

VICE-PROVINCE OF KENYA

Dear Friends...

E-Newsletter

August Issue | 2025

Walking Together in Grace

New Vision & Legacy Congratulations & Thank you



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Visitor - Vice-Province of Kenya

Rev. Fr. Edwin, C.M
Former Visitor - Vice-Province of Kenya



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VINCENTIAN MARIAN YOUTH-SEMO IN KENYA

The Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY-SEMO) group's first international service retreat to Kenya, involving 25 young adults and chaplains. Highlights of their activities during their visit

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ALL THINGS NEW: FRESH RESPONSIBILITIES

New assignment for Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M, Fr. Humphreys Makokha, C.M, Fr. Michael Njeru, C.M, Fr. Philip Njenga, C.M, Fr. Abba Zozmus, C.M, Fr. Geoffrey Wekesa, C.M, Fr. Johnmary Muhumuza, C.M, Fr. James Kariuki, C.M among other priests.

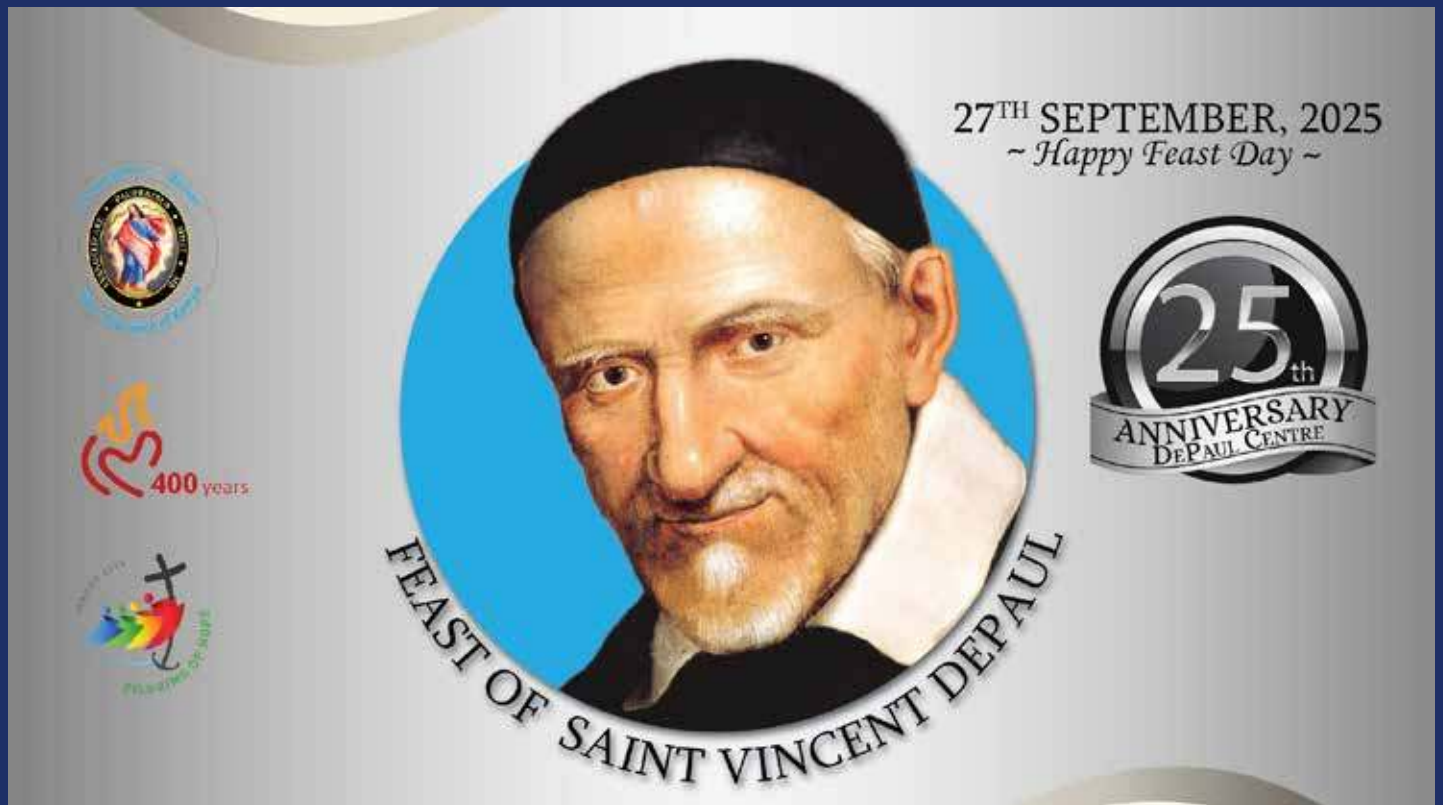


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HEARTS FOR MISSION

On the morning of June 21st, 2025, at the serene grounds of **Damascus House, Kamulu**, six novices of the Congregation of the Mission - Vice Province of Kenya - pronounced their Good Purposes, committing themselves more deeply to a life of Vincentian mission and service. Presiding over the celebration, Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M., offered a profound reflection centered on...





You helped us build the Modern Priests' House at St. Vincent de Paul Giathugu.

Join us for the grand launch and blessing:

Date: Sunday, 28th September 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Event: Holy Mass celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Muheria

We warmly invite your support in:

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Thank you for your support!



Walking Together in Grace: A New Chapter for the Vice Province

As we journey through August 2025, I am deeply humbled to serve as the Visitor of the Vice Province of Kenya. This role is not merely a personal milestone but a continuation of our collective journey in faith and service.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my predecessor, Very Rev. Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M., whose visionary leadership has been instrumental in the growth and establishment of our Vice Province. Under his guidance, we witnessed significant milestones, including the elevation of our region to Vice Province status in 2022. His dedication to fostering unity, nurturing vocations, and expanding our apostolic works has laid a strong foundation upon which we continue to build. I am committed to honoring and advancing this legacy with the same spirit of humility and service.

