



MORAL REPORT 2022

16th PRESIDENT GENERAL INTERNATIONAL

Thematic International Year of de Pierre-Auguste Le Taillandier

INTRODUCTION

In 2022, after more than two years of pandemic and geopolitical conflicts, both generating a situation of global crisis, thank God the Council General International has continued to provide its services to the 153 member territories of our Confederation.

Currently, we are 800,000 members, in 50,000 Conferences, supporting about 30 million people a year.

There have been both face-to-face and virtual events, maintaining the unity and missionary spirit in our Society, as was the wish of our seven founders. As you will read below, we registered advances in various sectors, such as formation, communication, youth, governance and institutional relations.

We remain committed to expanding the Society into new regions, despite exceptional circumstances, both locally and globally.

To facilitate the reading of this MORAL REPORT, we have highlighted below the main achievements concerning the strategic objectives of the International General Council, grouping them into 15 priority themes. Enjoy the reading!

1. ADMINISTRATION

- The electoral process to choose the 17th President General International was opened in August, and the Electoral Board is chaired by the Vice-President General, brother Joseph Pandian.
- Five meetings of the International Board of Directors were held during the year.
- Publication of the "Operational Manual of Project SSVP Plus", and a special mission in July 2022 to four countries: Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.
- Inauguration ceremony of the SSVP global headquarters (Rue de la Glacière), on April 23, 2022, with the presence of Vincentians, guests, church authorities and representatives of the Vincentian Family (event broadcast by Ozanam TV).
- In March, the document "Five-Year Report 2016-2021" was launched, in four languages, containing the main achievements of this mandate up to that time.
- A task force was formed, composed of experts and led by brother Julio Cesar Marques de Lima (ITVP America 3), to prepare a booklet on the rejuvenation (revitalization) of Vincentian Conferences, to be launched in Rome 2023.
- The studies for the revision of the strategic planning of the Council General were started, in view of the proximity of the end of the mandate.
- In June 2022 the "Protocol of Good Governance" was approved and sent to all the countries of our Confederation for adoption.
- The Ombudsman General dealt with about 10 cases, with an excellent level of resolution.
- Around 400 new Conferences were added to the International Confederation, whose requests were approved in two meetings of the Permanent Section throughout 2022.

- 70 letters were sent.

2. SPECIAL DATES CELEBRATED

- **February 17:** Seven SSVP Founders' Day.
- **April 23:** 189 years of SSVP foundation and anniversary of Ozanam's birth.
- **July 4:** SSVP International Youth Day.
- **July 21:** 183 years since the creation of the Council General International.
- **August 14:** International SSVP Women's Day.
- **August 22:** 25th anniversary of the Beatification of Antoine-Frederic Ozanam.
- **November 13:** 6th World Day of the Poor.
- **Day 23 of every month:** Spiritual campaign (fasting) for the canonization of Ozanam.

3. ALLIANCES, AGREEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- We strengthened relations with the "Order of Malta of France" to help French-speaking Vincentian countries in Africa in projects on education and health.
- The Medal "Charity in Hope", 2022 edition, was given to the NGO "Fraternity without Borders". An institutional agreement of international cooperation was signed with the same institution.
- As a gesture of unity with the Catholic Church in France, a financial donation was made to help reform the Notre Dame de Paris Cathedral (France), to be reopened in December 2024.
- Negotiations have begun with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO), of the Vatican, for the future signing of a "Letter of Intent" and then of an institutional agreement for international cooperation.

4. INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

- We launched the manual of the STRATEGY-25 PROJECT, stimulating that International Twinning can concentrate on the 25 poorest countries of our Society.
- Commission for International Aid and Development (CIAD) allocated 500.000 euros for 30 countries.
- The International Twinning Department (ITC) coordinated the sending of 2.5 million euros to 70 countries.
- MONTHLY APPEALS were made on the Council General website to help certain countries, and a GLOBAL APPEAL for the crisis in Ukraine.

5. INSTITUTIONAL ACTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT GENERAL

- Countries visited (14): United States of America, Scotland, Kenya, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Spain, France, Panama, Austria, Italy, Slovakia, Hungary, Brazil and Portugal.
- Visit to the Apostolic Nuncio in France, Monsignor Celestino Migliore, in March 2022, who suggested that a letter could be delivered to Pope Francis asking that Ozanam's canonization take place in Paris, when His Holiness finds it convenient.
- In March, the President General met with various civil and ecclesiastical authorities in France, and participated in events of the SSVP and the Vincentian Family. He also visited a SSVP Conference in Paris and took part in the distribution of soup to the homeless.

