



Press Release

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP)

Event: **SSVP International Youth Meeting**

Date: 15th to 21st June 2018

Place: Salamanca. Centro de Espiritualidad "San Vicente de Paúl"

Avenida de Padres Paúles, 14 – 37900 Santa Marta de Tormes

Salamanca / Spain.

International Youth Meeting of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a lay Catholic institution, present in 153 territories, and helping more than 30 million people every year, is holding its international Youth Meeting in Salamanca-Spain, from 15th to 21st June 2018. It will be attended by representatives from every continent, sharing their Catholic faith and their service to those most in need.

We will have the representation of young people of about 100 nationalities, coming from countries like Lebanon, Nicaragua, France, Myanmar, Central African Republic, Albania, Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba, Syria, Honduras, Viet Nam, Ireland, Rwanda, South Africa, Romania, Sierra Leone...

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul hosts in Salamanca-Spain this International Meeting so that the young can share their experience of faith and service following the Vincentian charisma, which has as a model Saint Vincent de Paul, a charisma that insists on the personal, close and efficient assistance to the people living in poverty.

The young, who will come from all parts of the planet, are missionaries in their own land and they will bring in their rucksack the experience of helping others according to its social and cultural context. Some of them come from countries where the Catholic religion is persecuted, is a minority or is not officially recognized, others come from developing countries, where resources are scarce and where they overcome challenges through their commitment and imagination. These young people also come from developed countries, where they are pointed out by secularization and religious indifference and where it is not easy to spread the message of the Gospel.

But they all have something in common, their faith and their commitment of service to the excluded by society, which is summed up in one sentence of the main founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Frederic Ozanam, forerunner of the social doctrine of the Church and beatified by Pope Saint John Paul II:

"What can we do to be truly Catholic, but dedicate ourselves to what most pleases God? Let's assist the poor, as Jesus Christ would do, and let's put our faith under the protective wings of charity"

For further information:

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Facebook page of the International Youth Meeting: [@SSVPYouthSalamanca](https://www.facebook.com/SSVPYouthSalamanca)