



Tell us about your “Vincentian Christmases”!

Send us your testimony about what your Council or Conference organises for Christmas, and we will be glad to publish this information that will surely inspire the Vincentians of the world for the years to come! Thank you!



SSVP and Formation

Erich Schmitz, Secretary General



E. Schmitz (left)

From the very outset, SVP Conferences did not limit themselves to providing formation for the «many poor wretches » (1850) but also received formation themselves, using the words and correspondence of Saint Vincent and other Catholic writers.

After 176 years this intention remains the same. « It is vital for the Society to continue to encourage formation of its members and office-holders. (...) It therefore gives its members the opportunity to deepen their own formation, so that they are better equipped to assist in the cultural and social growth of those whom they serve and who request this help ». (2003)

Many member countries of the Confederation have developed formation programmes for their members, sometimes using the latest technology, sometimes through the work of professional fellow members. Observing the benefits of these formation methods on the work of our members, and its effect on the poor, the Council General of the Confederation decided to establish the Bailly Lallier foundation, with the task of providing formation.

Some brief information about the Foundation is given in this issue of *Confeder@tioNews*.

Confédération Internationale de la Société de Saint Vincent de Paul – Conseil Général
6, rue de Londres – 75009 Paris – France
Tél. : - + 33 - 1 53 45 87 53 Fax : + 33 - 1 42 61 72 56
cgi.information@ozanet.org – <http://www.ssvpglobal.org>
Responsable: Erich Schmitz - Rédaction: Bruno Fabre



The Bailly & Lallier Foundation

José-Ramón Díaz Torremocha, XIV President General



I become ever more convinced that everyone, Christians and others, and in particular Vincentians, as we serve the poor, needs to dream.

Nothing can be done without first dreaming of giving better service, or creating new ways to overcome suffering. Creative human beings who want to improve their service to those who suffer, are always dreamers.

The **Bailly & Lallier foundation** is the fruit of a dream to improve the on-going formation process that all of us Vincentians have to live. I am following my dream of seeing a formal process of formation reach all our members throughout the world, not just those in the wealthier countries, who already receive some kind of formation.

The poor, after all, are not just those whom we help, physically, spiritually and morally. There is a multitude of poorer Vincentian members who do not receive the on-going formation that we all need in order to provide a better service to the suffering. The Foundation is well and truly the inspired response to this need, since it will cross borders and serve all Vincentians in the same way. They will receive excellent formation, in rich or poor countries, to help those who are suffering.

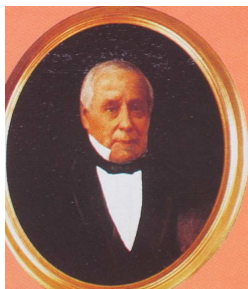
I know this is an arduous task. But any significant task, any enterprise requires effort. Taking formation to the four corners of the Vincentian world will be a great undertaking, no doubt about it. But we will succeed! We will succeed because we don't stop at the dreaming stage, we have already started the work, as you will read here, in the words of our brothers and sisters involved in the Foundation.

We will succeed because our Founders and our patron Saint Vincent de Paul will obtain Mary's help for us in overcoming this new challenge faced for the sake of the poor. As our Mother, she will intercede with her Son who will make the path smooth for us on our way to a successful outcome.

You can be sure of my own prayers, and my affection for you all.



Emmanuel Bailly (1794-1861) et François Lallier (1814-1886)



E. Bailly

They are particularly significant figures in the history of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. They were among the group of seven founders of the Society in the spring of 1833 in Paris. Like Ozanam and their friends, Lallier was a young law student, from the provinces. Bailly, the older man, kept a boarding house for students. He was also a printer and a journalist. He passed on to them his experience in works of charity and his love of Vincent de Paul (one of his brothers was a Lazarist priest).

At the time when the small charitable group became formalised and transformed into a Society (consisting of four conferences at the outset), Bailly became the first president general, and Lallier his first secretary general. Bailly wrote the foreword for the Rule, in which he expresses the spirit of the work;

; Lallier, the lawyer, wrote the articles. This rule, modified for the first time only in the 1960s, is still today a continuing source of inspiration for all the members.

The Bailly & Lallier foundation combines these two names to honour them and to recall the deeply mutual dimensions of the Foundation, just like the work of the conferences of Saint Vincent de Paul.



F. Lallier



But... What is the Foundation?

