2nd International Youth Meeting

Salamanca 2018
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Introduction
The 2nd International Youth Meeting of the SSVP was held from 15th to 21st June, in Salamanca and in Madrid. This was the second time an international youth meeting came together, following a first meeting in Salamanca in 2008, stirring great interest in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the 5 continents, as Vincentian youths were meeting again ten years on. Unquestionably, facing the new challenges brought by this changing world, but also driven by the same charisma of service and love of those in need.

The celebration of this 2nd International Youth Meeting, finally attracting more than 120 youths from around 100 nations, is a result of the direct efforts of the International General President, our dear fellow member Renato Lima de Oliveira. He and his team have pooled all their energy to afford youth the place and the responsibility they deserve in the Conferences. This is why he has made the strategic commitment to revitalise and rejuvenate the SSVP, and he has urged for the necessary actions to be taken so that in a near future at least 30% of active members are under 35 years of age.

They were unforgettable days full of spirituality, friendship and joy, where young and old from the 5 continents were able to share knowledge, exchange experiences and strengthen our second network of charity.
Dear Young People of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, “as friends, we are Vincentian children and young people, helping to build the great Charity Network”. 

I begin this message by transcribing this term’s International General Council’s motto for Young People and Children. This motto reflects everything that all young people seek in the SSVP: friendship, charity and the attainment of holiness.

Ozanam and his companions were young when they founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and it is up to all of us to maintain this joviality in our organisation of lay Catholics.

Pursuing this objective, as well as the strategic planning of the 16th General President, Brother Renato Lima, we are here in this beautiful city of Salamanca for the 2nd SSVP International Meeting of Young Vincentians, exactly 10 years after the 1st Meeting that brought together the young leaders of the SSVP here in this very city.

This 2nd SSVP International Meeting of Young Vincentians is an important moment for SSVP Global, as we are meeting with the young leaders of our institution to reinforce Vincentian spirituality and leadership, as well as to strengthen the bond of friendship and the exchange of many experiences of missions and commitments to the poor, whom we serve in Hope.

After this meeting, we can return to our countries, Councils and Conferences, motivated and inspired to strengthen the presence of Youth within the SSVP, while acting as major protagonists in both the present and the future of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

During the World Youth Day in 2016 in Krakow, Pope Francis reflected that “there is nothing more beautiful than to contemplate the yearnings, commitment, passion and energy with which many young people embrace life. This is beautiful. Where does this beauty come from? When Jesus touches the heart of a young man or woman, they are capable of truly great actions. It’s stimulating to hear them share their dreams”, and this is exactly what we want to see with the Vincentian youth gathered here in Salamanca, we want to witness and share your hopes, energy and dreams to achieve the SSVP’s mission around the world and in your countries.

Investing in Young People means investing in the continuity of Ozanam’s dream; investing in Young People means allowing the SSVP to continue its mission of serving the poor in hope; investing in Young People means understanding that the Vincentian ranks are also the place for Young People who seek holiness and yearn for change and struggle for social justice through the practice of charity.

May we experience the Vincentian Charism closely during these days on which we are gathered here in Salamanca, by sharing the friendship, the love and the hope of being of service. Let us be bold, be companions, be friends, dream together, live the best days of our lives reunited as Family, reunited and united in the mission to be the salt and light of the world, for the Poor and for the SSVP.

May Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, patron of youth of the SSVP, intercede with God for each one of us and for our families and friends.

William Alves, 
The President of the SSVP International Committee for Youth, Children and Teenagers
Dear young Vincentians,

Good day to you all, official visitors, President General, President of the Salamanca District Council.

It is a great pleasure for Spain, as the host country, and for me as National Council president, representing all the SSVP members in Spain, to welcome you as representatives of Vincentian youth around the world to this Meeting, opening today in the beautiful World Heritage city of Salamanca, and ending next week in Madrid.

A warm, family gathering where, just like those seven young founders of the Conferences, you will discuss your concerns, share your joys, and where we will continue to weave the network of charity, as our President General Renato Lima encourages us to do at these meetings. It is a great opportunity to make new friendships with people from all over the world. This has also been an important sign of friendship, another important aspect of the charism of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul throughout its history. As Frédéric said: “No one can live without friends”.

And so, the Conferences were started by the young, driven in friendship to follow the path of holiness together. Young people were the first to say “yes” to the call of the Lord, they were the first who, moved by their evangelising faith, formed together in community to meet Christ through the poor. Over time, they were joined by others, young and not so young, coming together to give greater glory to God, and today forming “the great network of charity embracing the world”, as Frédéric desired.

In case anyone did not know, Frédéric also spent a few days in Spain, with his wife Amélie and his small daughter Marie in 1852. He remembered from his parents the pilgrim calling to Santiago and wanted to follow this, so he came as a pilgrim from France to go to Santiago de Compostela, near the coast in north-eastern Spain.

He wanted to go via Burgos and Oviedo to arrive at Santiago, but fate and his serious illness prevented him going further than the first stop: Burgos, land of El Cid. El Cid is a legendary figure from Spanish history, the time of the Spanish reconquest from the Muslim occupation. Burgos, where there are still Conferences, with its imposing Gothic cathedral dating from the 11th century, impressed Frédéric, who wrote: “in three days, I have seen three hundred years of history”. So moved was Frédéric by the journey, that he wrote a really interesting book, published posthumously, entitled: “A pilgrimage to the land of El Cid”.

Make the most of these days in Salamanca, and of the presence of the President General among you. He too joined the SSVP when he was very young, just 15 years old. He is a young president, very close to young people, and he will be delighted to listen to you, consider your suggestions, your concerns, and share your enthusiasm and joy. As well as the topics on the Vincentian programme, there are cultural visits, music, shows and some free time also planned. You will visit Avila, the walled city which is also a World Heritage site, for a gathering in the Teresian Jubilee Year, the place where St Teresa of Jesus, Doctor of the Church, was born, and then we will end in Madrid, so that you can get to know the capital of Spain a little.

We welcome joyfully all those who are members of Spanish conferences. We also remember all the young Vincentians who cannot be with us here, for many reasons, but they are here with us in spirit.

With a fraternal embrace, in Saint Vincent and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam!
A New Era for the SSVP Youth

My dear young people from all over the world, welcome to Salamanca! This amazing city that recalls the great memories we have of Vincentian Youth. Ten years ago, in 2008, young Vincentian leaders were right here, discussing the future of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and dreaming of a better, less unequal and more sympathetic world.

First of all, I would like to offer my most sincere thanks to the Superior Council of Spain for embracing and sponsoring this event, as well as to the Council of the Salamanca District. Dear confrere Juan Manuel Buergo, many thanks to you and your team! The General Council can find no words to thank you. We also thank the staff of the Council General for organizing the event, and the organizers who make up the International Vice-Presidency of Youth, Children and teenagers, led by our dynamic fellow member, William Alves.

Dear all, I was here, among those young adults in 2008, just like other Vincentians who hold important positions in the structure of the Society today. Back then, our fourteenth General President, José Ramon Diaz-Torremocha, appointed me the International Territorial Vice-President for South America. I dearly remember that moment in my life and I thank God for that.

