



Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
International Youth Committee (IYC)
2008-2009

Young people at the heart of society

2008 was a particularly significant year for young people in the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. Two major events gave the young people a very special place within the Society: the International Study Days for Vincentian Youth, and the first meeting of the International Youth Committee.



International Study Days for Vincentian Youth, Salamanca (Spain)

From 4 to 8 June 2008

About one hundred young Vincentians, from all over the world, met in Salamanca (Spain) for the first International Study Days for Vincentian Youth. The first day was an initial opportunity for meetings and exchanges among Vincentians. What a joyful experience to see these young people from all over the world share their experiences around their shared spiritual guides: St Vincent de Paul and the members of the first conference at St Etienne du Mont.

The three working days were held to the rhythm of celebrations, discussions on «The Foundation of the Society» and «The Rule of the Society» then by several testimonies given by Vincentians who have been involved in the Society for many years: José-Ramón Díaz-Torremocha, Renato De Lima, Eduardo Marques Almeida, Michael Thio, etc. The various group workshops allowed the young people to work effectively on the topics of these days: young people and the discovery of new kinds of poverty, young Vincentians in conferences and as representatives of Holy Church, young Vincentians and the « permanent foundation » in each conference. These workshops allowed the young people to exchange their experience, their joys and their problems. Of course, with young people involved, there had to be some fun-filled relaxation time, including a barbecue and a visit to Salamanca, as well as some times of recollection at daily Mass.

After this meeting, the participants designed a number of reflections and solutions around Vincentian youth. Our shared work was rich and fruitful. We are all young members of this Vincentian family, but we live in very different worlds. What is the best way to communicate in order to share our experience? What is the best way to share out the wealth in order to support projects for helping those most in need? Our President, José-Ramón Díaz-Torremocha has formed an International Youth Committee (IYC) consisting of 12 members from 5 continents so that young people can work on these issues and develop projects at an international level.



Meeting of International Youth Committee, Paris (France)

From 13 to 18 December 2008

The members of the IYC met in Paris in December 2008 for an initial working meeting. Each young person was given a particular task within the group: international cooperation, formation, spirituality, website, database or responsibility for a particular geographical area. To begin with, a letter had been sent to all National Presidents asking them to appoint a national youth representative. The members of the Youth Committee are thus in direct contact with young people all around the world. Information about Vincentian life and spirituality will also be published on the website.

Conclusion of the Meeting

Meeting Information:

- The International Youth Committee met at the International General Council in Paris, France for the first IYC meeting in December 13 - 18, 2008.
- Attendees: Alexandra Tuñon (Spain), Elie Khoury (Liban), Hasitha Padmika Mahabaduge (Sri Lanka), Julien Spiewak (France), Melanie Anguay (USA), Milica Gjelic (Macedonia), Patrice Alethia Mitchell (Jamaica), Penny Badwal (Australia), Sarika Sun (Cambodia), Tommy Peter Alimamy Harding (Sierra Leone)
- Members who were unable to attend: Agustín Hernández Saltos (Venezuela), Alice Bakundukize (Burrundi), Danusia Kaska (Australia), Leigh Anne Cipriano (USA)
- o During the course of the meeting the following were discussed:
- o Structure of IYC
- o Formation
- o Communication
- o International cooperation
- o Reviewed “Foundation of Bailly & Lallier” document

Mission Statement:

The International Youth Committee will serve and support youth conferences worldwide; act as a link between CGI & national youth delegates; and promote best practices in youth conferences.

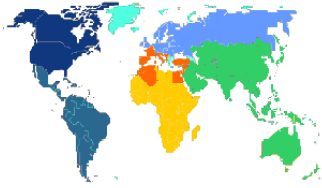


Conclusions:

- o IYC will revise the youth page on the ozanet website
- o IYC will develop a database collecting national youth representatives
- o IYC will develop spiritual reflections for the ozanet website
- o IYC will develop formation resources to be published on the ozanet website
- o IYC will encourage international youth cooperation between Vincentians around the world
- o IYC will recommend an international youth meeting every five years
- o IYC will request support from the International General Council
- o IYC suggests the “Foundation of Bailly & Lallier” be youth-friendly
- o IYC has divided responsibilities of committee members by continent

Youth is useful through its boldness, even its foolhardiness, its new ideas, undertakings to which we would not have given a thought.

Frederic Ozanam



International Cooperation

The International Youth Committee wants to develop the cooperation between youth Vincentians around the world. Many projects are in process. For example, some youth from Canada will collect soon some pencils and supplies. By means of the International Youth Committee, these supplies will be distributed by Vincentians and members of the Vincentian Family for youth in Haiti and Dominican Republic. The International Youth Committee is working to develop that kind of international cooperation between youth.



World Youth Days - Madrid 2011



Reflection meeting for some branches of the Vincentian Family

Madrid, 1 May 2009

Regarding the recommendations made to the International Vincentian Family on behalf of the Vincentian Family meeting held in Bathurst and Sydney in July 2008, the report of the meeting of some of the International Leaders of the Vincentian Family (January 2009) specifies the following: It was decided to create a committee of six members: a representative of JMV International, JMV España, SSVP International, SSVP España, a Daughter of Charity and Lisa Bright from Australia. JMV International undertook to call the first meeting of this committee.

In accordance with this decision, the JMV International Secretariat called the first meeting to reflect on WYDs - Madrid 2011, on 1 May.

