



## Vincentian Family's Day of Prayer for a World in Need July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear friends of the Vincentian Family around the world,  
May God bless us, protect us and guard us.

On this VINCENTIAN FAMILY'S DAY OF PRAYER FOR A WORLD IN NEED, I have the joy and great responsibility of representing all the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at this important prayer meeting, a time of reflection for mankind during this pandemic.

We are all fighting this pandemic with the weapons at our disposal: prayer, hope, charity, service and trust in God. We have also followed the recommendations published by health authorities.

Most importantly, we have shown great solidarity, because charity cannot be stopped. Love for those who suffer can never be stopped. Generosity cannot be constrained. The power of good, exercised by the Vincentian Family, is infinite. The poor will never be forsaken!

This brief overview highlights some of the successful initiatives undertaken by the SSVP in the fight against the pandemic. In addition to the most basic actions, namely the delivery of food, our Vincentian Conferences and Special Works have done their best to bring hope to the needy:

- India: the 'Charity Bus' project has been launched.
- Brazil: the 'Solidarity Mobile Hygiene Unit' project for the homeless was developed.
- Spain: The '*Proyecto Hombre*' project that seeks to provide social and education support for people adversely affected by alcohol and drugs.
- France: the '*Charité en quarantaine*' project focuses on people living in isolation.
- The United States: SSVP night shelters have been upgraded.
- New Zealand: the SSVP Charity Shops have been adapted.
- Ireland: a live music concert, on the internet, with famous artists, that has raised thousands of euros for the poor.
- Ghana: young people organized a national collection to buy food and health related material for the needy.
- Nigeria: young people launched an awareness-raising campaign, highlighting messages like 'Social distancing is not synonym of emotional distancing' and 'Fake news inflame panic. Stop spreading disinformation and misinformation'.

- Around the world: we have adapted to the circumstances, and online meetings and learning courses have been held.
- The Council General International: over 200,000€ have been allocated to 50 beneficiary countries to take part in humanitarian Covid-19 projects, thanks to the generous contribution of the donor countries and the Vincentian Family.

These are some of the projects we wanted to share with all you, members of the International Vincentian Family, so that you know that we are following the example of St. Vincent and the seven founders: Bailly de Surcy, Lallier, Lamache, Clavé, Devaux, Le Taillandier and Blessed Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam.

Let us pray fervently to God for Ozanam's intercession to end this pandemic soon!

Let us rebuild this world so badly in need of God and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, relying on the Vincentian charism. That is our wish, as a Vincentian Family in action.

There are myriad other pandemics and social evils to overcome, such as abortion, corruption, injustice, lack of education, intolerance and unemployment.

May God strengthen us to be able, from now on, to face the harmful effects of the pandemic, which will unfortunately exacerbate poverty, hunger and misery.

Let us pray for a new civil society after the pandemic... less selfish, more human and more fraternal.

Let us remain in peace, in prayer, together against the aftermath of Covid-19, always in favor of the poor! May the Miraculous Virgin, Our Lady of Grace, show us the path towards Christian generosity.

May God be praised.

Renato Lima de Oliveira  
16<sup>th</sup> President General