



PRESS RELEASE

“When Charity Calls”, a story told through images, music and entertainment Saturday, 20 October in Rome at the Auditorium Conciliazione during the “*Finding Vince 400*” Film Festival

The Vincentian Family, during the “Finding Vince 400” Film Festival, is organizing together with the Synod of Bishops “When Charity Calls: Charity as a Privileged Place for Vocational Discernment” on Saturday, 20 October at 6PM in Rome, at the Auditorium Conciliazione. *“Finding Vince 400 is an attempt to change the way we look at poverty, considering the changes in social conditions and new media: by the same token, «When Charity Calls» is a different way to testify to the freshness of the Vincentian charism, that has just started its fifth century of life, in the wake of the teachings of St. Vincent de Paul”* explains the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, **Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM**. This event is an opportunity to think, with the language of art, about Charity and the love of God as it is experienced in the poor and the outcast, that has changed the life of Saint Vincent de Paul and that still calls men and women from around the world, every day, to counter new forms of poverty. *“You can be a disciple only if you love. Vincentians are people who love, not people who do. Faith and the experience of St. Vincent are in God’s love. He lifted the veil of Trinitarian life and contemplated the loving souls inhabited by the Trinity. But he is not just happy with feeling love. It became a “mission” to him, explains Father Luigi Mezzadri CM, commenting on Saint Vincent de Paul’s thinking “Action for the poor comes from God. Saints put God’s love at the summit in a supreme way, whereby the action of the Church and mankind should strive to glorify His name, to promote the Kingdom’s enlargement and cooperate to the triumph of the Will... The Vincentian vocation is to love God and make people love Him: « It is not enough for me to love God if my neighbor does not love him » (XII, 262). This love must inspire all actions and direct love towards all creatures so that they are only loved in God and for God. But this love must lead to love for our neighbor”*.

Many Italian and internationally-acclaimed artists will take turns on the stage of the Auditorium, starting with **Jim Caviezel**, who played Christ in Mel Gibson’s film *The Passion*, who will share his spiritual journey in a candid interview. The star of *Angel Eyes* and *Unknown* has been very active in the religious domain for years, in addition to his artistic work. As for music, **Ron** - one of the most popular and appreciated Italian song writers - will be performing, as well as the **Gen Verde** international group. **Piera Degli Esposti** and **Massimo Popolizio** will read excerpts from C. Peguy’s *The Portico of the Mystery of the*

second virtue Sarah Maestri and Giovanni Scifoni will make us discover Saint Vincent's story, life and way of praying through his writings and the rewritten story of his life. "When Charity Calls" is a story told through images, music and entertainment, directed by Andrea Chiodi and hosted by Arianna Ciampoli. The director explains: *"Talking about charity is a beautiful challenge and doing so starting from Saint Vincent's extraordinary character gives us the opportunity to reread his story and discover writers who have spoken about this virtue in a poetic and impactful way. I decided to start with Saint Paul and then Charles Peguy through the voice of two great artists of Italian theater and cinema like Piera Degli Esposti and Massimo Popolizio. We could not overlook the story of Saint Vincent to rediscover its most important moments and meaningful words, and I wanted to give this task to two young film and tv actors like Sarah Maestri and Giovanni Scifoni; Giovanni will rewrite Saint Vincent's story for us, with the ironic style with which he has charmed audiences online and on Tv 2000 (and still does). And then music with Ron and the extraordinary voices of the international group Gen Verde. However, for something to be more understandable and true - Andrea Chiodi says in conclusion - we must listen to those who live this way every day and can help us understand, so we will hear directly from Vincentians themselves and from an international voice like actor Jim Caviezel. A story told through images, music and words and its recurring image will be a little girl, who will symbolize charity, purity and the simplicity with which good deeds can be done"*.

This event is open to all until seats are available.

To book your invitation, please write to: 20ottobre@famvin.org.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE ARTISTS: PLEASE CONTACT THE "FINDING VINCE 400" PRESS OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE INTERVIEWS WITH THE ARTISTS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THIS EVENT BY EMAILING elena@elenagrazini.it WITH A DETAILED REQUEST THAT INCLUDES THE QUESTIONS YOU PLAN TO ASK.

Press Office

Elena Grazini

+39 338 190 24 36

elena@elenagrazini.it