we discover the inexhaustible source of light and love contained in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, this heart inevitably leads us to another heart: the heart of Mary, which speaks to us from the center of her being, the place where her deepest sentiments of faith and total love for God intersect. In our contemporary culture, where the heart symbolizes affection, purity, and inner truth, looking into the heart of Mary is a profound way of understanding what it means to follow Jesus from the depths of our being.

Mary experiences an overflowing joy when she welcomes the angel: "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Lk 1:28); and she herself proclaims: "My spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Lk 1:47). But she also knows fear and confusion when the angel speaks to her and "she was troubled" (Lk 1:29).





Experience the deep anguish of Simeon's prophecy: "a sword will pierce your soul" (Lk 2:35) and, later, the anguish of the loss of Jesus: "Your father and I have been looking for you in anguish" (Lk 2:48). However, her way of reacting is not to despair, but to keep and reflect everything in her heart (Lk 2:19; 2:51). She is not only the mother, but also the disciple: "those who hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk 8:21), "blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk 11:28). The heart of Mary teaches us to listen, to welcome, and to persevere, precisely what we need most in the midst of so many voices, distractions, and hopelessness. Dear young and not-so-young reader: In troubled times of anxiety and doubt, Mary invites you to enter her heart. A heart that does not flee from pain nor close itself to joy. A heart that does not understand everything but trusts without reservation. It teaches us that faith is not a fleeting emotion, but a deliberate decision to trust, hope, and love.

Sr. Isabel Mª Higueras Hernández, DC
International Delegate

ACTIVITY

Title: A Walk with Mary

Objectives: To cultivate in young people the love for the Virgin Mary through activities of faith, fraternity, and service. To live Marian spirituality concretely in joy, unity, and the gift of self. Encourage young people to bear witness to their faith through simple but profound gestures, such as prayer, walking, sharing, and encounter.

Material: Bible, Rosary, drums, VMY handkerchiefs, baskets for the picnic.

Procedure: To mark the month of May, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY) of the parish of Rwisabi organized a special activity on May 18, 2025. Initially planned as a simple fraternal journey, it has become a true Marian pilgrimage.

Early in the morning, the young people got up with determination. They made a 4-hour hike, crossing mountains and rivers, to reach the parish of Ghobadi.





Final reflection: On the way, a joyful atmosphere reigned: prayers, Marian songs, dances, fraternal exchanges... everything reflected the presence of Mary at the heart of this journey.

Once they arrived, the young people were warmly welcomed by their companions from the VMY of Gihogazi, who were eager to welcome them. Together, they celebrated the Eucharist, shared a fraternal picnic, and received the solemn blessing of the parochial vicar, visibly moved by their journey of faith and fraternity. Along the way, several young people shared their feelings: "I felt that Mary was walking with me, that she was carrying me in her arms." "Despite being tired, I have never felt so happy. It was as if I had walked towards the Lord."

VMY RWANDA-BURUNDI

TESTIMONY

May Encounter with the Virgin Mary – A Lasting Encounter of the Soul

May holds special meaning in the Catholic Church as a month devoted to Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

For the Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY), it's a time of deep connection with Mary through prayer, community, and creativity - filled with joy and spiritual growth.

Solemn May devotions are a cherished tradition. Each day, faithful gather to recite the Litany of Loreto in churches, chapels, and roadside shrines. This year, the devotions began in a special way: among blooming trees and birdsong, youth from across Poland met in the seminary garden of the Congregation of the Mission. The presence of Mary felt especially close in this setting, where nature and faith met in harmony.

As part of our formation, we engaged in a creative activity—crafting personal Marian shrines.





These weren't just artistic projects; they expressed our devotion and inner connection to the Mother of God. As we shaped the shrines, we reflected on Mary's role in our lives, feeling our hands guided by love and faith.

A highlight of the gathering was composing new invocations for the Litany of Loreto. Inspired by personal experiences, youth created titles like "Mother of Patience in Chaos," "Guardian of the Longing," and "Mary, Mother of Daily Hope." Praying these heartfelt invocations, we felt Mary's closeness in our everyday lives.

For VMY, May is more than tradition – it's about building bonds with Mary, with each other, and within ourselves. It is a living faith, blossoming in community, in nature, and in prayerful creativity. This May, we experienced Mary as truly present – with tender love – in the heart of our youthful Church.