The International General Council, by hosting this 2nd SSVP Youth International Meeting, also called “Salamanca + 10”, intends to revive, in our minds and hearts, those precious times in 2008 of involvement by young people. Now, in 2018, we have new young adults, new leaderships, new approaches, new dynamics and desires. However, our aspiration for a better world remains the same, since hope is the main characteristic of youth. I am sure that this event will mark the beginning of a new era for SSVP Youth, just as it did in 2008.

Here and now, I would like to mention our dear brother and friend, Antoine Frederic Ozanam, deeply blessed, whose accelerated canonization process is
underway. Ozanam’s idea of young people in the Society can be seen from the Council General Records 1/02/1836 and 19/03/1848, when he says: “If the young people that come to join the SSVP prefer to meet friends and brothers, it is essential that SSVP recruit their members among the young. SSVP should not grow old along with its founders. That way, charity does not become ordinary routine occupation. The young are productive because of their audacity, even their recklessness, because of the new ideas they bring, the works they can conceive that were never imagined before.”

Ozanam would always tell the young about his own experience and memories from college. “And we are asked, the same question, every day: How long will we practice the so-called ‘drink of water charity’? What can we do to change it, showing that it’s not enough to beat poverty, but above all, to end the causes of poverty.”

Note that Ozanam would always invite the young to think critically about the Catholic role in charity, defending measures that go beyond immediate charity, which he named ‘drink of water charity’. Ozanam always fought for the SSVP to have a more committed social practice, defending dignity and generously sheltering the poor. Our mission is not only to provide food and water, but to seek to save souls, to evangelize, to change the world. This is the great legacy of our seven founders. We can’t ever allow our Conferences to become mere ‘drink of water charity’ operational centers.

My dear youth, SSVP really needs you. Hugely! The Society was founded by young people! I am not here to deliver “a sympathetic speech”, by no means. What I state is my deepest belief. The young are the renewal of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Young Vincentian’s ideas, proposals and even restlessness should be welcomed by the Councils and the conferences as a “true gift of God” to improve the practice of Vincentian charity and of effective action. The young come to add their creativity and innovation, and we need their generosity to improve our activities, programs, projects and the initiatives fostered by the Councils.
We can’t ever forget that our seven founders were young, even Bailly de Surcy, the oldest one of them. We all know that SSVP was founded by young people, destined to attract young people to the practice of charity, for it is through charity that we, Catholics, can develop our faith and, consequently, prepare our souls for eternity. It is not an easy task, considering the strong appeal of the world and the evil to which young Christians are exposed, and from the consequences of which they suffer. But Jesus Christ, our Lord, defeated sin and the world! Praise the Lord!

At the SSVP International General Council, the young have a voice and an opportunity. The International Vice-Presidency of Youth, Children and Teenagers is a reality becoming well-established and doing significant work. The 4th July has been set as INTERNATIONAL SSVP YOUTH DAY, to honour the beloved memory of Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young Italian Vincentian who died at 24, falling sick after visiting families in need.

We have been organizing video-conferences to debate the issue of young adults joining the Conferences and Councils. We have also produced manuals and written speeches emphasizing the importance of the Vincentian Youth movement. The Strategic Council Planning in its Item 3, regarding youth, has set itself the ambitious goal of having at least 30% of our members made up of young people. In order to achieve that, Council General should not only adopt a series of strategies, but all the Superior Councils should use this opportunity to engage effectively in this task.

Being a young Vincentian is “God’s gift”. We shouldn’t forget that our President General came from the Vincentian Youth movement. In 1986, when I first entered the Saint Thomas Aquinas Conference, in the college town Campinas (just like Salamanca), São Paulo, Brazil, I was only 15 years old. I was a high school teenage boy, in a military Brazilian school. Entering the SSVP was suggested by dear Father Joaquim, who advised me, after receiving the sacrament of Confirmation, to serve Christ through a pastoral branch of the Catholic Church that would have certain features, such as good deeds, prayer, friendship and charity. According to our dear Father Joaquim, the only Church movement he would recommend, with all those elements, would be the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. And that was how I entered our Society.

I would anxiously await the weekly meetings, and even more so, the home visits paid on Saturday morning, to a daycare centre that was built—with the assistance of the local government— and run by our Conference for many years. They were the ‘golden years’, where I noticed that it was possible to be young and completely devoted to the Lord’s cause, without giving up normal life with friends, girlfriends and studies. Everything can be done, with seriousness and serenity, when one’s a sound young adult.
So your President General entered the SSVP at the age of 15, a lad, and you can rely on me for all the requests made to the Council General regarding the young. Maybe, someday soon, we will have a new General President who might have started on the Vincentian path when young. Why not?

My dear youth, today we are taking a huge step towards the implementation of the International Vice-Presidency, led by our fellow member William Alves. I will be glad to appoint 12 members of the International Youth Team to the job of assisting the Council General in defining the strategies. Those 12 young people will work, in collaboration with the International Territorial Vice-Presidencies (ITVPs). I am very glad about what is happening in International Vincentian Youth, and I pray to God that the young continue to be blessed and inspired to invigorate SSVP, proposing new ideas, renovating our practices and keeping the fresh youthful spirit of our original movement.

Enjoy these next few glorious days in Salamanca. Take part in every debate, reflection, dynamic and speech. Don’t be afraid or shy to ask questions, to give your opinion, to disagree, to applaud, to agree… But mainly, always show what Christian friendship is about: charity! In every action, charity. We can disagree, but always charitably, as St. Augustine would say.

Hopefully, at the end of this event, you will all feel motivated to return to your countries and continents to continue the work of coordinating the Vincentian Youth in your region. Work as best you can with the National Youth Coordinators (representatives) of each country. Come up with strategies that allow us to integrate and keep the young active in our Society, without forgetting about our children and teenagers, more and more present in our midst, whether with Senior Vincentians, or by taking part in conferences. May Mary protect you all and St. Vincent cradle you. And may Ozanam keep, in your hearts, the youthful spirit of our Society.

To end this, I would like to read a very beautiful poem written by a Brazilian writer, and that well summarizes what it means to be young nowadays:

BEING YOUNG
Being young is to live life with responsibility and intensity.
It's loving your neighbor as yourself.
It's finding no barriers or obstacles to your goals.
It's being loving to everyone.
It's not worrying whether it rains or the sun shines, because life is the most important thing.
It's having dreams and disappointments.
It's building and breaking as needed, because beauty takes priority.
It's having joys and sorrows.
It's smiling and crying with respect and with dignity.
It's setting mind and body towards what is good and what is achieved.
It's respecting, nature.
It's respecting life, nature, your own body.
It's being committed to a dignified world.
It's loving, suffering, fighting.
It's living life fully, with all faith possible, that tomorrow will always be a new day of light, sun and life.