Reflecting on my pastoral journey, I am filled with gratitude for the diverse experiences that have shaped my vocation. Each assignment has been a sacred opportunity to learn, grow, and serve. These experiences have deepened my commitment to our Vincentian mission and prepared me for the responsibilities ahead.

In embracing this role, I am reminded of Jesus' prayer in John 17: "That they may be one." Unity is not merely an ideal; it is the essence of our Vincentian identity. As we face the challenges and opportunities before us, walking together in faith and love will be our strength.



Our Vice Province continues to witness the fruits of our collective efforts. I am always deeply touched by the ongoing initiatives that embody our mission to serve Christ in the poor. For instance, on July 17, 2025, we continued our outreach through the Elderly Self-Help Care Program at St. Vincent DePaul Giathugu Catholic Parish in Nyeri. This initiative provided senior citizens with essential supplies and spiritual nourishment, reflecting our commitment to compassionate service.

Additionally, it is pleasing to witness the establishment of our new parish in Kilifi, located in Kenya's coastal region.

This parish aims to serve areas where the Gospel's message and our charitable works can make a significant impact.

Our mission extends beyond Kenya's borders. In Uganda's Jinja Diocese, our confreres are actively engaged in pastoral and social ministries, bringing the Vincentian charism to new communities. This expansion reflects our commitment to evangelization and service in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on nurturing vocations, strengthening our communities, and expanding our outreach. We are called to be signs of God's love, bringing hope and healing to those we serve. This mission requires each of us to listen, to accompany, and to act with compassion and courage.

I invite all confreres, collaborators, and friends to join me in this journey. Let us walk together, united in purpose and spirit, as we continue to build a Vice Province rooted in faith, service, and love.

May God bless each of you, and may our collective efforts bear abundant fruit in the lives of those we are called to serve.

