



MIRACLOUS MEDAL ASSOCIATION

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BULLETIN #50 *SYMPOSIUM*



Dear Devotees of Mary,

We are dedicating our bulletin to some of the events of the Symposium with Pope Francis, October 12-15, 2017. It was a wonderful event and expression of



Bulletin of the Miraculous Medal Association

SYMPOSIUM

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our Faith. I held each one of you in my heart and never forgot you. All of my Masses there were for you. I prayed that by this outpouring of Faith, you will be renewed in your love and devotion to our Mother, Mary Immaculate and her Son, Jesus Christ.

The two events that were memorable in my reflections were the opening Prayer Service to Mary. We prayed the Rosary and Consecration to Mary Immaculate. Fr. Joseph Agostino, C.M., the Director of the Vincentian Family and Organizer of this weekend, was our speaker. His talk is in another part of this Bulletin.

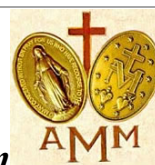
The other event is the closing Mass. The main celebrant of the Mass was our Director, Fr. Tomaz Mavric, C.M., assisted by our former directors, Fr. Robert Maloney, C.M. and Fr. Gregory Gay, C.M. Fr. Tomaz Homily was very inspirational and is also located in another part of this Bulletin.

But the most memorable event was meeting our Holy Father, Pope Francis. I told him that I represented all of you, Mary's Association. The Pope smiled and said thank you. Then he spoke to me and said, "Please ask all of your members to pray for me." I then said "Yes, Holy Father, all of us will pray for you." I felt the presence of God and Mary. All of Heaven seemed to be present asking us for prayers and union with them. I pass this on to you so that you too might be in union with God our Father, Mary our Mother and our saints in Heaven.

As promised, I request all local associations to pray one Our Father, One Hail Mary and One Glory Be for our Holy Father. I ask you to do this at the beginning of each meeting. In this way, we will fulfill our promise to Pope Francis and be in union with him.

Gratefully yours in the trust of Mary and the Love of the Holy Spirit, her spouse, that brings forth Christ in the hearts and faces of the poor,

Rev. Carl L. Pieber, C.M.
Deputy Director,
International Miraculous Medal Association



SYMPOSIUM

SAINT VINCENT WALKS AMONG US!

After having participated in the Symposium that took place in Rome (October 12-15, 2017), an event that was part of the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the origin of our charism and an event in which more than 10,000 persons from almost 100 countries and from so many of the distinct branches of the Vincentian Family, I have no doubt that Saint Vincent walks among us!

A big THANK YOU to all those who made this unforgettable and unrepeatable celebration possible!

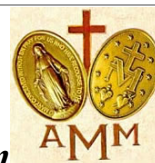
SAINT VINCENT WALKED AMONG US!

The smiles, the joy, the warm greetings, the applause, the openness, the heroic witness talks, the enthusiastic music ... all of these and so much more revealed the fact that Saint Vincent was, indeed, walking among us. At the same time, we were offered profound reflections by Father Joseph Agostino, CM (during his homily at the beginning of the Symposium) Pope Francis (at the time of Saturday's audience in St. Peter's Square), by Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM (during his closing homily).

A devout and fervent environment was created by the various liturgical celebrations ... and during several of these celebrations the reliquary containing the heart of Vincent was solemnly brought into our midst.

There were no geographical, cultural or language barriers ... we were united as one people to honor the person of Saint Vincent and the heritage that has been passed on to us.

At the conclusion of the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday, October 15th, Joseph Agostino, CM brought the Symposium to a Conclusion. All that occurred during those days of the Symposium were signs of hope. Yes, we have many, many reasons to be encouraged as we



proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and do so in imitation of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac.

SAINT VINCENTE WILL CONTINUE TO WALK AMONG US!

The Vincentin Family Symposium (Welcome the Stranger) was developed in the following manner:

Wednesday and Thursday (October 11th and 12th)

Registration and distribution of material (backpack, raincoat, scarf, badge guidebook for the various celebrations) took place at the Leonine ... members from the various branches and some young volunteers took charge of this task.

Thursday, October 12th in the Basilica of St. John Lateran - celebration of a prayer service in homros of Our Lady of the Mirasculous Medal.

This celebration was coordinated by Father Carl Pieber CM, International Subdirector of the Miraculous Medal Association. This was the first event of the Symposium and the participants prayed the rosary in various languages and Father Joseph Agostino, CM, coordinator of the Vincentian Family Office, offered the homily which was followed by praying the Novena Prayers.

October 13th - Symposium

This was a time dedicated to presentations, reflection and dialogue. The Italian, Spanish and English speaking groups gathered together at the "Pala Cavicchi"; the Polish speaking group at the house of the Daughters of Charity, María Inmaculada; the French speaking group at the parish of Saint Gregory VII and the Portuguese speaking group and the Leonine.

