



PRESS RELEASE

Next Monday, September 27th, is solemnity of Saint Vincent de Paul, the great feast for the Worldwide Vincentian Family.

September, the Vincentian month: that was the manner in which Father Tomaž Mavrič, CM described the month of September in his message that was addressed to all the members of the Vincentian Family on the occasion of the celebration of the solemnity of Saint Vincent de Paul (September 27th).

The month of September is called the Vincentian month because we, members of the worldwide Vincentian Family, prepare to celebrate together the Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul with beautifully prepared Eucharists, liturgies of the Word, or other prayer encounters, engaging all the branches of the Vincentian Family in a given parish, village, city, region, or country. We also prepare to celebrate the feast with concrete acts of corporal and spiritual charity toward our Lords and Masters.

Those words of gratitude and affirmation of Father Mavrič were directed to the members of the more than 160 branches that compose the Vincentian Family. Creativity, which has always characterized Vincentian charity, has not been set aside, not even during this time of great difficulty and global crisis resulting from the pandemic.

In his message, the Superior General highlighted the technological advances that everyone has had to embrace during this time of social “distancing”, but he exhorts us, whenever possible, to meet face to face, to organize more numerous personal meetings, encounters and gatherings. This is most essential as we continue our journey together and proclaim good news to the poor.

Three main invitations-exhortations:

- **The greatest challenge for all the branches** of the Vincentian Family in the 162 countries in which they are present is that of collaboration. The objective of this collaboration is create more participation and exchanges.
- **Develop on the international, national, regional and local level a system** that enables the members to respond quickly and effectively to natural disasters, wars and other catastrophes ... and thus to respond not simply as one branch, but to respond as a united Vincentian Family.
- **To promote the Vincentian Family Homeless Alliance and the 13 Houses Campaign.** The Vincentian Family Homeless Alliance, with the 13 Houses Campaign, is a charitable initiative which unites the Vincentian Family and ought to be promoted, introduced and made a reality in all the countries where the Vincentian Family is present so that every Congregation and Association is included. The hope is that we will arrive at a time when the problem of homelessness is not treated individually (not by any one individual or any one branch), but as a Family on a local, national and international level.

These then are the highlights of Father Mavrič’s message to the Vincentian Family on the occasions of the feast of Saint Vincent de Paul. There will be many celebrations, including vigils, moments of prayer and eucharistic celebrations in all parts of the world.

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