**In Christ's service,
Very Rev. Fr. Benson Odhiambo, C.M.
Visitor, Vice Province of Kenya**

A Grace-Filled Continuation:

Welcoming Fr. Benson Odhiambo, C.M. as New Visitor of the Vice Province of Kenya



On 1st July 2025, the Congregation of the Mission – Vice Province of Kenya marked a significant and grace-filled transition in leadership as Fr. Benson Odhiambo, C.M. was officially installed as the new Visitor, succeeding Very Rev. Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was held at the Regional House of the Congregation, in Nairobi. The occasion drew together confreres and invited guests in a spirit of unity, prayer, and Vincentian fraternity.

Soon after Mass, Fr. Benson shared heartfelt reflections, emphasizing the day as a celebration of God's providence and the continuity of mission.

"Dear friends, it's a wonderful moment. We've just had a beautiful celebration to mark the wonders of God in our little Company here in the Vice Province of Kenya. The transition from one leadership to another is a clear testament to God's grace and

mercy that has brought us this far."

He expressed deep gratitude for the messages of encouragement received from across the Vincentian world, including confreres from Kenya, the Western Province, and the General Curia led by the Superior General, Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, C.M. Fr. Benson noted that he draws strength from the prayers and support of many, adding:

"I've chosen as my motto the prayer of Jesus in **John 17**: 'That they may be one.' Unity is our strength. If we walk together, nothing can defeat us. Our unity will be the witness that draws others to Christ."

The outgoing Visitor, Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M., spoke with joy and gratitude as he passed on the mantle of leadership. He commended Fr. Benson, who had served alongside him on the council, and assured him of continued prayer and support.



"It has been an incredible four and a half years - a time of growth, mission, and milestones. Most notably, during this period, we became a Vice Province - and that will always remain close to my heart."

Fr. Edwin acknowledged the collective effort and goodwill of the confreres and supporters, particularly from the Western Province, which played a vital role in the Vice Province's growth. He also shared that he will be taking a short period of rest before embarking on further studies.

The day was a powerful reminder that leadership within the Vincentian family is not about status but service - guided by grace, rooted in community, and focused on the mission to serve Christ in the poor.

As Fr. Benson steps into this sacred role, the Vice Province moves forward not through rupture but as a community walking side by side, grounded in the same call, and united by one purpose - to serve, to grow, and to witness to the love of Christ.

"God bless each one of you. God bless our little Company. God bless the Vice Province of Kenya."

Stewarding with Integrity:

Fr. Humphreys Makokha Leads Finance and HR with Hope



In assuming his responsibilities as the new treasurer and Human Resources lead for the Vice Province of Kenya, Rev. Fr. Humphreys Makokha, C.M. steps into a pivotal role, where financial oversight and pastoral care converge, in service to the Vincentian mission.

Reflecting on the journey that has brought the Vice Province to this moment, Fr. Makokha invoked both history and faith:

“The stability of our Vice Province is dependent on good leadership, good use of the patrimony of the poor, and continued growth in the spirit of collaboration. We are invited to look back with gratitude to our small beginnings; when the seed of Vincentians was first planted in Kenya. One thing should be clear to all of us: never at any time have we been without divine providence.”

Expressing both humility and conviction, he added: “Trusting in that same providence, I come to the vice-provincial treasury with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12), aware of the immense responsibility expected of the office and of the office-holder. But in the same breath, I know that I have a supporting team at the finance office, a listening Visitor, and confreres ready to walk alongside me.”

Fr. Makokha framed his role not as one of authority, but as one rooted in communal service. He noted, “I come as a servant for all. Let us all take part in building the future of our Vice Province. To our workers, you are our trusted collaborators, and I pray we all take our responsibilities bearing in mind that your contribution matters to the poor we serve each day.”

Looking ahead, he issued a clarion call for creative stewardship and shared responsibility. “We have a responsibility to not only make good use of the patrimony of the poor entrusted to us, but also propose creative ways to continue growing it. It is my prayer that we will come together, around our Visitor, and offer practical suggestions not only to use the patrimony wisely but to help it thrive.”