The following themes were developed during this time: Vincentian spirituality and its prophetic challenge, education and communication for mobilization, the Vincentian charism: from here to where?

The celebration of the Eucharist followed the conclusion of the various presentations. There was also a special session for the lay participants and for young consecrated men and women.



Saturday, October 14th

The participants began to fill St. Peter's Square at 8:00am and at 8:45 the scheduled program was initiated. There was music and dance and witness talks. The director of the worldwide Vincentian homeless initiative addressed the participants. At noon there was an audience with Pope Francis who circled around the place twice before taking his place before us.

It was very emotional to see the heart of St. Vincent being brought forward in procession and then see the Pope pause and prayer before that reliquary.

Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM Superior General, welcomed the Pope and presented him to the Vincentian Family. Then the Pope shared with us

some reflections on the Vincentian charism and the process of evangelization.



Prayer Service (coordinated by the Vincentian Marian Youth)

We gather together at St. Paul's Outside the Wall on Saturday evening. Through various biblical passages we encountered Mary as she sought out and welcomed the stranger in her surroundings: Luke 1:39-56; as she herself became a stranger and fled into Egypt, Matthew 2:13-15; and finally as Mary was handed over to the care of John: John 19:26-27.

Once again, the reliquary containing the heart of St. Vincent was brought into our midst ... this was preceded by the presentation of many paper hearts that had been made by the members of the VMY in Lebanon.

The dance group and the mime group enabled us to remain attentive to the Spirit who became manifest in each and every one of the participants.

October 15th:

The closing Eucharist of the Symposium was celebrated in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. About 300 priests concelebrated, Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM presided and he was accompanied at the main altar by Fr. Gregory Gay and Fr. Robert Maloney, (former superiors general).

The celebration began with an entrance procession that included the presentation of some 150 national flags, a symbol of the international dimension of the Vincentian Family. Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM offered the homily.



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Many thanks to . Carl Pieber, CM, por su animación a participar en este gran evento, a los miembros del Consejo Internacional que pudieron estar presentes y a muchos miembros de la Asociación de tan diversos países.

Presentations at the Symposium:

Here are links for the three fundamental texts of the Symposium:

October 12: the homily of Joseph Agostino, CM in the Basilica of Saint John Lateran can be accessed at:

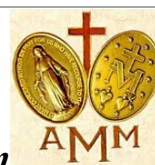
<http://www.cmeast.org/roman-pilgrimage-fr-callaghan/>

October 14: the message of Pope Francis to the members of the Vincentian Family gathered in St. Peter's Square can be accessed at:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2017/october/documents/papa-francesco_20171014_famiglia-vincenziana.html

October 15: the homily of Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM given at the time of the concluding Eucharist can be accessed at:

<https://cmglobal.org/en/2017/10/16/the-seed-of-the-vincentian-family-must-grow/>



THE ASSOCIATION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



ÁFRICA

MADAGASCAR

El P. Joseph Modeste Rafanomezanjanahary, CM, nos saluda y espera que el 400 Aniversario del carisma sea un nuevo impulso para los miembros de AMM.

AMERICA

BRAZIL

Orlanda Rodríguez Alves, the National President who was re-elected during the 2017 National Assembly, shared some information about the growth of the group. She and Fr. Mizaël Donizetti have sent us some reflections on their participation in the Vincentian Symposium.

PANAMÁ

Fr. John Carney, CM, National Advisor, shared with us news about the celebration of World Youth Day which Will be held in that country (January 2019) ... we join in prayer for the success of that event.



Sister Cilia Varinia Cerrato, DC, provided us with information about the celebration that marked the 187th anniversary of Mary's apparition to Saint Catherine.

PUERTO RICO

Irma Costa, the National President, expressed her concern with regard to the devastating effects of the recent hurricane ... we ask that our Lady of the Miraculous Medal intercede on behalf of the peo-Ole of this island.

VENEZUELA

Sister Erminda Sarmiento, the National Advisor shared with us an overview of the work of the Association in that country and expressed her joy with regard to the manner in which the members were able to celebrate the feast of St. Vincent de Paul (September 27th).

EUROPE

ITALY

María Donata Guastadisegni sent us some beautiful photographs of their recent National Assembly.



RUSIA



El P. Carl Pieber, CM, our International Subdirector offers us some wonderful photographs of the summer program that was offered to Young members of the Association. This is a yearly program that all Young people to deepen their faith and participate in various other activities.



In photo is the National Advisor, Sister Kaja, DC, two other Sisters and a group of the participants in the program.

We await news about the way in which you celebrate our feast and if you had the opportunity to participate in the Symposium we would appreciate it if you would share your photographs with us.