



8 March 2017

Dear International Leaders of the Vincentian Family,

May the grace and peace of Jesus be always with us!

It is with great joy that I invite you to come to Rome on the weekend of 12 – 15 October, 2017 for a Vincentian Family Symposium. Our Jubilee theme “Welcome the Stranger” is the focus of this event. The Symposium goes from Thursday (for registration only) through Sunday, 1:00 PM. Details for the Symposium are found on the attached Information Sheet.

I believe it is a gift from God to us to be able to celebrate this event together with Pope Francis, who will join us on Saturday, October 14. We are also privileged to have the reliquary with the Heart of St. Vincent, which has begun its journey throughout the world, with us in Rome for this weekend. It is a great blessing for the entire Vincentian Family and a beautiful opportunity for us to be renewed in our missionary zeal. We will also be celebrating a prayer vigil in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, as well as the closing Mass on Sunday at St. Peter’s Basilica.

The 400th anniversary of the charism provides us with a unique opportunity to celebrate our Vincentian heritage, to give thanks for all that has been done and to develop ideas and plans for the future. Of great importance is the consideration of our changing demographics and social contexts, the pressing needs of the poor, and our ability to best respond to these as a Family.

I invite you and your members to participate in this important event in the life of our Vincentian Family. In addition, I ask you to extend this invitation to **those in formation** in your Institute at all levels. It is my hope that this event will animate them and kindle in them a deeper love of the charism and their vocation.

I also extend a special invitation to **youth (ages 18-28)**. We hope that the Symposium will be a powerful time to animate them in their Vincentian vocation.

After receiving the “Save the Date” announcement a few weeks ago, a number of people began to organize group travel and/or pilgrimages which would include the Symposium. I ask you to encourage your ministry groups – parishioners, schools and

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their alumni, etc. – as well as members of your volunteer groups, affiliates, and other collaborators – to think along these same lines.

The enclosed Information Sheet includes information about some travel agencies which may be able to assist you with housing and transportation. **There is no registration fee for the Symposium.** Each participant is responsible for their own cost for travel, housing, and food.

We have also created a website through which you will be updated on the events which will occur over this weekend: <http://famvin400.info/>.

To register please click on:
<https://depaulhousingforms.wufoo.com/forms/z1435kgz00dvph4/> before 1 September 2017. For questions regarding the Symposium please write us at:
info.symposium@cmglobal.org

Please note: if your country requires you to obtain a Letter of Invitation in order to travel to Italy, please click on this link <http://famvin400.info/blog/2017/03/03/letters-of-invitation/> by 1 July 2017.

I look forward to being with you soon in Rome!

Your brother in Saint Vincent de Paul

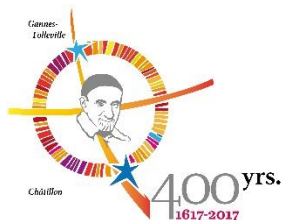
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tomaž Mavrič, CM'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tomaž Mavrič, CM
President, Vincentian Family Executive Committee

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12 – 15 October, 2017 Vincentine Family Symposium: Welcome the Stranger

Information Sheet

REGISTRATION: *There is no fee to register for the Symposium!*

To register: <https://depaulhousingforms.wufoo.com/forms/z1435kgz00dvph4/>

For questions: info.symposium@cmglobal.org

LETTERS OF INVITATION: If you must present a Letter of Invitation to enter Italy, please fill out the attached request form. We are not able to provide letters stamped by the Secretary of State, except for members of the Congregation of the Mission and Daughters of Charity. If this is a requirement of the Embassy in your country, please seek alternative means to receive the documentation that is required of you.

If your country requires a hard copy of this form (as opposed to an emailed copy), you are asked to send €30 Euros (\$32 USD) to cover the DHL cost. Please follow this link:

<http://famvin400.info/blog/2017/03/03/letters-of-invitation/>

ACCOMMODATIONS, MEALS, TRAVEL: Participants are responsible to arrange for their own accommodations, meals, and travel. If assistance is required, you may wish to contact one of the following travel agencies, or one of your own choosing:

- **TMC Travel**, Daniela Fecchio Email: vfs@tmctravel.it Telephone: +39 06. 85304600
- **ERNESTO TRAVEL**: Wojciech Goj Email: poland@ernesto-travel.pl Telephone: +48 12633 6556 Website: <http://ernesto-travel.pl>
- **Perillo Tours**: Email: info@learningjourneys.com Telephone [855-784-7687](tel:855-784-7687)
- **Catholic Journeys**: Jimmy at jimmy@catholicjourneys.com or Ann Marie at office@catholicjourneys.com. Website: <http://catholicjourneys.com/>
- **Speed System**: Renata Azevedo or Lilian de Paula Telephone: 0055313298-1000 Website: <http://www.speedsystem.com.br/>

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Participants are responsible to secure their own travel insurance for medical emergencies. Residents of the European Union may obtain the European Medical Insurance Card (E-111).

ROME TRAVEL TIPS:

Currency: The Euro is the currency in Italy.

Electricity: The electrical current in Italy is 230V 50 Hz. Please make sure to bring your own charger.

Climate: In October, the average **temperature** starts off at around 19°C (66°F) and gradually drops until it reaches 14°C-15°C (57°F-59°F) at the end of the month.

Visit this website for additional information as you prepare for your trip to Rome.

<http://www.fodors.com/world/europe/italy/rome/travel-tips>

Please visit the Symposium website at <http://famvin400.info/> for the latest updates!



12 – 15 October, 2017
Vincentian Family Symposium:
Welcome the Stranger

SCHEDULE

We ask that you please plan to be present for the entire Symposium

Thursday, October 12:

9:00 AM – 9:00 PM (21:00): **Registration at the Collegio Apostolico Leoniano; Via Pompeo Magno, 21; Rome (RM)**

Friday, October 13:

9:00 AM: Conferences

12:00 AM: Break and Lunch

3:00 PM (15:00): Conference and Opportunity for Questions and Answers

5:00 PM (17:00): Celebration of the Eucharist

Evening Free

Saturday, October 14:

Celebration of the Eucharist in private

8:30 AM: Paul VI Auditorium (at the Vatican) opens

9:30 AM: Symposium Program begins

11:30 AM: Session with Pope Francis followed by Break and Lunch

8:30 PM (20:30): Prayer Vigil at the Basilica of St. Paul outside the Walls

Sunday, October 15:

8:30 AM: St. Peter's Basilica opens

10:30 AM: Celebration of the Eucharist in St. Peter's Basilica

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST: *Priests are requested to bring their own albs and stoles for the celebrations of the Eucharist during the Symposium.*

Please remember: all meals are on your own.

Further details will be provided as registrations are finalized.

<http://famvin400.info/>