

Report on Behalf of CEVIM
Given to the Superior General and the
General Curia in Rome on June 29th 2009

1) Interprovincial Reconfiguration:

Confreres resisted using the word 'reconfiguration.' However, there is a positive change in mindset from provincial to continental to global. This change centres upon:

- a) Shared missions and projects
- b) A greater awareness of the needs of other Provinces
- c) A greater awareness of the needs of Europe through apostolic experience during the formation programme

2) Continental sessions of formation on the Systemic Change for Advisors, Directors and Responsibles of the Vincentian Family

We agree on having these sessions after the next General Assembly (2010), organized by linguistic areas. As for the concrete aspects:

- The CEVIM will organize them through the Permanent Council,
- The Provinces will determine the geographical areas (the Iberian Peninsula, Eastern Europe, Central Europe etc.)
- The intermediate bodies (Megvis, national coordinating teams of the Vincentian Family etc) will organize autonomously these sessions, making them available to everybody.

3) Formation:

The Conference will present to the next General Assembly the request that one Ratio Formation and Practical Guide for Formation be drawn up by the Superior General and his Council to include:

- Ratio for Initial Formation be updated
- Ratio for Major Seminary be updated
- Post Seminary – support in early years of ministry
- Ongoing Formation – as a continuation of Initial Formation

The above Ratio and Practical Guide to incorporate:

- Documents of the Church and Curia
- To take into account the changing faith backgrounds of candidates

- To take into account the less stable family structure of European society today
- To define the responsibility of the candidate in his own human formation
- That formation focus upon the spiritual and human development of each confrere

4) Parish Ministry:

Presently there are over 60% of confreres of the Congregation working in parishes. CEVIM held a successful gathering of confreres from 16 provinces working in parishes in Naples in January 2009. Vincentian parishes offer:

- Missionary experience and formation
- Openness to emerging needs
- Promoting concrete charity
- Develops the role of the laity
- Promotes Vincentian Lay Volunteers
- Offers an appreciation of Vincentian Family collaboration
- Offers a pastoral analysis of an area and of needs
- Offers opportunities to promote systemic change

Parish Ministry is a Community Ministry

5) Collaboration with the representative of the AIC at the Council of Europe

We reaffirm our willingness to keep our contacts with the representative AIC at the Council of Europe. We will ask the Secretary of the CEVIM to contact the new representative and inform her of our decision.

6) Mission in Europe

We see the discussion on possible missionary projects as a first step towards the creation of a more profound European awareness in all of us. The CEVIM commits itself to consider in the following years the urgency of the mission in Europe, and to present to future CEVIM assemblies concrete projects.

We propose:

- To set up a Committee that will elaborate some concrete projects about places where we are already present (Turkey, Albania, Greece...)

- That each Visitor present other possible concrete projects to be discussed and evaluated in the next assemblies
- That in the initial formation of our students, missionary experiences be promoted, so that our students can know and love the missionary dimension in Europe. Thus, it will be easier for the CEVIM to set up new missionary projects in Europe, once they are ordained.

7) Agreement for confreres coming from other Provinces

We will establish a juridically competent committee that will elaborate for the next CEVIM assembly a document that will contain:

- The criteria and the essential elements of an agreement between the Provinces, in line with our Constitutions and Statutes,
- Some practical guidelines for daily life (health care, insurance, personal expenses, travel...). *Copy of Agreement attached*

8) Future CEVIM meetings: dates, locations, themes:

- CEVIM Assembly to be held
 - a) some days before the General Assembly 2010, or
 - b) on a two-day basis, that is on the day before the election of the Superior General and towards the end of the General Assembly
- Meeting for young confreres: every three years