



# ASSOCIATION OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

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## Bulletín # 48 January, February, March 2017 INVITATION TO THE VINCENTIAN SYMPOSIUM

Symposium with Pope Francis  
October 12, 13, 14, 15 2017

Workshops in Paul VI Hall  
Address by Pope Francis  
Mass in St Peter's Basilica  
Vigil at the Basilica of  
St. Paul outside the Walls

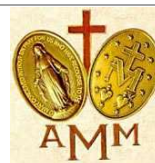
<http://famvin400.info>

A Special Blessing:  
The heart of St. Vincent  
will be with us in Rome!

Pilgrimage • Film Festival • Symposium • Homelessness Initiative

### AT THE TIME OF THE SYMPOSIUM

*All the member of the Miraculous Medal Association will meet together  
At the Church of Saint Andrew delle Fratte, on October 12<sup>th</sup> and 7:00p,*



INVITATION

# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

March 27, 2017 – Paris, France

All the members of the General Council were present at this meeting that was directed by the Sub-Director General, Father Carl Pierber, CM. This was the first meeting in which the Director General, Father Tomaž Marrič, participated.

The first part of the meeting was led by Father Tomaž who shared with us some reflections on the significance of the Jubilee Year in which we celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the origin of the Vincentian charism. He also spoke about the four great international initiatives of the Vincentian Family:

**a) *The Pilgrimage of the heart of Saint Vincent.***

This year the relic of St. Vincent's heart will be venerated throughout France and then in later years, throughout the world. The pilgrimage will follow the order in which the Vincentian Family became present in the various countries of the world.

**b) *Symposium***

This will take place in Rome, Italy (October 12-15). Father Tomaž encourages all the members of the national and local councils to participate in this event.

**c) *Global initiative of the Vincentian Family on behalf of street people viewed from three different perspectives:***

✓ People living on the street, People who do not have dignified housing and refugees

This initiative was spoken about during the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Vincentian Family. Strategies are being prepared and this initiative will be inaugurated on June 28<sup>th</sup>. We will begin by gathering information with regard to current assistance and programs that are caring for and helping homeless people. This phase will enable the initiative to be more effective.

Father Tomaž explained that this is not a new project but one that has already begun and it is necessary to gather information from all the various countries and from all the branches of the Vincentian Family ... all the branches are engaged in some wonderful work in this area. We must take advantage of these experiences in order to make our effort more effective.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> the European Parliament will hold a day of reflection on the situation of homeless people and during this event we will speak about the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vincentian charism.

**d) Film Festival:**

We encourage all interested persons to develop videos from 15 to 20 minutes in length, a video with an original script and that deals with some aspect of the Vincentian charism. The result of this work will be made public in September 2018.

At this meeting the Council received information about the progress of the International Association on a worldwide level. A financial report was also given and these monies are derived from the quotas that are received from the national councils.

Father Carl Pieber gave a report about the work that is being done in order to create a new website and also reported on the status of the text: *The Path of Life*. Very soon this work will be available to all the members.

We want to thank Father Tomaž for his participation in this meeting.





## WHY THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL ASSOCIATION - -- CHILDREN OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN?

*Colaboración of Sister Rosalía Laznik, DC  
National Advisor in Slovenia*



On the night of July 18, 19, 1830, during the first apparition of the Blessed Mother to Saint Catherine Laboure in the chapel of the Daughters of Charity on the Rue de Bac in Paris, Mary expressed her desire that an Association of the Children of Mary should be established. Jesus himself has said: *where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them* (Matthew 18:20). We must understand that we are more effective when we join together our physical and

spiritual assets ... and such should always be a reality among the members of the Miraculous Medal Association --- the children of the Blessed Virgin.

Soon after the apparitions, devotion to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal began and was extended throughout France. Later this Marian Movement came into existence in the various provinces of the Daughters of Charity and the Vincentian priests and brothers. In Slovenia (which was then part of Austria-Hungry) the Association of the Children of Mary was begun in 1888 in the house of Marija in Kočevje (Cotchévyié), and in 1893 in Lichenthurn in Ljubljana (Lyoublyiana).

The Daughters of Charity and members of the Congregation of the Mission ministered in those places and were education the children and

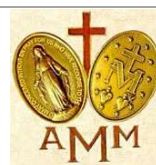
# FROM SLOVENIA

young adults in their faith. These educators were inspirational men and women who presented the Message of the Blessed Mother to these young men and women.