Carlos Alberto de Farias, Brazil

Cheers everyone!
Praised be Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Renato Lima de Oliveira, the International General President
Training, together with Spirituality and the Mission, comprised one of the three large sections into which the Meeting was divided. The purpose of this 2nd International Youth Meeting of the SSVP, as to Training, is that youth understand the need for permanent recycling and readiness to be capable of acting in respect of new forms of poverty and diverse ways of understanding the world. Leadership, seeking sanctity, teamwork, divine grace and life were the topics for discussion at the meeting. Meanwhile, the Training emerged as an essential part of understanding and implementing Vincentian charisma, which must permeate and guide our work and life.

It was expected that once youth participating in the meeting had returned to their countries, they could continue to delve into the knowledge acquired and contribute to the development of other youths who, in turn, could foster the development of even more youths. Thereby, the continuity of the meeting would be attained in all corners of the world, in the most diverse situations. The knowledge should and could be adjusted depending on the realities of each National / Superior Council.

With this goal in mind, youths and more experienced members of the SSVP delivered a series of presentations to share, discuss and reflect together, to continue growing in knowledge and spirituality. Youth provided their fresh outlook, their enthusiasm and new ideas, which are key for the Society to continue growing and renovating. Some less young participants taught us about their knowledge, experience and reflections.
1st Conference: Isabel Garzo (Deputy Assistant of the Director of International Communication)


Objective: Building bridges between young founders and current youth. What drove those youths and what drives today’s youth.

In this presentation, detailed information was provided on how that first Conference was forged in 1832, above all due to the bonds of friendship of the young members and the wish to go beyond words and prayers to reach action: let’s assist those in need!

To “assist those in need,” a group of young Catholics was formed, advised by an older man, Emmanuel Bailly, who was the editor of “The Catholic Tribune,” and offered the newspaper facilities for the meetings. The defining relationship was the one with Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity with unrelenting fame for her outreach activities with those in need, teaching them “to see our Lord through the poor, and the marks of his crown of thorns on their foreheads.”

In narrating the story of the young founders: Félix Clavé (22), Jules Devaux (21), François Lallier (19), Paul Lamache (22), Auguste Le Taillandier (22), and especially Frédéric Ozanam (20), they sought to achieve the empathy and identification of today’s young listeners with these personalities. The main objective was to enthuse them with the history of the SSVP and imbue them with the desire for social change, building a fairer world for everyone, understanding why we see God in the needy, and the significance of the quest for personal sanctification to creating meaningful lives through the SSVP. This involved making the audience understand that “in the beginning, there was friendship,” and that same friendship is what we now call the “second network of charity,” which we must take care of and is the main reason for the meeting.

The life of Ozanam, the relationship with his colleagues, with his wife, Amélie Soulacroix, and with his daughter María, are examples of love and marital, brotherly and Vincentian dedication. The way in which she dealt with the illness and death of Frédéric is an example of faith, acceptance and surrender.

In the presentation, special emphasis was placed on the role of Frédéric Ozanam as a precursor of the Social Doctrine of the Church, an example of its fighting and
advocative nature, and a clear referent of the implication in social causes and reporting of injustices.

Below, you will find an excerpt of the end of the presentation, which instigated youth to take over eagerly ...

**A SOCIETY FOUNDED BY YOUTH AND FOR YOUTH**

“The most useful part of defending Catholic religion with arguments is not only proving to student youth that one can be a Catholic and have common sense but also that, at the same time, one can love religion, freedom, release student youth from religious indifference and get them used to in-depth discussions about serious issues…”

Frédéric suggested that his friends should live delivering generously, not only offering coins or meal vouchers to the needy, but also fostering self-giving for love of Jesus Christ. This is the original and permanent characteristic of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The founders were youths like ourselves—not only because of their age, but also because of their eagerness, enthusiasm, ideas and projects. As well as practising charity to defend the dignity of others, this allowed them to evangelise to communally reach their own sanctification. This helped them to be better, to safeguard their faith.

He asked them: “What are you going to do among men who solely know how to relieve deprivation, without drying up the sources where this deprivation comes from?”

This spirit, this drive of youth, kindled the enthusiasm of older people, who signed up. This is mentioned by Bailly, the first president, in 1841: “Our Conferences, comprising youth in the beginnings, have increased in all places, with a large number of seasoned men practising all kinds of good deeds.”

Despite the numerous difficulties in this sceptical world we live in, like the one our young founders lived in, the Conferences, as you know, are present in 154 countries in the five continents. Gradually, with the help of God and for his greater glory, the dream of Frédéric Ozanam is becoming a reality: “I would like to embrace the world with a network of charity”.

**We are the ones taking the baton of the youths impelling this great ministry movement 185 years ago and, therefore, we - the Vincentian youths - are the ones with the commitment to continue this momentum!**

**The Conferences need your commitment!**
2nd Conference: Sebastián Gramajo (Deputy Vice-President of CGI)

“THE SEARCH FOR SANCTITY AND YOUTH OF THE SSVP”

Goal: the SSVP as a school and road of sanctity, following the example of Vincentian saints, the blessed, and the servants of God.

Sebastián Gramajo, the 3rd General Vice-President spoke to the youth about Pope Francis and his work “Gaudete et Exultate”, dealing with the call to sanctity in the current world, and where the greatest novelty is remembering that Catholics can and must aspire to be saints: “we are all called to be saints, living with love and offering our own testimony in daily activities, wherever one is.”

These reflections of the Pope are entirely true to our Rule, which also speaks of the journey to sanctification. The Vincentians are called to walk together towards sanctity, because true sanctity is the aspiration of the union with Christ in love, representing the essence of their vocation, and the source of their inspiration. The ideal is to assist in alleviating suffering solely through love, without considering any rewards or advantages for themselves.

Given the above, Sebastián Gramajo explained to youths that the Vincentian road towards sanctity is achieved as follows:

- By visiting and surrendering personally to those in need, whose faith and courage teaches the Vincentians how to live.
- Attending the meeting of the Conference or Council, where shared and fraternal spirituality must be a source of inspiration.
- Nurturing a life of prayer and reflection, on an individual and community basis, shared with the fellow members.
- Transforming concerns into action and compassion into practical and effective love.

Thereafter, the formal stages of the canonisation process were discussed: servant of God, venerable, blessed and saint. Examples were provided of members of the Conferences which are now involved in these processes.

We could say that the SSVP is a “school of sanctity” and, therefore, it is encouraged to continue with the canonisation processes of the people who were part of the Conferences.

The blessed Frédéric Ozanam, main founder of the SSVP, is in the canonisation process and is an example for Christian laypeople today. This is why Sebastián Gramajo reviewed the main events in his life and work. He also highlighted the role of Sister Rosalie Rendu, who is currently in the beatification stage.

He noted the achievements of Juanna Beretta Molla, a young Vincentian doctor who, diagnosed with cancer of the uterus, gave up her life for love of her children. She was canonised on 16 May 2004 by John Paul II. Today she is the patron saint of pregnant women.
Santiago Massarnau Fernández, founder of the SSVP in Spain in 1849, was a pianist and composer. The reason for his canonisation started at the archbishopric of Madrid on 5 June 1999 and procedures are continuing in Rome to this date.

