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E-Gazette Special Edition: Vincentian Family Symposium Recap

Symposium with Pope Francis
October 12, 13, 14, 15 2017

<http://famvin400.info>

Workshops in Paul VI Hall
Address by Pope Francis
Mass in St. Peter's Basilica
Vigil at the Basilica of St. Paul
outside the Walls

A Special Blessing:
The heart of St. Vincent
will be with us in Rome!

Pilgrimage • Film Festival • Symposium • Homelessness Initiative

From October 12 - 15, members of the Vincentian Family around the world gathered in Rome, Italy to take part in

the Symposium of the Vincentian Family with Pope Francis. In this special edition of the E-Gazette, you will find excerpts and transcripts of addresses given as well as photos taken during the Symposium. We thank God for the opportunity for the entire Vincentian Family to come together and celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism.

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Prayer in Celebration of the 400th Anniversary

Joseph Agostino, CM
October 12, 2017

On that night filled with grace, the 27th of November 1830, St. Catherine Laboure experienced in Paris the appearance of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. She described herself at that moment as someone "immersed in delight." So powerful was Mary's presence to this young woman, just beginning the journey of her own life,

that she said she did not even know if she still existed or not! (from the writings of St. Catherine Laboure, CMLH 77 -78)

213 years earlier, in remote villages in the south of France, a young man, just beginning his life's journey, had his own spiritual experience. Through the confession of a dying peasant and the need of a family ravaged by sickness and hunger, St. Vincent encountered the face of Christ in the poor. So inexplicable were the events that unfolded in his life, he felt that "all that I see is a dream." (SVP:XI:326; CED:XII:7; CCD:XII:6)

400 years later, this 12th of October 2017, we, gather here in Rome immersed in delight, to celebrate the work that God has done in us and in his Church. God has turned Vincent's dream into a testimony of love for those living in poverty as well as for those who care for them.

[To read the prayer in its entirety, click here.](#)

[Click here](#) to watch a special video with the prayer accompanied by photos from Vincentians around the world celebrating the 400th Anniversary!

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Greeting to Pope Francis

Fr. Tomaz Mavric, CM, Superior General
October 14, 2017

Dear Holy Father,

As the Church celebrates this 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism, it is with overwhelming joy, happiness, and awe that the Vincentian Family stands before you today, those present here and all those following us through the various means of mass communication.

To mark this 400th Anniversary, we organized a three-day symposium of the worldwide Vincentian Family that will end tomorrow. The theme for this Jubilee Year is "Welcome the Stranger" and it served as the focus.

From a small mustard seed in 1617, the Vincentian Family has grown today into a large tree, composed of over 200 branches (lay associations, and women's and men's

Congregations of Consecrated Life) with some two million members in 150 countries. However, the Vincentian Family is made up also of men and women who, although not belonging to a specific branch, are inspired by the example of Vincent de Paul to follow in his footsteps in the service of the poor.

To read Fr. Tomaz Mavric, CM, Superior General's greeting to Pope Francis, [click here](#).

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Papal Address by Pope Francis:

October 14, 2017

***Below is the address Pope Francis gave at the recent Vincentian Family Symposium in Rome. In his address, Pope Francis recognizes the good work that St. Vincent de Paul did to help those in need and encourages us, as Vincentians, to continue helping those in need in the name of St. Vincent de Paul.**



Pope Francis waves as he goes by a group of Vincentians at the recent Vincentian Family Symposium in Rome. Photo: John Berry / CEO SVdP Atlanta

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

Thank you for your warm welcome, and thanks to the Superior General for introducing our meeting.

I greet you and together with you I thank the Lord for the four hundred years of your charism. San Vincenzo has created a momentum of charity that lasts for centuries: a momentum that came out of his heart. For this reason today we have here the relic: the heart of St. Vincent. Today, I would like to encourage you to continue this journey, proposing three simple verbs that I believe are of great

importance to the Vincentian spirit, but also for the Christian life in general: to worship, to welcome, to go.

[Read more](#)

- Pope Francis

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The Seed of the Vincentian Family must grow

**HOMILY (October 15, 2017 Homily for the Closing Eucharist of the
Symposium)**

It is with overwhelming joy, happiness, and gratitude that we gather here today at this closing Eucharist of the Symposium, celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism.

We, members of the Vincentian Family, have gathered from around the world, those belonging to a specific branch of the Family, as well as those who, though not belonging to a specific branch, are inspired by Saint Vincent de Paul's life. We follow in his footsteps, seeking to live out his charism and spirituality. Others who would like to get to know Saint Vincent de Paul better are present in person or are joining us by TV, radio, internet, social media, etc. With Saint Vincent de Paul, we can exclaim today, "I would never have imagined that something like this could be possible!"

[Click here to read Fr. Mavric's entire homily.](#)

-Tomaz Mavric, CM Superior General

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Finding Vince 400 Film Festival



Finding Vince 400 (FV400) is a competition and festival for people of all voices. It is inspired by the 400th Anniversary of the birth of St. Vincent de Paul's charism of service to the poor. As one element of the Vincentian Family's celebration of this event, FV400 is part of the Vincentian Family's initiative to globalize charity. A competition, festival and celebration of visual arts created to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the charism of St. Vincent de Paul: Love of the Poor. By being a part of the story, you and I possess a way of understanding our personal and collective place in the world.