After the Second World War, the Association was obliged to interrupt its activities and was ultimately dissolved ... this was a result of the communist revolution. However, veneration of the Blessed Mother and the distribution of the Miraculous Medal never ceased ... even though this had to be done secretly. Recently, in Slovenia, we are in the process of exhuming the bodies of hundreds of thousands of people who were killed in 1945-1946 and buried in common graves.

What did we find on these individuals? They were wearing crucifixes, rosaries and most commonly, the Miraculous Medal. This is proof (very tragic proof) that our people wore the Medal and venerated the Blessed Mother. For two decades after the communist revolution it was impossible for the Association to engage in any activity. This was not only prohibited by the communist regime but at the same time the Daughters of Charity were removed from their various institutions and scattered throughout the country. Some of them were imprisoned. Thus, the Daughters of Charity who, through Saint Catherine Laboure, were entrusted with spreading devotion to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, were prevented from fulfilling their mission. Something similar happened to the members of the Congregation of the Missions. However, after a few signs of softening, from 1960 forward, the Church was able to initiate anew some pastoral activities and the Daughters of Charity and the Vincentian priests and brothers began to distribute the Miraculous Medal, but it was still impossible to restore the Association.

In the Holy Year of 2000, at the request of the priest of Šmartno near Slovenj Gradec, Fr. Franco Rataj, fostered "the little seeds of Mary" that have begun to flourish. This is in fact the name given to the children who participated in the various catechetical classes, children who desired to pray to the Blessed Mother and were taught to recite the invocation: O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you! The



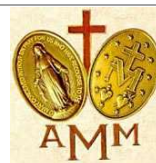
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children received a Miraculous Medal to remind them of their commitment to Mary. These children were accompanied by their parents and since then, this form of devotion to the Virgin Mary began to spread beyond the parish ... and was extended throughout Slovenia. Today, the number of members enrolled in the Association of the Miraculous Medal, children of the Blessed Mother, exceeds 2000. These members are joined together in their devotion to Mary and have become a great spiritual force in our country. The purpose of the Association is to insure that all who wear the Miraculous Medal should remain firm in the practice of their faith ... firm in their hope and active in works of charity.

The primary celebration of the Association occurs on November 27<sup>th</sup>, the same day we remember the words spoken by the Blessed Mother and the request that was made concerning the medal. On that feast we also recall the many graces that humanity has received through the intercession of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

In the days leading up to the feast, every year, the members gather together in various parishes. This year we were able to count on eleven parishes: the Poor Clares in Nazarje (Nazaryié), Ptuj (Ptuyi) in the parish of St. Peter and Paul, and Dobova, in Turnišče (Tournichtché) Maribor-Tezno, in Kočevje (Cotchévyié) in Celje-St. Joseph (Tzélyié) in Ljubljana in the church of the Sacred Heart and Trbovlje (Terbovlyié). Our "pilgrimage" was solemnly concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist near Slovenj Gradec (Svolvenye) at the shrine of the Assumption. At the beginning of our gathering, we pray the novena prayers which include prayers of thanksgiving and petitions from our members ... then, the Eucharist is celebrated. After of Eucharist we share with one another our various experiences and the ways in which we have continued to develop our relationship with Mary. Yes, we thank God for this Mother who always accompanies us on our journey!

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you!







## THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

### THE VATICAN

I am sure we were all happy to see Pope Francis celebrating services in the presence of the painting that is usually displayed in the church of Saint Andrew della Fratte (Rome). That work was painted by the artist Natale Carta and depicts the apparition of Mary to Alphonse Ratisbonne. This painting was displaced at the main altar of Saint Peter's Basilica during the Vesper Service of December 30<sup>th</sup>, during the praying of the *Te Deum* on December 31<sup>st</sup>, and during the celebration of the Eucharist (January 1<sup>st</sup>) that was presided by the Holy Father. Those celebrations commemorated the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conversion of Alphonse Ratisbonne.



## COLOMBIA, BRAZIL, CHILE

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the origin of the Vincentian charism, the first National Marian Congress of the Miraculous Medal Association will be held in Colombia (May 27-29). We also received information about up-coming National Assemblies in Brazil and Chile. Let us join together in prayer for all of these efforts in the area of forming the members of our Association.

## ECUADOR

The members in Ecuador have shared with us their calendar of activities for the year 2017, activities that are related to the theme: *400 years of Good News on behalf of those persons who are poor.*

## SPAIN

We have received their Bulletin which contains material for the formation of the members and an interesting news section.

## AUSTRALIA



The National Council in Australia has sent us their January 2017 Bulletin which contains reflections on the feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and the Nativity. It also includes a section that contains news about the activities of the members. The photographs reflect the joy and the enthusiasm of the members during the various celebrations.