The General Vice-President ended his speech noting the role of youths in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, their role on the Board of the General Council and the relevance and good operation that “Committees of Youths” are to have in the SSVP.
3rd Conference: Father Ralph Germanos (youth advisor in Lebanon)

“WE ARE VINCENTIAN YOUTH WITH SPIRITUALITY AND DIVINE GRACE”

Goal: Discussing the importance of spirituality and Charisma in the life of young Vincentians serving in hope.

Father Ralph Germanos started his presentation by presenting youth as “the future of the Church”, affirming that “all societies and, above all, Christian communities that do not integrate the energy of youth, risk becoming extinct”. Therefore, the training community has to concern itself with handing over the basis of the faith it has received from its forerunners to the forthcoming generations, they will receive it, reinterpret it and adjust it to the needs of the times in a creative way. At the same time, they will remain true to the spirit of the founding charisma. Therefore, there is a need for a fertile dialogue between veterans and youth. He affirmed that the community welcoming a youth must ensure that he has the environment and tools required to discern the authenticity of his call and his vocation.

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last” (Jn 15:16). A Christian vocation does not exist without first being a sole and personal call by God. In effect, each person seeks to fulfil a precise mission giving meaning to his / her life.

Father Ralph explained that being Vincentian is a vocation and not solely a will to serve. The experience of the personal faith of Saint Vincent and Frédéric Ozanam transformed their lives. Following the discovery of God-Love, victorious on the cross, faithful, merciful, and poor for his love of those in need and at their service, Vincent and Frédéric felt called to give their lives to announce, by word and deed, this God they had discovered. Their journey of faith was the small spark giving rise to the great mission continuing until our days.

“Every time you visit the needy –Jesus– turn the medal round and you will see Jesus Christ, the poor, shining through in the light of faith”. Meeting the Needy is also meeting our own poverty, the discovery of how ephemeral all riches we build our lives around are.

Youths wanting to be part of the SSVP are called to travel a journey resembling the one of our Founders to discover the wealth of love of God in their poverty, to experience this in their lives and their mission within the Society. In exchange, the Society has the duty to offer them a training framework, benefitting their meeting with Jesus and with those in need to assist them in discovering the charm of Vincentian charisma.

The speech focused particularly on the link to be forged between Vincentians: “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (Jn 13:35). The Vincentian community is not solely an instrument for the mission; it is rather the place where love flows out on the mission.
The Conference must live in truth and dialogue under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to create a community of individuals loving each other and that draw, from this love experienced together, the strength to assist those in need and take them the Good News, by word and deed.

Finally, the Father highlighted the importance of tradition as a reservoir of Christian Faith. Tradition is not rejecting change in view of the signs of the times. Tradition is very aware of how to entrust itself to the Lord, the true Owner of the vineyard, and it is able to establish a dialogue with youth trusting that the Lord is calling, faithful, capable of preserving intact all foundations of faith. Likewise, youth believers are not a senseless revolt against any form of authority and institution. Youths must be trained and educated so that they are aware that they cannot build a future if this is not rooted in what they have received from their forerunners, who kept the flame of faith and mission alive. Conveying faith that contains tradition must always be done in a context of open and fertile dialogue between the wisdom of the past and the inflamed present of youth, to be able to build a balanced future, which does not mean rejecting what lies behind us, and is not locking out any changes or transformations.
4th Conference: Eduardo Marques (Coordinator of the CGI Strategic Plan)

“YOUTH AS VINCENTIAN LEADERS”

**Goal:** Working on the leadership role of Vincentian youth of the SSVP: how to organise, set up a team and projects.

Opening his address, Eduardo Marques presented the 2016-2022 strategic plan and explained the following matters: why is a strategic plan needed?, what is it?, and, which are the strategic principles?

The first principle means understanding who we are. To achieve this, it is essential to clarify the relationship between us, those in need and God, and to know that the service to those in need, propelled by the defence of justice and, above all, the search for sanctity, is the main axis of our social action within the SSVP.

He suggested reading the book “Frédéric Ozanam and Rerum Novarum”, a joint effort between himself and Juan Manuel B. Gómez, President of the Historical Commission, as a clear source to understand the social thought of Frédéric Ozanam, and his importance as a precursor of the Social Doctrine of the Church.

The second principle consists of understanding what the challenges are. Here we discussed natural disasters, migration, social demands, poverty and inequality, national and regional conflicts, segmentation and globalisation, humanitarian crises and famine as the consequences of climate change, population ageing and the modern slavery of unemployment.

Eduardo Marques highlighted that we are amid a society which is increasingly globalised. It is here where the presence and activity of the Internet is rising at breakneck speed. This has led to a series of changes in communication, teaching, medicine, construction, companies and transportation methods. All of this leads to what is known as “Culture of the short term”. Where is this new revolution taking us? What should we do about it? Eduardo Marques made the younger generation think about these issues.

The third principle is the transcendence of the mission, vision and values. Therefore, the following conclusions were reached:

**Our mission:** a network of friends looking for sanctity through the personal service to the deprived and the defence of social justice.

**Our vision:** gaining recognition as a world organisation fostering integrated human development of the neediest.

**Our values:** service, spirituality, humility, charity and empathy.
Rounding off the presentation, the **strategic objectives** were presented:

**Training:** continuous training for all members.

**Youth:** the goal of 30% of members being under the age of 35.

**Twinning:** building a global network of material and spiritual assistance.

**Expansion:** presence in all countries.

**Vincentian family:** collaborating deeply and permanently.

**Solidarity:** local and international alliances.

**Global aid:** making aid and development processes more effective.

**Communications:** adjusting ourselves to using new technologies globally.

**CGI structure:** constant search for performance and efficiency.

**National Councils:** constant support to improve efficiency.

“*Charity has to be inventive to infinity,*” Saint Vincent de Paul.
5th Conference: William Alves (International Vice-President for Youth of the CGI)


Goal: Discussing the significance of the leading role of youth in the SSVP. How the National Youth Commission must function and the activities to be performed by the national and international commissions.

William Alves started out his presentation stressing the idea that “being a protagonist is being available to serve, to contribute to growth and to the quality of the actions and activities carried out at the SSVP.”

The SSVP was founded by youths but what role do young people wish to acquire nowadays in the Society? According to the International Vice-President for Youth, being called by God to be salt and light in the world, thereby making a difference.

What dreams do today’s youth have? Answering this question, he recalled the youths founding the Society, who dreamt together, although everybody thought their dream was unattainable.

Then, they presented the International Youth Committee and the requirements it had to meet:

- All National Councils must form a National Youth Committee.
- The Committee shall comprise youths from 18 to 35.
- Every Committee must appoint a youth to be the “President of the Committee”, who shall be a member of the Board of Directors of the Council, with voting rights in the decisions taken and who shall take part in all national assemblies and meetings.
- The National Committee shall comprise no less than 3 youths and up to 7 (in remembrance of the 7 youths founding the SSVP).