*Matthieu Bréjon de Lavergnée, Secretary General of the Foundation
Jean Cherville, Deputy Vice-President General for Formation*



M. Bréjon de Lavergnée

The aim of the Bailly & Lallier Foundation is both simple and ambitious: to develop a shared culture among the 750,000 Vincentians working in almost 150 countries around the world.

Although the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul does collaborate here and there with other charitable organisations, our way of helping our neighbour is particular to ourselves. It is at once human, and therefore shared by all people of good will, Catholic, and therefore shared with our Christian brothers and sisters, and Vincentian, which is ours alone.

The Foundation also tries to consider new forms of poverty, and find ways to fight them.

It tries to encourage the laity, especially in works of charity which are one of the three essential missions of the Church, alongside the sacraments and the proclaiming of the Word, as Pope Benedict XVII reminds us in his encyclical *Deus caritas est*.

The Foundation's statutes are being drawn up at the moment. A comparative study has already been carried out among French, Spanish and Italian law, to find the most favourable framework to use. The search for funding is also on the agenda.

In specific terms, the Bailly & Lallier Foundation plans to set up formation programmes first of all for its new members (basic formation) and those with responsibility in the Society (higher formation). It is thus meeting a need which has been long felt in the SSVP. This formation could then be used in full in countries that do not have any, and would supplement formation programmes in countries that already provide it.

The Foundation is "recruiting"

You are members of the SSVP.
You are interested in formation.
You are ready to contribute to the preparation of courses, or to carry out translations, or to help us set up the resources for formation (internet blog, video-conferencing, DVDs, etc.):

COME AND JOIN IN!

Please contact the Secretary General of the Foundation,
Matthieu Brejon de Lavergnée bdelavergnee@hotmail.com

Or the Vice-President General responsible for international formation:
Jean Cherville jean.cherville@wanadoo.fr

There are five cycles: Cycle A (Basic Vincentian formation); B (Specific formation for members with responsibility in the Society); C (Formation on the role of the laity in the Church), D (Discussions and workshops on the laity in the Church) and E (Research into the SSVP and its history)

There are two levels to Cycle A: AB («Basic formation» which all Vincentians must do) and AS («Higher formation», a more in-depth formation for Vincentians with responsibility or for long-standing members)

Volunteers have been contacted to produce around 25 courses for the first cycle A. The Foundation currently has a small team of « teachers », which does need some more members.

Willing helpers are welcome!



J. Cherville

The level AB courses are practically ready. A few of the AS courses are ready as well, especially those which relate to spirituality, the Society's social action and systemic change.

The most important thing is to ensure that this project, essential to the Society's work and its future, should be prepared quickly so that this formation can be given to all Vincentian members.

We are working hard to achieve this aim.

Help us to support the Society!

You can send your donations by cheque to the Confederation's headquarters
or by bank transfer to:

Banque CIC- Paris Bac
2 Bd Raspail 75007 Paris, France
IBAN: **FR76 3006 6100 4100 0105 8120 129**
SWIFT : CMCIFRPP

In the name of: Confédération Internationale - Société de St Vincent de Paul

Iraq: URGENT APPEAL!

December has been a particularly savage month in Iraq, particularly with attacks on Christians, and the officers of the Society of St Vincent de Paul in this country has asked for our help.

Tuesday 8 December was a black day in Baghdad. Among the many people injured was the brother of the President of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. As the violence escalates, Christians are once more the target of terrorists: in Mossoul, where the SSVP also has a conference, there were explosions in front of the Church of the Sacred Heart of Mary and the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, with 10 people dead and 44 injured. Hospitals are desperately short of equipment and medicines of all kinds. Christians have been threatened directly and indirectly with reprisals when they have celebrated their feast days this year. As the Christmas festivities approach, we are asking you to organise an **international chain of prayer for peace in Iraq**.

We appeal to each of you, in Vincentian solidarity and love, to come to the aid of the poor throughout the world...

The Council General makes every effort to respect the wishes of its donors at all times, assigning the funds received to the purpose for which they have been given (disaster relief, particular country or cause, etc.). For this very reason, however, Council General is extremely short of funds for projects other than disaster relief or in many countries which have not received specific funding. There is only the « **General Solidarity Fund** » from which the Territorial Technical Commission can fund these projects, after considering them and deciding on the allocation of finance. Without this, the CGI's international help will remain restricted to providing help following natural disasters. This Fund is seriously depleted, which means that the Technical Commission constantly has to reject otherwise excellent projects, which would provide essential help to many very poor brothers and sisters! We therefore encourage you to direct your donations to this fund!