



**Council General International**  
**16<sup>th</sup> President General**

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**Speech – USA SSVP National Assembly – 5 September 2020**

Dear Vincentians of the United States of America,

God be praised.

It is a great honor for me to attend, although remotely, this National Assembly of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States of America, celebrating its 175 years of existence.

Because of the current circumstances, the health crisis does not allow us to hold face-to-face events, which is why we have to use the internet tools to fulfill our statutory obligations.

Likewise, within the Council General, for the first time in history, we will hold our international assembly virtually, in two days, October 4th and December 13th. The situation we live in has taught us to be more creative.

My dear brothers, my dear sisters.

I am always very welcome when I am in the United States. I feel at home. I have visited several cities and have seen the strength of SSVP's work on American soil. Phoenix, Saint Louis, New York, Washington, Trenton, Providence, Boston, Long Island, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago and Madison are the cities I have visited as President General since the beginning of my mandate in 2016.

In all of them, I was able to see the love, dedication and charitable service undertaken by our Conferences, Councils and special works. The quality of formation and training, the work of youth and children, the sensitive way you welcome the poorest, all this indicates that American SSVP is on the right track.

May this annual meeting be very fruitful. May you learn a lot, exchange experiences, analyze the results of the Vincentian action and plan new things for the future.

The Council General International (CGI) is very grateful for the institutional support and fraternal help offered by the American Vincentians, and above all, for the loyal and sincere friendship that have developed between us.

USA is part of this ONE SOCIETY we build together to better serve the poor!

My dear President Ralph Middlecamp, I send a warm virtual hug. I ask for the prayers of all, so that we can move forward in this international presidency, always acting based on the principles, traditions and values left by our founders, who expect much from us in the present days.

I hope I can be with you personally in 2021 during the annual meeting or other event suggested by the National Council. It is always a big joy to be among the American Vincentians.

Thank you very much for your attention, and see you soon! Have a good meeting!

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