



SPEECH - Mass - PARIS - APRIL 23rd, 2023

Brothers and sisters of Paris, France, and the world!

Dear Lazarist priests' celebrants!

Dear members of the Vincentian Family!

Praise be to Our Lord Jesus Christ!

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It is with great emotion that I participate here in the Holy Mass of thanksgiving for the 190th anniversary of the foundation of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, and also for the 210th anniversary of the birth of our dear brother Blessed Antoine-Frederic Ozanam.

Today is a very significant day for our SSVP International Confederation, for the Vincentian Family, for the Holy Church and, of course, for all those working for social justice in the light of Catholic Social Teaching!

Today, April 23rd, 2023, in all of the 154 territories where the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is present, events, assemblies, and celebrations are being held in commemoration of this landmark date in our history.

Those seven friends, young, brave and with a deep compassion for those in need, perhaps could not imagine the great example they would be giving in areas such as evangelization, salvation of souls, dedicated personal service and the construction of a more equal world.

Those seven friends, followers of Our Lord Jesus Christ, left us a remarkable legacy, recognized by the Holy See, the United Nations and by the thousands who joined our Society over the years. It is up to us to maintain this work today and make it bear fruit, always in the interest of those suffering and in need.

The Society was born here, in Paris, in this very neighborhood, 190 years ago, and quickly spread around the world. We are a truly universal organization, as evangelical charity should be, facing the various forms of poverty that afflict the contemporary world, inspired by our Vincentian values.

It is with great honor that I, as a Brazilian, exercise the noble service of President General, and seek to bring a message of unity, peace and charity to the International Society.

Therefore, on this very memorable day, in union with the National Council of France, I thank the dear Lazarists celebrants present and all those who are accompanying us here in the Saint-Etienne-du-Mont Church and throughout the world, through the broadcasting of Ozanam TV.

May we have a truly prayerful and fruitful Holy Mass.

Praise be God!

Brother Renato Lima de Oliveira

16th President General International