A Call for Unity during a Transition Moment at the Vice Province of Kenya



The Congregation of the Mission – Vice Province of Kenya has opened a new chapter with the appointment of Very Rev. Fr. Benson Odhiambo, C.M. as Visitor, succeeding Very Rev. Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M. The transition in leadership, marked by gratitude, fraternal solidarity, and a shared sense of mission, has drawn confreres together in a spirit of prayerful unity and renewal.

“With great humility, I take this opportunity as a council member to congratulate our new Visitor, Very Rev. Fr. Benson Odhiambo. Congrats my brother. You are up to the task. The race you are starting today is a race which can be finished with God Himself. Please continue the journey and keep the charism of the Congregation of the Mission alive in our Vice Province of Kenya,” said Rev. Fr. Wilfred Atinda, C.M., Council Member, Vice Province of Kenya.

Turning to the outgoing Visitor, Fr. Atinda, who is also the current Parish Priest of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Kamulu, expressed heartfelt gratitude to Very Rev. Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M. for his leadership over the past three years, a period that coincided with the very establishment of the Vice Province.

“Thanks for the great works done in the Vice Province of Kenya under your leadership. We were appointed together as the first Visitor and Council of the Vice Province of Kenya, three years ago. Since then, with the help of God, we have served as best as God enabled us to serve. Three years have been a time of great discernment, development, formation, structuring, and expansion. It has also been a time with different challenges here and there. We hope we were helpful to you in the daily running of the Vice Province, shared with you our counsel, and supported you in decision-making. Thanks for making our work easier and enjoyable. We wish you the best in your new assignment,” he said.

Reflecting on the unexpected nature of their initial appointment, Fr. Atinda reminded the assembly that leadership in the Church is both a challenge and a gift, sustained by divine providence: “Our appointment came as a surprise when the Vice Province was created, but we took the challenge and here we are today. Leadership is not easy. We are neither working in easy environments. But God’s providence has made it possible



for us. Let us support our leaders. Let us love our Vice Province, let us love our Vincentian vocation. The Vice Province is in our hands, let us join together in unity and take it into the next generation.” His appeal to the confreres to accompany Fr. Benson in his mission was direct and fraternal:

“Let us support Very Rev. Fr. Benson, our Visitor. He is our young brother, given a great responsibility to serve us. Let us not make him feel alone; let us not make him feel a slave but rather a servant. Let us share with him honestly, objectively, and truly the ideas that will enable him to make our Vice Province a happy family that truly and really serves our Masters as God wills. Fr. Benson will only succeed if we support him as confreres.”

Pledging the council’s continued support and prayer, Fr. Atinda urged both the outgoing and incoming Visitors to nurture the spirit of brotherhood demonstrated during the transition:

“Fr. Benson, we promise you our support and prayers in the journey ahead of you. Be courageous, trust in divine providence, get wise counsel, and do your best in making the Vice Province a place where all feel at home. Fr. Edwin, we are aware you have oriented Fr. Benson in all that involves the Visitor. Please continue supporting him even as he familiarizes himself with the office. Let the spirit of brotherhood that the two of you have demonstrated during this transition time be our path toward being one as a Vice Province of Kenya.”

The leadership transition, grounded in mutual respect, prayer, and the Vincentian charism, sets a hopeful tone for the journey ahead, one that calls each member to walk together in unity, committed to serving Christ in the poor with one heart and one mind.

Fr. Winfred Atinda, C.M.

Change in responsibilities



Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M.
He proceeds on Sabbatical and then begin studies in USA/Rome beginning **January, 2026**



Fr. Humphreys Makhokha, C.M.
He is assigned as **treasurer** of the Vice-Province of Kenya that began on **1st August, 2025**. He will also serve as the **Human Resource Manager** of the Vice-Province of Kenya.



Fr. Michael Njeru, C.M.
He is assigned as the **director of MiCoF**. He continues to be the **Rector and Superior** at Depaul Centre.