From the beginning, the difficulty of taking decisions on WYD 2011 was emphasised, since it would be necessary to consult the various National and International Councils on every point. On the other hand, the presence of the Coordinator of FV Spain was considered necessary in this period of discussion and planning.

P. Pavol began by summarising the meeting on WYD called by the Pontifical Commission for the Laity in Rome, from 3 to 5 April 2009. At this meeting, there was a general assessment of WYD - Sydney 2008, indicating the positive effects on the Church in Australia and the problem of visas for many of those attending from Africa. The main information available so far included:

- Date: gathering in the dioceses (10 to 15 August), meetings with the Pope (16 to 21 August).
- Solidarity fund: 10€ per participant.
- Registration: this could be by diocese, or from Associations
- Any association may organise a festival, as long as they inform the organising Committee in good time.

It is emphasised that as regards the Church in Madrid, there is no information available yet on organisation, except that the major gatherings will be held at Cuatro Vientos.

We then moved on to discuss the “Recommendations to the International Vincentian Family”, which resulted in our adding our own additional recommendations:

- That the Vincentian participants can stay together (for sleeping and eating) after the shared activities, during the days of meetings with the Pope, in order to encourage closer exchanges.
- It is very important to establish clear objectives, in line with the lived experience of the Vincentian family, which it wants to deepen and strengthen.



We decided that the best way to organise the next meeting of Young Vincentians, within the framework of WYD 2011, is as follows:

1. Set up an International Coordinator Committee, formed of representatives of the International Branches of the Vincentian family:

o International leaders are asked to name one representative of their branch for this Committee, by 30 June 2009. We want all Branches to be involved in organising this event, which will be an opportunity to strength pastoral care of young people, and attract younger members.

o Organising this event will involve cost. Each branch will be asked to meet the expenses of its own representative on the International Committee and to make a financial contribution the amount of which will be determined later.

o Mission of this Committee (for guidance):

- Pass information on to all Branches of the Vincentian Family, and encourage participation and collaboration from all Vincentians.
- Formulate aims and action routes for the Vincentian Youth meeting.
- Define the material and economic resources to prepare and hold the event.
- Maintain communications with the Pontifical Commission for the Laity, taking on the task of coordinating registrations for WYD.
- Maintain communications with the FV Operating Committee in Spain.
- Oversee translation of correspondence and materials to the international languages.

2. Set up an Operating committee of the FV in Spain, in collaboration with the FV Coordinator in Spain.

o Its main tasks could be to coordinate logistics, secretariat, finances and grant applications, liturgy and leading the event.

o A member of this Operating Committee will be on the International Committee, to ensure communications and coordination flow smoothly between both Committees.

3. We think it is necessary for the International Committee to consider carefully the possibility of having a Technical Secretary, a lay person employed full time on communication and monitoring of the preparatory work.

4. What are we suggesting for the Young Vincentians Meeting in 2011?

o 3 or 4 preliminary days for Young Vincentians' meetings in Madrid or elsewhere, held from 10 to 15 August 2011, the same time as the welcome days in the dioceses.

o A Festival open to everyone during the days for meeting with the Pope?

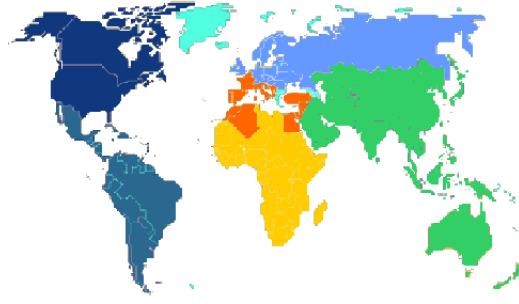
o A clear Vincentian character: direct experience of service to the poor in the Vincentian work of the various Branches in Madrid.

o Good communications among the Vincentian Family: a special section in Famvin.org, where all the information about WYD 2011 and the Young Vincentians meeting can be published. A link to this section of FamVin will be placed on the international webpages of the FV.

o An experience of volunteering (Spanish or European) to collaborate in organising the preliminary days' event.



International Youth Committee Organisation



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH COORDINATOR



Julien SPIEWAK
(France)
iyc.coordinator@ozanet.org



NORTH AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Leigh Anne CIPRIANO
(United States)
iyc.north-america@ozanet.org



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Danusia KASKA
(Australia)
iyc.cooperation@ozanet.org



CENTRAL AMERICA & SOUTH AMERICA

Agustin Adolfo HERNANDEZ SALTOS
(Venezuela)
iyc.south-america@ozanet.org



FORMATION

Patrice Alethia MITCHELL
(Jamaica)
iyc.formation@ozanet.org



CENTRAL & MEDITERRANEAN EUROPE

Alexandra GALENDE PALACIOS
(Spain)
iyc.europe1@ozanet.org



SPIRITUALITY

Penny BADWAL
(Australia)
iyc.spirituality@ozanet.org



CENTRAL & NORTH EUROPE

Milica GJEKIC
(Republic of Macedonia)
iyc.europe2@ozanet.org



WEBMASTER

Hasitha Padmika MAHABADUGE
(Sri Lanka)
iyc.webmaster@ozanet.org



AFRICA

Alice BAKUNDUKIZE
(Burundi)
iyc.africa@ozanet.org



DATABASE

Elie KHOURY
(Lebanon)
iyc.database@ozanet.org



ASIA & OCEANIA

Sarika SUN
(Cambodia)
iyc.asia-oceania@ozanet.org