



## SUMMARISED ACTIVITY REPORT MAIN FEATURES OF 2020

Paris, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

### Founders

- International Thematic Year 2020: dedicated to cofounder Félix Clavé (his tomb, located in the French city of Pau, will be visited in 2021).
- Félix Clavé's seal was launched.
- The "International Essay Contest - The First Conference - Félix Clavé" was held, with prizes given to the winners.
- The "Seven Founders" Song Contest was launched in Italian, French and English.

### Special dates

- In 2020 we celebrated 187 years since SSVP was founded, the 207th anniversary of Ozanam's birth and 181 years since the establishment of the Council General International, with the design of special logos for these commemorations.
- Celebration of the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the beatification process of Antoine-Frederick Ozanam (1925/2020) and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of the nature of the autonomy of the SSVP within the Church under the "Corrientensis" ruling (1920/2020).
- Institution of the INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SSVP WOMEN MEMBERS on August 14 of each year (in honour of Amelia Ozanam).

### Formation

- Publication of two Circular Letters written by the President General (January 31st and May 5th).
- The Council General celebrated the bicentenary of Amelia Soulacroix Ozanam's birth with the creation of a special logo and the promotion of a virtual lecture, in four languages, given by the President General, on the life story of Ms. Ozanam.
- During the year 2020, due to the pandemic, there were dozens of virtual events, such as training courses, inauguration ceremonies, work meetings, etc. The President General participated in many of these activities, as well as other members of the International Structure and Board.
- The President General gave a lecture to Depaul University (Chicago) on "systemic change" in January and to the University of Peru on "social responsibility" in October.

### Youth

- Celebration on July 4 (liturgical date of Blessed Pedro Jorge Frassati) of the INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE SSVP YOUTH, as suggested by the Council General (the special collection was not carried out due to the restrictions of the health crisis).

- Launching of the "International Friendship Network", the "Youth Exchange Program" and the booklet "SSVP at Universities".
- Conclusion of the international census of Vincentian youth.
- Online promotion in July of the 1<sup>st</sup> Latin American Meeting of SSVP Youth.

### **International trips**

- Countries visited by the President General (6): Lebanon, Italy, United States, Portugal, France and Brazil. Due to the pandemic, we regret that several other Councils could not be visited.
- Visit of the President General and the Secretary General to the United Nations headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland).
- As soon as the Covid-19 pandemic emerged, the Council General approved 20 extraordinary administrative measures to keep the activities going.
- The International Territorial Vice-presidents and Zone Coordinators, even with all the difficulties caused by the pandemic, also visited some countries and participated in various online activities, such as working meetings with the territorial teams, inaugurations in National Councils, training and formation courses.

### **Vincentian Family**

- Participation, in January, in the International Meeting of the Leaders of the Vincentian Family in Rome (Italy).
- Participation in the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Vincentian Family (in January, in Rome, and two more virtual meetings on June 16 and December 2).
- The President General presided over a task force, within the framework of the Vincentian Family, which prepared a report on issues related to improving communication.
- The Council General sent a letter to all countries on the strengthening of the Vincentian Family and the creation of National Councils in countries where the Family is not yet well structured.
- Presence at the creation of the National Council of the Vincentian Family in Belize (online) in November.
- Participation in the PRAYER DAY OF THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY in October.

### **Communication**

- Launching in July 2020 of the new Council General International website ([www.ssvpglobal.org](http://www.ssvpglobal.org)).
- Launching of the new institutional video of the SSVP International in four languages.
- Live performance by Ozanam TV of two "Talk Shows" in which the President General answered questions from Vincentians around the world on 29 March and 18 October.
- Expansion of the number of collaborators of the "Translators Club", which helps the Council General with translations in general.
- Three editions of the digital magazine "Ozanam Network" were produced in four languages (April, August and December 2020).
- The "Christmas Message" of the Council General was published through a video recorded by the President General, with subtitles in four languages.
- Beginning of the preparation of the book "SSVP Global Report", to be launched in 2022.
- Publication of "public statements" on the Council General website on relevant social issues, such as: environment, social prejudice, racial discrimination, church fires, peace and terrorism, youth, mental health and ethics.

- Production of videos and training courses by Ozanam TV.

## Expansion

- Thanks to the excellent work of the "SSVP Plus" Project, Tanzania joined the International Confederation of SSVP, expanding its presence in the world to 152 territories.
- In January, a visit was made to Morocco to begin the work of founding the SSVP in Marrakech.
- Other countries where contacts were initiated: Niger, Gabon, Cape Verde, Eastern European countries, Scandinavia, Greece, Andorra, San Marino and Liechtenstein.

## Canonization of Ozanam

- Collaboration with the Vice-postulator of the cause of canonization of Ozanam in Mariana (Brazil): working meeting in February and closing ceremony in September.
- The President General personally handed over the documents of the claimed second miracle attributed to Blessed Ozanam to the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints in Rome on October 6.
- Intensified prayers for the canonization of Ozanam

## Institutional relations

- Working meeting with the NGO "Fraternity without Borders", with the aim of a future cooperation agreement.
- Signing of a cooperation agreement with the Centre for International Formation (CIF), maintained by the Congregation of the Mission.
- Approval of the "Safeguarding Protocol" to protect the children and vulnerable people with whom we work.
- Presentation of the Medal "Charity in Hope" to the Jesuit Refugee Service.
- The SSVP received recognition in the Brazilian cities of Bauru (São Paulo) and Brasilia (Federal District) by granting the title of "Honorary Citizen" to the President General.

## Board and International structure

- Four meetings of the Council General Board were held: February (Paris), July (online), October (online) and December (online).
- There was a working meeting of the VPTIs with their respective Zone Coordinators, online, on 11 and 12 December.
- On December 31<sup>st</sup>, the new "International Structure" was published, with the creation of new positions, expanding the governance and transparency in the management of the Council General.

## Events

- The 2020 CGI Annual Meeting of the International Executive Committee (IEC) and the Permanent Section (PS), due to the pandemic, took place virtually in two parts: October 4th and December 13th. Thirteen resolutions were adopted. The meetings took place in Paris, France, and were broadcast live on Ozanam TV.
- "International status" recognition ceremony at St. Peter's Conference (Vatican) in January.

## Administration

- During the year, three special commissions continued their work: 1) proposal of a new international logo; 2) hiring a special advisor for the Council General; and 3) evolution of the International Statutes.
- The President General, with the support of the member countries of the International Executive Committee, extended exceptionally the mandates of the presidents of 10 National Councils that could not hold elections due to the pandemic.
- Vincentian statistics were updated: 152 territories, 47,200 Conferences, 800,000 members, 2,000 assistance works and 30 million attended each day.
- **629** new Conferences aggregated and **54** new Councils instituted.
- Letters sent: 60.

## Solidarity

- CIAD sent financial assistance to **65** National Councils.
- The Twinning Department assisted **88** National Councils.
- Together, CIAD and Twinning sent **3.2 million euros** to the countries.
- The Special Fund "Covid-19" allocated **300,000 euros** to **60 National Councils** in support of actions against the pandemic.
- Creation of the "Appeal of the Month" column on the Council General's website, highlighting one special Vincentian work every month to receive international donations, with special attention to day care centres, elderly homes and social projects.
- Revision of the CIAD and Twinning Department manuals.

## New International Headquarters

- The relocation to CGI's new headquarters at 65, Rue de la Glacerie was completed and refurbishment program implemented.
- Staff strengthening, with the hiring of new employees.



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