- The President General also visited the Apostolic Nuncio in Brazil, besides the Brazilian Ambassador in France and the President of the Republic of Sao Tome & Principe. There was also a visit to the Cardinal of Brasilia.
- The President General attended the ceremonies of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the SSVP in Brazil, in Rio de Janeiro, together with the ITVP of that area.
- The President General received the RIO BRANCO ORDER, in the degree of commander, the highest decoration awarded by the Federative Republic of Brazil. He also received a medal entitled "Order of Merit of Public Security", awarded by the local government in Brasilia, the city where he lives.

6. TRAINING & FORMATION

- Launch on February 8 of the International Thematic Year 2022, dedicated to co-founder Pierre-Auguste Le Taillandier, with stamp and literary contest.
- Publication of the Circular Letter on January 31, 2022, focused on education and the environment.
- The third and last Webinar "Pandemic, Poverty and the Future" was held on May 22, 2022, virtually, under the coordination of the International Vice-Presidency of Training & Formation.
- The International Vice-Presidency for Training & Formation held the 2nd Workshop for Territorial Delegates of Training in Madrid (Spain) on November 3 and 4, 2022.
- The President General gave a special talk at a course offered by the Center for International Formation (CIF) in Paris in August with representatives of the Vincentian Family.
- Promotion of the NOVENA OF OZANAM in the week prior to September 9, the liturgical date of Blessed Antoine-Frederic Ozanam. We thank our dear French brother Philippe Menet for preparing this novena.
- Our spiritual directors launched books on spirituality during the year: Father Andrés Motto (2 books) and Father Federico Ozanam (1 book).
- Father Andrés Motto gave formation talks in Bolivia and Peru during the months of November and December, strengthening Vincentian formation in these South American countries.
- Release of the book "Amelia Ozanam: a life", in Spanish and English, organized by the French writer Matthieu Brejon de Lavergnée.

7. COMMUNICATION

- Production of three editions of the digital magazine OZANAM NETWORK.
- The CHRISTMAS MESSAGE video, recorded with the participation of all the members of the International Board, was broadcasted in several languages, produced by Ozanam TV.
- The President General gave an interview to the French Catholic network KTO on April 24.
- Creation of a task force to prepare the document GLOBAL REPORT, which will be launched in Rome 2023, containing information about the SSVP in each country, as well as the achievements of the General Council in recent years.
- The General Council's website and social networks have had a record number of hits, and the number of news items published has been very high, with an average of three articles a week.

8. YOUTH

- The International Vice-Presidency for Youth held the 1st Workshop for Territorial Youth Delegates in Paris (France) on September 7, 8 and 9, 2022.

- Launching of the PRACTICAL GUIDE HOW TO FOUND CONFERENCES IN UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS, under the coordination of the International Vice-Presidency for Youth.
- Promotion of the international contest for choosing the lyrics of the song "The Seven Founders" in Italian, French and English, under the coordination of the International Vice-Presidency of Youth.
- Brother Willian Alves represented the Council General International at the beatification ceremony of sister Isabel Cristina Campos, in Barbacena, Brazil.
- Launching of the cultural contest, centered on the theme of "quality education to overcome poverty", in order to sponsor 12 young people to participate in youth events in Portugal (Felgueiras and Lisbon), by initiative of the International Vice-Presidency for Youth.
- A task force was constituted, formed by young people and led by brother Willian Alves (International Vice-Presidency of Youth), to elaborate the MANUAL FOR NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEES, to be launched in Rome 2023.
- The International Youth Vice-presidency has participated in numerous preparatory meetings for the "International Meeting of the Youth of the Vincentian Family", which will be held in Felgueiras in 2023, a few days before the Days with Pope Francis.

9. MAJOR EVENTS HELD

- From June 13 to 17 the CGI Annual Meeting took place in Paris (France). During the event, important resolutions for the future of the SSVP were approved, as well as protocols and cooperation agreements.
- The ALL AFRICA ASSEMBLY 2022 was held in Nairobi (Kenya), with the presence of the 41 African Vincentian countries, from July 20 to 23, with the signing of the LETTER OF NAIROBI containing several commitments for the coming years.