The commitments of the International Youth Committee were explained:

- Fostering participation and a greater involvement of youth in the SSVP.
- Strengthening youth leadership through a Skills Training Programme.
- Reinforcing spirituality and the search for sanctity in Vincentian youths’ life.
- Integrating youth through the connection of friendship and the network of charity.
Finally, the International Youth Committee gave all youths a relic of Ozanam and a flag of the SSVP. Additionally, the various social networks that youth could access were presented:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SSVPYouthCGI/
Instagram: @ssvpyouth_international
E-mail: cgi.ivp-youth@ssvpglobal.org

“As friends, we are Vincentian youth and children, helping to build the large Network of Charity!”
INTERNATIONAL YOUTH VIDEOCONFERENCE

The purpose of this great videoconference was to give a voice to all Vincentian youth unable to attend the conferences for various reasons. Scores of youths from the 5 continents connected live and were able to discuss a series of current affairs topics suggested and witness the presentation of projects and activities presented by some of the invited countries (Brazil, Lebanon, Australia, the Philippines, Kenya and England).
GROUP WORKSHOPS

“The reality of youth in the SSVP, in the Church and in society”

Youth were divided into groups by countries and there were two groups for each language. Participants discussed the different realities of youth and how to attract youth to the SSVP. This was a great opportunity to exchange experiences and testimonials.
El alcalde de Salamanca, Alfonso Fernández Mañueco, ha entregado hoy el título de Huésped Distinguido al presidente general internacional de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl, Renato Lima de Oliveira, que se encuentra en la ciudad con motivo de la celebración del II Encuentro Internacional de la Juventud de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl.

Fernández Mañueco ha recordado que la ciudad también acogió su I Encuentro, en 2008, en el que participó quien esta mañana ha sido nombrado Huésped Distinguido. Asimismo, tras transmitir su agradecimiento a Renato Lima de Oliveira, ha recordado que desde el encuentro de San Vicente de Paúl, las hijas animadas a que aprovechen su estancia para disfrutar de la riqueza artística y monumental, así como de la hospitalidad de sus gentes.


Más de un centenar de jóvenes participantes en el II Encuentro Internacional de la Juventud de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl, en el que participan jóvenes de más de 100 nacionalidades.
On Monday, 18th June, 12 territorial youth coordinators were appointed.
2nd International Youth Meeting of the SSVP

Report

Appointments

Africa 1

Territorial Coordinator: Joseph Bepo SHEMANG
Conference: Our Lady Queen of the Nuns
Country: Nigeria
E-mail: cgi.africa1-youth@ssvpglobal.org

Countries: Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Africa 2

Territorial Coordinator: Bojelo MATHODLANA
Conference: St. John’s
Country: South Africa
E-mail: cgi.africa2-youth@ssvpglobal.org

Countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Equatorial Guinea

Africa 3

Territorial Coordinator: Adou Marie Hortense HOULARIN
Conference: St. Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face
Country: Ivory Coast
E-mail: cgi.africa3-youth@ssvpglobal.org

Countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Mauritius, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, Togo, Burundi, Cameroon, Gabon, Madagascar, Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Democratic Republic of Congo

Asia 1

Territorial Coordinator: Leo Levin Pushparaj Ravi KUMAR
Conference: Sacred Heart
Country: India
E-mail: cgi.asia1-youth@ssvpglobal.org

Countries: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

Asia 2

Territorial Coordinator: Gabriel THON Sochet
Conference: Child Jesus
Country: Cambodia
E-mail: cgi.asia2-youth@ssvpglobal.org

Countries: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Macau, Mongolia

Oceania

Territorial Coordinator: Luke BROUGH
Conference: Outer East
Country: Australia
E-mail: cgi.oceania-youth@ssvpglobal.org

Countries: Australia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, East Timor, Caroline Islands (Chuuk), Fiji, Solomon, Tonga, Vanuatu, New Zealand

Youth Delegates
“Vincentian spirituality is what distinguishes us in the mission of infusing hope. Helping the neighbour is an activity done by any NGO. However, the SSVP is not an NGO. It is an association of Christian laypersons, motivated by the divine grace of Saint Vincent de Paul, whose main mission is to build a network of friends seeking sanctification, assisting those in need and defending social justice” (Taken from the “Objectives of the 2nd International Youth Meeting of the SSVP”, set out in the “Participant Handbook”).

OFFICIAL PRAYER

O merciful God, who inspired Frederick Ozanam and his companions to form a Conference composed of young people whose goal, within the charism of St. Vincent de Paul, is to see and serve Christ in the person of the Poor.

We are grateful to be called to follow in your footsteps. Renew your Spirit within us and all the Youth of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

We wish to delve into the spirituality which encouraged Ozanam and his companions. Help us to be leaders among today’s youth, to learn how to motivate and encourage youth participation in the SSVP with the dual purpose of personal development and the improvement of society’s most marginalised members. Give us creativity so that our love can be “inventive unto infinity”.

Teach us how to find systemic ways to alleviate poverty while we, as Vincentians, remain hopeful when we visit the Poor in their homes, walking with them and calling them by their names.

Bless this 2nd International Meeting of Young Vincentians of the SSVP, so that it may be a great opportunity for Vincentian youth to gather, pray, discuss and make decisions according to your will.

Shed your Spirit of wisdom upon us young people, so that we may always seek the Truth, as well as practice charity and the defence of social justice; in this way our work performed towards the young and the poor may bear “everlasting fruits”.

We praise you Lord, as the giver of all things. With gratitude and joy for our Vincentian vocation, we renew our promise as members of the SSVP with a commitment to invite other young people in countries around the world to serve together in hope.

Give us, oh Lord, strength and courage to fulfil this mission.

May the Immaculate Virgin, our mother, intercede, as a merciful advocate, for us young people of the SSVP.

All this we ask you, merciful God, in the name of Jesus Christ, through the intercession of Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Amen!

Father Robert Maloney, CM
MORNING AND NIGHT-TIME PRAYERS

On all of the days of the Meeting, youth had a series of moments devoted exclusively to prayers. They coordinated and managed the groups and were the protagonists of all of these moments of retreat and closeness to God.

At the beginning of the day and at night, the youth came together to pray.

Below we provide the central themes of their prayers and reflections, summarised in a short sentence:

**Night-time prayer: Mary, model of Youth** — Mary —“mother of Jesus and also our mother— inspires us to adopt a mission focus, on the way to the visit, seeking common ground with our neighbours.”

**Morning prayer: Saint Vincent de Paul, the Divine Grace and the Young Vincentian** — “The spirituality of the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is based on the mystery of the incarnation of Christ the Evangelist and Servant of the Poor.”

**Night-time prayer: Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, patron of the young Vincentians of the SSVP** — “Called ‘the man of the Eight Blessings’ by Saint John Paul II during the beatification ceremony. He proclaims - through his example - that it is worthwhile to sacrifice everything to serve the Lord.”

**Morning prayer: SSVP, the Network of Charity:** “We must do what most pleases God. Therefore, we must do what Our Lord Jesus Christ did when he preached the Gospel. Address those in need!”

**Night-time prayer: Young Vincentians, Promoters of Culture and Peace** — “So, the others can bear fruit, create communion links, irradiate joy and build peace.”

**Morning prayer: Sent to the Mission. The thirteenth apostle** — “I wish to confirm, even once again, that the task of evangelising all men is my core mission and that of the Church, serving fellow men from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.”