Our Mission: To champion 21st century storytellers and challenge audiences with films that change our perspective on poverty in our communities. We spark our imaginations by sharing our charism through a creativity that is inspired by the Vincentian mission to globalize charity.

1st Competition: Seeds of Hope:

For all those under the age of 18

We call upon them to utilize any creative expression (story, poem, image, sculpture, music, etc...) that inspires direct service to the poor. Jury selected artists will be invited and awarded a trip to Castel Gandolfo, Italy from October 18 - 21, 2018.

Submissions must be received by February 14, 2018.

2nd Competition: Screenwriting - Finding Vince 400, Storyteller, a screenwriting competition:

Five screenwriters will be awarded a trip to Rome and a grant to produce their screenplay for a short film. These short films will premiere at Castel Gandolfo, Italy from October 18 - 21, 2018. **Submissions must be received by February 14, 2018.**

3rd Competition: Short or Feature Films:

You are invited to submit your short or feature film to "Finding Vince 400." The jury will select films that inspire a direct service to the poor and change our perspective on poverty. These films will premiere at Castel Gandolfo, Italy from October 18 - 21, 2018. Jury selected artists will be invited and awarded a trip to this event.

Submissions due by February 14, 2018.

Submit at <https://filmfreeway.com/FV400>

[Click here for more information about the Finding Vince 400 film festival.](#)

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Famvin Homeless Alliance - Ending Homelessness

Address by: Mark McGreevy, Group CEO of DePaul International



Good morning everybody. Welcome to St. Peter's!

My name is Mark McGreevy and I am the Group Chief Executive of Depaul International. We are a group of homelessness charities established as a collaboration of the Vincentian Family 27 years ago. We began life as one small homeless shelter in London in 1999 and today Depaul International works in seven countries assisting over 22,000 homeless people every year. The reason I am speaking here today is that the heads of the Vincentian Family have asked me, on their behalf, to announce the launch of the Famvin Homeless Alliance. This project is one of the most ambitious undertakings in the life of the Vincentian movement. We aim, with your help, to change the lives of hundreds of thousands of homeless people globally and to make sure that their voice is heard by policy makers at a local, national and international level including the UN. In short, our ambition is to join the crusade to end homelessness globally. More of that later.

[Click here to read more about the Famvin Homeless Alliance.](#)

From Famvin:

June 28, 2017 marked the official announcement of the Famvin Homeless Alliance, an initiative of the Worldwide Vincentian Family to reduce, and wherever possible, eliminate homelessness in its multiple forms. This ceremony took place at the European Parliament, by invitation of its president, Antonio Tajani, who wished to honor the work of the followers of St. Vincent de Paul with the people living in poverty, especially with the homeless.

In the context of the 400th anniversary of the charism, the Vincentian Family chose to focus particularly on the famous passage of Matthew 25: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." In harmony with the global definition of homeless developed by the Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH), the attitude and actions of welcoming the homeless include action with and in favor of people living in the streets, refugees and internally displaced people, slumdweller... The urgency of this issue is evident: The most recent UN reports on this topic suggests that, of the 7 billion people on this planet, more than 1.2 billion fall within this IGH three-tiered definition of global homelessness. It is one of the great social ills of our time.

Mark McGreevy, Depaul International CEO and coordinator of this project on behalf of the Vincentian Family, explained the choice of the European forum for the official announcement of the initiative: "Europe has been home to the Vincentian Family for 400 years and so it is fitting that the EU Parliament is the place where we celebrate the official announcement of this new project. In partnership, we can do great things together."

Other speakers at the event included: M. Antonio Tajani himself, Rev. Tomaz Mavric (Superior General and President of the Vincentian Family), Fr. Pedro Opeka (Vincentian priest nominated for the Peace Nobel Prize), and Sr. Carol Keehan (Daughter of Charity, president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association of the United States).

The launching of this global initiative will take place in a very international forum, in October, during the Symposium of the Vincentian Family in Rome, Italy, in the presence of hundreds of Vincentian Family members from throughout the world.

FAMVIN invites all the Vincentians throughout the world to join the initiative. You would share what you are already doing to help the homeless so that we let others learn from your experience:

- Contact homeless@famvin.org to share the story of your work, to ask any questions you may have.
- Visit the website vfhomelessnessalliance.org to learn more about the project.
- Follow and like the dedicated Facebook page: <https://web.facebook.com/vfhomelessnessalliance/?ref=bookmarks>

- Share this information with your Vincentian fellows.

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Images of the Symposium

[Click here to view a slideshow of photos from the Vincentian Family Symposium.](#)

*If you would like copies of any of the photos from the slideshow, please contact:

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Vincentian Family Symposium "In the News"

CGI: [President General gives Pope a Report on the Canonization of Ozanam](#)

THE VATICAN: [Message of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Vincentian Family on the fourth Centenary of the Charism](#)

FAMVIN:

[Video from the Vincentian Family Encounter with Pope Francis at #famvin400](#)

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FAMVIN: [Vincent truly believed in Partnership in the Church](#)

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Any Questions or Comments?

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