10. SEVEN FOUNDERS' LEGACY

- On April 23, the birth date of Antoine-Frederic Ozanam, the Council General inaugurated a plaque and a bust of Ozanam in Saint Rosalie Parish, next door to the world headquarters, with the authorization of the parish priest, Father Arnaud Mogin.
- On August 22, we commemorated the 25th anniversary of Ozanam's beatification.
- The tomb of the co-founder Jules Devaux, located in the city of Colombières, France, was visited. The tomb of Le Taillandier will be visited in February 2023, in Rouen (France).
- During the year, the Council General followed the process for Ozanam's canonization, which is at the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. We thank Father Giuseppe Guerra, CM, postulator of the cause, for the advice given.

11. UKRAINE

- Regarding the invasion of Ukraine, the Council General passed five resolutions on humanitarian aid, undertook a global fundraising appeal, and signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" with "Depaul International" to provide enough funds to serve 200 meals to people in need in Kharkiv, in addition to supporting a day center and other assistance services.
- The President General met in December at the Hungarian border with representatives of some Ukrainian Conferences, to express the solidarity of the international SSVP with the suffering people of Ukraine.

12. VINCENTIAN FAMILY

- The President General and brother Ricardo Tavares attended the annual meeting of the International Executive Committee of the Vincentian Family in Rome in November 2022.
- On November 9, the President General attended the inauguration of the sculpture about the homeless "The Shelter" blessed by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square, an initiative suggested by the Vincentian Family International.

13. HOLY SEE

- On November 9, the President General, accompanied by other leaders of the Council General, had an audience with the Holy Father, handing him a letter requesting that Ozanam's canonization, when it takes place, may be hosted in Paris.
- During the week of November 7-11, the President General, accompanied by other leaders of the Council General, made several institutional visits to representatives of the Holy See, strengthening ties. During these audiences, several Dicasteries and organs of the Holy See were visited, and interviews were given to the Vatican media.
- The excellent work of institutional relations carried out by brothers Sebastián Gramajo and Antonio Gianfico, especially with respect to the process of canonization of Ozanam, should be highlighted.

14. UNITED NATIONS

- Representatives of the United Nations Department of the Council General attended various events in Paris, New York and Geneva, dealing with issues related to poverty, education, health, women, human rights and employment.
- Monsignor Eric Soviguidi, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, visited the CGI's headquarters in 2022.

15. ACTIVITIES OF THE TERRITORIAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

- Several ITVPs accompanied the President General during his missionary visits throughout the year.
- Mike Nizankiewicz (ITVP America 1) represented the Council General at the ceremonies marking the 100th anniversary of the SSVP in Grenada.
- The Territorial Vice-presidents attended three working meetings throughout the year, under the coordination of the International Vice-presidency for Structure.
- Several ITVPs held territorial meetings, with team members and/or the presidents of the Superior Councils.
- The ITVPs and Zone Coordinators provided guidance to the countries that form part of our Confederation, helping with electoral processes and drafting national rules or statutes.

CONCLUSION

Much more than an obligation provided for in article 3.2.1 of the International Statutes of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, this MORAL REPORT represents a historical document, by recording the main activities and initiatives that have been carried out during the year 2022 by the SSVP International.

This report will be sent to all the Superior or National Councils that form part of our Confederation, and will also be presented during the General Assembly in Rome (June 13-17, 2023). The Holy See, the Vincentian Family and the main institutional partners and stakeholders of the SSVF throughout the world will likewise receive a copy of this report.

Despite all the difficulties faced by humanity, such as the invasion of Ukraine and the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic, the Council General International considers that the year 2022 was very positive for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

We are happy to report that the finances of the Council General are in excellent shape. Generous economic support from the "Concordat" countries has ensured that the finances of the Council General have been kept on a sound footing and that the Council has been able to fulfill its institutional role in an appropriate manner, allowing the Structure to function properly throughout 2022.

We give thanks to the Lord for all the benefits He has bestowed on the Society and its members and assisted ones, through the intercession of Our Lady, Saint Vincent de Paul and Blessed Antoine-Frederic Ozanam.

I thank the Superior Councils, the "Concordat" members, the components of the International Structure and the Board of Directors who, with the support of the staff, have assisted me in the performance of my noble service as President General. I congratulate them for their excellent work in the service of the Society. May God bless us all.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Renato', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brother **Renato Lima de Oliveira**
16th President General International
Paris, December 31, 2022