VMY POLAND

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

The Daughters of Charity arrived in Colombia in 1882. In 1888, they assumed responsibility for the School of St. Augustine, in the city of Popayán, which had 170 young people who were part of the group of the Daughters of Mary.

Later, the Association sprang up everywhere in Colombia where the Daughters of Charity went. In 1968, it was renamed "Vincentian Marian Youth".

In September 1973, the Association reorganized itself in Colombia, with its headquarters located at the Lyceum Sagrada Familia in Palmira, Vale. From then on, the groups emerged little by little. In December 1975, the Association had 25 groups in 18 cities in the country.

Until 2024, in Colombia, there were two provinces: Bogotá and Cali, each with its own advisor. Currently, a process of reconfiguration is underway, which began with the appointment of a single national advisor for the Vincentian Marian Youth.



There are VMY groups in 22 locations across the country, comprising approximately 300 members who are characterized by being cheerful, dynamic, generous, and fervent young people. They strive to emulate the virtues of the Virgin Mary and are willing to serve Jesus Christ in the person of the poor.

The emphasis is on prayer, formation, and action, assuming the principles and guidelines of the Church and the Vincentian charism.

VMY COLOMBIA

VMY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

AFRICA
Cameroon

The Vincentian Youth organized a closing meeting of its activities in the Center region. This event took place on May 31, 2025, at 9 a.m., at the Saint Kizito orphanage in Nkol-Bisson. It was a moment of joy and conviviality, where we shared good humor and a moment of recollection.



VMY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

AMERICA

USA

The VMY Southeast Missouri has just completed its 21st Operation Overhaul in Racine, Wisconsin, the largest to date, with over 150 participants! This mission trip takes place annually and offers high school youth a week of formation in the Vincentian charism, along with practical service to communities in need in various cities across the USA.



EUROPE

Croatia

On May 10, 2025, the 5th National Assembly of Marian Vinkovci Youth was held in Šibenik, gathering members and advisors to pray, reflect, and elect new national leaders. Reports were shared, and future plans, including national meetings, logo updates, and social media outreach, were discussed – all rooted in Vincentian spirituality and Marian devotion.



ASIA

Philippines

The CoM-VMY Philippines National Convention 2025 gathered 80 delegates from 28 units nationwide on June 12-14 in Negros Occidental. With the theme "Pilgrims of Hope: Strengthening the Mission to Accompany the Vincentian Marian Youth," the event featured liturgies, talks, cultural activities, and leadership workshops, strengthening unity, mission, and accompaniment among the Vincentian Marian Youth and their advisors.



VMY INTERNATIONAL

The Director General of the VMY, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM, confirmed and issued the following appointments:

National Presidents

- Ms. Josipa Bukarica (Croatia)
- Ms. Mary Catherine Binibini (Greece)

National Sister Advisors

- Sr. Pravati Lima, DC (India)

National Priest Advisors

- Fr. Joseph Emmanuel Bayiha, CM (Cameroon)
- Fr. Bruno Jose Pinheiro da Cunha, CM (Portugal)

2nd International Meeting of VMY Advisors

From August 5 to 10, this meeting will be held in Paris with the objective of offering an integral vision of the role of the VMY advisor from different dimensions: spiritual, pastoral and organizational, based on our Marian-Vincentian spirituality. We count on your prayers for all the VMY advisors in the world.

Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY) Celebrates 195 Years!

On the night of July 18-19, 1830, in her first apparition to St. Catherine Laboure, our Mother Mary asked for the foundation of our Association. Today, she continues to be a pillar for young people who follow her example.

VMY continues to promote values of charity and service throughout the world, inspiring young people to be agents of change in their local communities.



Thank You, Odile!

We thank Odile Merveille Anguidjo (VMY Cameroon) for her service as a French-Speaking Volunteer at the International Secretariat during these three years. The International Team wishes her all the best in her next projects.

Welcome, Elissa!

It is with great joy that we welcome Elissa Alchidiac (VMY Lebanon) as the new French-Speaking Volunteer of the International Secretariat. We thank her for her courageous "yes" and we join in prayer to wish her the best in her new mission in the Philippines.



We Are Looking for a Volunteer!

The VMY International Secretariat is looking for a new volunteer to serve with joy in the name of Jesus and Mary. Do not miss the opportunity to serve at the international level.