MASS AT THE NEW CATHEDRAL OF SALAMANCA AND MASS AT THE BASILICA OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL VIRGIN IN MADRID

Two Eucharists were held at the Meeting days. One of them was at the New Cathedral of Salamanca on Sunday 17 June, officiated by the General Vicar of the Diocese Mr Florentino Gutiérrez, where the Apostolic Blessing of Pope Francis was read to all the participants in this International Youth Meeting.

We wish to thank the following guests for attending: the visiting Sisters, Daughters of Charity of the Canon Provinces of Spain, the president of the Association of the Miraculous Medal of Spain (AMM), Guadalupe de Luís, the president of the International Association of Charities of Spain (AIC - Spain), Concepción Santiago, and the president of Vincentian Secular Missionaries in Spain (MISEVI), Israel Peralta.

Back in Madrid, the second Eucharist took place at the Basilica of the Miraculous Medal Virgin, where we said goodbye to the youth that were getting ready to return home with their hearts full of experiences and shared spirituality. This very emotional mass was officiated by Parish Priest Juan José González C.M., together with Father Manuel Freire C.M., who were always very friendly towards and attentive with SSVP members.
The 2nd International Youth Meeting of the SSVP was not only a great opportunity for the participating Vincentians to take home an extraordinary experience in the area of training and institutional knowledge, but it was further an experience of friendship and fraternity, an occasion to establish that “second network of charity” amongst the youngest members of the institution.

The foundations of the SSVP are built on the path to fraternity and, therefore, the meeting had moments to get to know others on a personal level, including leisure and cultural activities for youths to develop and share their tastes and affinities.

On Saturday, 16 June, the organising group of the SSVP Spain proposed a typical Spanish party with flamenco dancing. In this type of activities, we can witness the adaptability of youth to other cultures, the ability for enjoyment and the openness to the unknown, the ability to communication overcoming language barriers… The feeling of friendship and music enveloped such a special moment, where everyone danced and had fun to the rhythm of a single heart.
On Sunday, 17 June, the young participants visited Salamanca, world heritage city, full of beauty and history, housing the oldest active university in Spain, the University of Salamanca, founded in 1218 by Alfonso IX of Leon. The Vincentians admired the atmosphere of the city, a place with a pronounced university flavour, the same type of atmosphere that the first Conference experienced in its origins, sheltered by the walls of the University of La Sorbonne, in Paris.

On Monday 18, when night fell and as a finale of the day, a pop-rock concert was organised, with the participation of the “Allende” music group. This was another memorable moment, where Vincentian youths enjoyed good music and their friendship, which grew as the days of the meeting went by. Once the concert ended, all youths joined their hands and prayed a candlelit prayer in a circle.

Tuesday 19 was particularly intense. The participants visited Ávila because it is the “Teresian Jubilee Year”. Saint Teresa of Jesus, doctor of the Catholic Church, inspired many Vincentian youths, who admired her mysticism and the strength of her faith, her renovation ability, and her inexhaustible initiative. Once the visit to Ávila was over, the youths continued on their route to Madrid, where they were greeted with a guided visit through the location where the Spanish Conferences began in 1849 and enjoyed a tour of the most central area of the city.

On 20 June, as a goodbye, the programme of the Meeting had some scheduled free time in the afternoon session, giving the youths the possibility to “ramble around” in Madrid, and, in so doing, to visit some of the landmark places of the city and walk through the streets of Spain’s capital.
On Wednesday 20 June, WORLD REFUGEE DAY, an act was organised at the national headquarters of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul – Spain - in Madrid, attended by the most prestigious Spanish press, radio and television media.

Youth were the stars of the event, as they informed of the situations in their source countries, and they answered with determination, knowledge and friendliness to all questions asked by the journalists. We had testimonies from Zambia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Venezuela and the Central African Republic, among others.

The act was also attended by our International General President, Renato Lima, who made a statement about the situation of refugees and the work of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in various countries. “People are not bargaining chips for political interests”, he said. The President firmly expressed his repulsion and rejection of “the causes leading to so much suffering for refugees.”

On that same day, and as proof of the awareness of youth within the charisma of the Society and their willingness to help those most in need, the National Council of Spain, together with the people responsible for the organisation of the event, offered them the opportunity to take part in one of their main social actions, the Santiago Masarnau Safe House and Social Integration Centre, which serves more than 78,000 meals per year at its soup kitchen.
The Superior Council in Spain, hosting this event and aware of its relevance, clearly saw the need to promote this feast of Vincentian charisma amongst civil society, and the importance of conveying that youth is, in itself, a value that must be central. “Vincentian Youth as the protagonist of the present and future of the SSVP” was the slogan chosen for this Meeting.

This is why there was intense media relations and communication work, which yielded a good attendance and media repercussion.
La Sociedad San Vicente de Paúl muestra su "indignación" por el "sufrimiento" de los refugiados en el mundo

Gran repercusión mediática del II Encuentro Internacional de Jóvenes de la SSVP

No ha sido mucho lo que se ha hecho en los últimos años, del II Encuentro de jóvenes de la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl, que acaba de concurrir, y que tuvo lugar en Salamanca y Madrid, España, a instancia de más de 100 nacionalidades diferentes de todo el mundo.

Sin duda, ha sido una cita para que toda la familia Vicenciana se juntara en muchos frentes en favor de los pobres.

A continuación, una pequeña selección de artículos de los medios de comunicación que se han hecho eco de los sucesos.

- Jóvenes de más de 100 nacionalidades se reunieron en Salamanca para vivir su compromiso de ayuda a los más necesitados.
- La Sociedad San Vicente de Paúl invita a sus miembros a formar parte de los refugiados en el mundo.
- En Salamanca, se abordará la problemática de los jóvenes en el mundo.
- Algunos jóvenes de países de habla hispana y de otros continentes se reunieron en Salamanca.
- La Sociedad San Vicente de Paúl entrega su medalla "Caridad de la Esperanza".

La SSVP Congresa en Salamanca y Madrid a jóvenes de más de un centenar de países.

"La Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl no aterriza en los lugares de conflicto, vivimos allí"
I would like to begin this brief address by giving thanks. I want to thank you personally, since I have the honour of closing this Meeting, one of the most important ever held by our beloved Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. But it does not end here, or even in Madrid in a few days’ time, or when you return home. I am sure that this meeting will remain with you, and stay in your hearts, for a long time.

Thanks for your attention, your participation, for your committed involvement here. Thanks to all of you who were here as well as those who took part by videoconference. Your presence fills us with hope and trust, because you hold in your hands, to such a great degree, the responsibility for the present and the future of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

I am grateful to all those who joined in this meeting, to our fellow members in Salamanca, to the volunteers and all those who undertake the technical work in the SSVP, especially the teams from Brazil and Spain, the staff of the Council General in Paris, who coordinated so magnificently and did so much extra work to make it all possible, from the moment our president general announced that Spain would host this Meeting. Thank you to the Paulist Fathers for providing us with these wonderful installations, and all the people here for their great welcome.

Thank you to our President General, our fellow member Renato Lima, who will soon complete his second year of service, for having promoted this Meeting, one of the first great initiatives of his term of office as president, and for having chosen Spain for this celebration. Here you have been able to speak freely to him, get to know him properly, and be sure that he listens to you and keeps your interests very much in focus.

These have been some very intense days, where we have prayed and listened, learned and had fun, with culture and entertainment, and where many friendships have been formed. Friendship, so much appreciated by Frédéric Ozanam, is one of the fundamental values of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, since Conferences are born from friendship.

So I invite you to nourish the family feeling among you, in order to ensure healthy growth in Conferences, so that we continue to weave the second network of charity, which is established among us, forming the most faithful of Vincentian communities, which our president general is so keen to promote with his initiatives. Today, as in Frédéric’s own times, it needs great courage to be young and to defend gospel values, but for 185 years now, strength, along with virtue, with overcoming fear, is one of the signs of our identity, as we know that, although on our own we are nothing, with God we can do everything.

To end, I want to say farewell with the same words used by Frédéric to a gathering of members when he was only 24 years old: “Let us pray for the well-being of the Catholic faith, for the growth of charity among human beings, so that the blessings of heaven fall on the works in which we take part”.

Enjoy the concert which the organisation is putting on for you, as a finishing touch, following this event.

May Mary Immaculate, patron of our Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, be always with you!

Enjoy your stay in Madrid, and have a safe journey back home.

Juan Manuel Buergo,
the 12th National President
of SSVP Spain
My dear young people, dear president of the Superior Council of Spain, Dear leaders of the Council of the Salamanca District, y dear trustworthy leaders of the International General Council, dear fellow members and colleagues,

Good afternoon. Joyfully, I begin my final speech to you, closing the 2nd SSVP Youth International Meeting, also called “Salamanca + 10”. I am very pleased with the outcome of the event, and I believe that we have surpassed all the goals that were originally set when this event was conceived. The lectures, the dynamics, the reflections and the debates were intense and very productive. Everyone here has given powerful witness to their Faith and their vocation for charity towards their neighbour, especially those most in need. I hope you have all greatly enjoyed this 2nd International Meeting.

First of all, I would like to thank most warmly the Superior Council of Spain, especially the national president, our fellow member Juan Manuel Buergo Gomez, who worked in perfect collaboration with the General Council to organise this huge Vincentian event. Salamanca is the land of youth, and the best place to hold an event for Vincentian young people from all over the world could be nowhere else but here, in Salamanca. We also thank the Council of the Salamanca District for the wonderful reception they have given us.

Secondly, I want to register my deepest thanks to the International General Council staff, in Paris, who solved all the problems and made sure that our event was successful. Many challenges have been overcome, such as the economic resources issue, supplies, people, communication and, above all, the visa paperwork and other protocol requirements. Many thanks to the staff! Together we fought unceasingly to ensure that every Superior Council could be represented, and we are sorry for the absence of those who were unable to attend, sharing these moments of spiritual growth.

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I also need to thank the countries that sponsored so many young people to come to this Meeting. Without your generous contribution, this event would have not taken place. A round of applause for this please!

In these past few days, we have had pleasure of associating with young people from over 100 different countries, living out the most essential of SSVP values: the friendship among us. As Ozanam would say: “I could never live without my friends”.

Different languages, distinct cultures, different realities, many different ages. But, above all, the Vincentian young person is the same, with the same dreams, the same anguishes, the same challenges, the same restlessness, the same hopes; but only one desire for peace, love, concord and union.

For example: advocacy of family values and the living out of the sacraments; the fight against violence, intolerance and war; commitment to the Gospel and Christian values; the fight against poverty and social exclusion; dissemination of the culture of peace; advocacy of public policies favorable to women, orphans, the elderly, abandoned children and the sick; involvement with building a better world through charity; support for the needs of young people in every country! These are some of the examples of what loving Vincentian action can achieve, favoring life and those who suffer.

These desires are shared among every Vincentian young person, who also suffers the attacks of worldly values, influenced by social media, by the false prophets, by false ideology, by false social activism, by corrupt politicians, by governors who are not sensitive to the cry of those in most need, by fake friendships and job market dilemmas and by the throwaway culture (as Pope Francis would say). It’s not easy being Christian and Vincentian nowadays! It’s not easy at all! For that reason, we should always ask Our Lord Jesus Christ to show us the right path to tread, based on the word of God and focusing on our neighbour.

I also want to thank the International Vice-Presidency of Youth, Children and Teenagers, especially our dynamic brother William Alves, who did a great job of preparing the practical content of our event, with much detail. Everything was done with great care and devotion, and this is how we could accomplish our desired goals. When we decided to hold this event, I had no doubt about delegating to William the responsibility
The young person has many important decisions to make during their lifetime, but they do not yet have the necessary experience to do so. Issues affecting young people nowadays (spiritual, moral, material, economic, religious, etc.) impact the way they relate to the Church, and of course, also to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, and we need to understand this phenomenon, accept it and foster wise strategies to recruit to our Conferences in the face of this reality.

Dear Vincentians, in order to attract young people to the SSVP, there are several strategies we can adopt. But the best one of them is preaching Ozanam, at schools, universities, at the young parochial groups and to the confirmed ones. Ozanam was a great youth model, because he “did everything at the same time”, prioritizing charity. He lived life to the fullest, doing everything simultaneously: academic studies, honest friendships, relationship and marriage, job market, family, life in the church, attendance at SSVP, social action.

He is a role model for us, young people of the 21st century, and above all, a role model for all humankind, because Ozanam was that faithful Catholic, good son, loving father, good husband, excellent professional and social leader of the common good (as he is considered the main precursor of the Social Doctrine of the Catholic Church). In other words, he is everything we want to be. He’s our role model, our model of a human being and holiness.

Preaching Ozanam to the young is fundamental. Essential. There is no use being Vincentian and living this spiritual wonder if we don’t know how to show it to the world. Frédéric Ozanam is our reference and our “attainable model” of living in holiness! We have to share this blessing with other young Catholics who may also relish the spiritual benefits of being Vincentian. This, I think, must be the main role to be played by the young in every community: spreading the news about Blessed Antoine Frédéric Ozanam everywhere. This is the outstanding feature of Vincentian youth: to be devoted to and to mirror Ozanam, doing charitable work to build a better world. As I always say: “Being Vincentian means making people happy.”

My beloved youth, before ending these brief words, I would like to make an announcement. I declare, here and now, that we are going to hold, in June 2023, the 3rd SSVP Youth
International Meeting, once more here in Salamanca, Spain. No matter who the General President will be then, or who the President of the Superior Council of Spain will be. I think that kind of commitment goes beyond the people, as it is an institutional commitment above all. Therefore, I am sure that, whoever the Vincentian leaders may be in the future, this event will take place. That I can assure you.

Thus, in June 2023, five years from now, we will be reunited here again for the 3rd SSVP Youth International Meeting of Salamanca. That way, every five years, we will be consolidating a tradition that cannot ever be interrupted. The youth deserve it. And SSVP needs this “breath” of renewal, which inspires and casts us out into “the deepest waters”.

We thank God, who allowed us to make our dream come true. May Blessed Mary protect us and may Saint Vincent de Paul, our inspirer, give us the peace of mind we need for our work of charity, following the examples of our seven founders.

Before ending, I want to read a message that Pope John Paul II, our Saint John Paul II, left to the young, in his Letter to the Young:

• We need Saints without veils or cassocks.
• We need Saints in jeans and sneakers.
• We need Saints that go to the movies, listen to music and hang out with their friends.
• We need Saints who will put God first, even when they are criticized in college.
• We need Saints that have time, every day, to pray, and those who know how to date in purity and chastity, or give time to their chastity.
• We need modern Saints, 21st Century Saints, with a spirituality that matches our time.
• We need Saints who are committed to the poor and the necessary social changes.
• We need Saints who live in the world, sanctify themselves in the world, who are not afraid to live in the world.
• We need Saints who drink Coke and eat hot dogs, who are internauts, who listen to music.
• We need Saints who love Holy Communion and who are not ashamed to have a soda or a pizza with their friends on the weekends.
• We need Saints who like cinema, theatre, dance, sports.
• We need Saints who are sociable, open-minded, normal, friendly, lively, companions.
• We need Saints who are in the world and know how to relish the pure and the good things of the world, but who are not mundane.

Have a good trip to Madrid, where our 2nd Youth International Meeting will continue for the next few days. Have a good homecoming to your countries. Do not forget to share, with the youth of your country, the blessings of having taken part in this meeting. When you go back to your countries, scream and shout, loud and clear, that the 2nd SSVP Youth International Meeting was a great success, and that the youth must take their lead! That is what Ozanam and the other founders expect of you, of us!

Thank you very much!

Renato Lima de Oliveira,
the 16th General President
“JUVENTUD EN ESPERANZA”

Testimonio y vida de Tu palabra,
damos juntos hoy por un mundo mejor.
Se llenan mis ojos de alegría,
porque ya no tengo miedo a enmudecer.

Te siento, oh Señor,
también puedo oír tu voz en su voz,
tan fuerte que, me empuja a seguirte.
En el pobre, oh Señor,
veo Tu rostro y Tu amor en su amor,
Y ahora esta emoción la quiero compartir.

ESTRIBILLO
Vamos, alza tus ojos al cielo,
podrás ver lo que yo veo,
juntos podremos volar.
Vamos, junta tu mano a la mía,
la Fe que es más fuerte unida,
en nuestra vocación.

Encuentro sentido a su palabra,
tejiendo una red, de caridad.
Quiero libertad en mis decisiones,
que se puede ser católico y real.

Te siento, oh Señor,
también puedo oír Tu voz en su voz,
tan fuerte que, me empuja a seguirte.
En el pobre, oh Señor,
Veo Tu rostro y Tu amor en su amor.
Y ahora esta emoción la quiero compartir.

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Vamos, junta tu mano a la mía,
la Fe que es más fuerte unida,
en nuestra vocación.
(se repite 3 veces, la segunda sólo con palmas)

“JEUNESSE EN ESPOIR”

Aujourd’hui, nous portons témoignage et vie
de Ta parole, pour un monde meilleur.
Mes yeux se remplissent de larmes,
Car je n’ai plus peur de rester muet.

Je te sens, ô Seigneur,
je peux aussi entendre ta voix dans sa voix,
si forte qu’elle me pousse à te suivre.
Dans le pauvre, ô Seigneur,
je vois Ton visage et Ton amour dans son amour,
Et je veux maintenant partager cette émotion.

REFRAIN
Allons, lève tes yeux vers le ciel,
tu pourras voir ce que je vois,
ensemble nous pourrons voler.
Allons, joins ta main à la mienne,
la Foi qui est plus forte unie,
est notre vocation.

Je trouve un sens à ta parole,
en tissant un réseau de charité.
Je veux être libre dans mes décisions,
car on peut être catholique et réel.

Je te sens, ô Seigneur,
je peux aussi entendre Ta voix dans sa voix,
si forte qu’elle me pousse à te suivre.
Dans le pauvre, ô Seigneur,
Je vois Ton visage et Ton amour dans son amour,
Et je veux maintenant partager cette émotion.

REFRAIN
Allons, lève tes yeux vers le ciel,
tu pourras voir ce que je vois,
ensemble nous pourrons voler.
Allons, joins ta main à la mienne,
la Foi qui est plus forte unie,
est notre vocation.
(à répéter 3 fois, la deuxième seulement
en battant des mains)
“YOUTH IN HOPE”

Today, we bear witness together to Your word, for a better world,
My eyes are full of joy,
Because I am not afraid of falling silent.

I feel you, O Lord,
I can also hear your voice in his voice,
so strong that it pushes me to follow you.
In the poor, O Lord,
I see Your face, and Your love in his love,
And now I want to share this emotion.

CHORUS
Come on, lift your eyes up to heaven,
and you will see what I see,
together we will be able to fly.
Come on, join your hand to mine,
Faith, which is stronger when united,
is our vocation.

I find sense in his word,
weaving a network of charity.
I want freedom in my decisions,
because one can be both Catholic and real.

I feel you, O Lord,
I can also hear Your voice in his voice,
so strong that it pushes me to follow you.
In the poor, O Lord,
I see Your face, and Your love in his love,
And now I want to share this emotion.

CHORUS
Come on, lift your eyes up to heaven,
and you will see what I see,
together we will be able to fly.
Come on, join your hand to mine,
Faith, which is stronger when united,
is our vocation.

(repeat 3 times, the second only clapping your hands)

“JUVENTUDE EM ESPERANÇA”

Testemunho e vida de Tua palavra,
damos juntos hoje por um mundo melhor.
Enchem-se meus olhos de alegria,
porque já não tenho medo de emudecer.

Te sinto, oh Senhor,
também posso ouvir tua voz na sua voz,
tão forte que me empurra a seguir-te.
No pobre, oh Senhor,
vejo Teu rosto e Teu amor em seu amor,
E agora esta emoção eu quero compartilhar.

REFRÃO
Vamos, ergue teus olhos ao céu,
poderás ver o que vejo,
juntos poderemos voar.
Vamos, junta tua mão na minha,
a Fé que é mais forte unida,
em nossa vocação.

Encontro sentido em sua palavra,
tecendo uma rede, de caridade.
Quero liberdade em minhas decisões,
que se pode ser católico e real.

Te sinto, oh Senhor,
também posso ouvir tua voz na sua voz,
tão forte que me empurra a seguir-te.
No pobre, oh Senhor,
vejo Teu rosto e Teu amor em seu amor,
E agora esta emoção eu quero compartilhar.

REFRÃO
Vamos, ergue teus olhos ao céu,
poderás ver o que vejo,
juntos poderemos voar.
Vamos, junta tua mão na minha,
a Fé que é mais forte unida,
em nossa vocação.
(repete-se 3 vezes, a segunda só com palmas)
Official video of the Youth Meeting of the SSVP:
https://youtu.be/CblTB772tfo