Fr. Philip Njenga, C.M.
He proceeded on Sabbatical that will end on **30th June 2026**. While on sabbatical, he is assigned as a member of St. Lazare House



Fr. Abba Zozmus, C.M.
He is assigned as the **Bursar of Matisi** Residence that began on **23rd July, 2025**



Fr. Geoffrey Wekesa, C.M.
He is assigned as the **Director DePaul Catholic School** Kamulu and **Bursar** of Kamulu Residence that began on **23rd July, 2025**



Fr. Johnmary Muhumuza, C.M.
He is assigned as the **Bursar of Indagalasia** Residence that began on **23rd July, 2025**



Fr. James Kariuki, C.M.
He is assigned as the **Assistant Parish Priest** of St. Kizito Parish Matisi. He will also be the **Director of St. Vincent DePaul Academy-Matisi** beginning **15th August, 2025**

May the Lord guide you brothers as you make a Pilgrimage of Hope to New Apostolates.



“My Grace is Sufficient”: Trusting Providence in the Vincentian Journey

On the morning of June 21st, 2025, at the serene grounds of **Damascus House, Kamulu**, six novices of the Congregation of the Mission - Vice Province of Kenya - pronounced their Good Purposes, committing themselves more deeply to a life of Vincentian mission and service. Presiding over the celebration, **Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M.**, offered a profound reflection centered on divine providence.

God’s Grace in the Midst of Our Limits

Quoting from 2 Corinthians 12, Fr. Mugwe drew attention to God’s tender yet challenging response to St. Paul: “My grace is sufficient for you.” Instead of removing Paul’s “thorn,” God assured him of sustaining grace. This, Fr. Mugwe emphasized, is the core of providence - not always in lifting our burdens, but often in strengthening our shoulders.

“In life,” he said, “we either get relief by removing the load or by receiving the strength to carry it. Either way, it’s providence.”

Grace for Today, Not Worry for Tomorrow

Referencing the words of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the “Little Flower,” he urged all present to live day by day - “I forget the past and I take good care not to second guess the future,” she once wrote. This attitude, Fr. Mugwe noted, echoes the Gospel itself: “Give us this day our daily bread.”



“We’re often flooded by anxiety about school fees, building projects, personal futures,” he said. “But the call is to trust that grace will be there - not before, not after - but when we need it most.”



*Homily Highlights from the Good Purposes Ceremony at Damascus House, Kamulu
By Rev. Fr. Edwin Mugwe, C.M., Visitor*

Against the Myth of Self-Sufficiency

Fr. Mugwe challenged the modern temptation to idolize self-reliance and the illusion of the “self-made” individual. True Christian trust, he said, begins with admitting our insufficiency. “We want to depend on what we think we’ve built - our strength, our income, our plans - but providence calls us to trust in what we cannot control,” he reflected.

Sharing the backstory of Damascus House, Fr. Mugwe recalled its transformation from an abandoned facility to a vibrant novitiate. “When Fr. Dominic and I first considered relocating here, the question was not, ‘Can we do this?’ but, ‘Will God provide?’ The answer, again and again, has been: Yes.”



Putting God First

The homily also challenged the novitiate community, especially the six young men taking Good Purposes, to discern their true Master. “If you worry too much about money and material things,” he warned, “you risk missing out on God’s action in your life.”

But, he added, when we put God first - even amidst lack - “we will never lack the graces we need.”

Vincentian Wisdom for a New Generation

Fr. Mugwe reminded the congregation of the wisdom of St. Vincent de Paul: “You

must not be surprised or frightened by one bad year or by several. God is infinitely rich. Nothing has been wanting to you until now — why fear for the future?” He called for a radical return to faith, trust, and simplicity, urging all to abandon themselves to God in prayer and mission.

As the novices - David, Emmanuel, Godric, Nicholas, Sylvester, and Nashir - stepped forward to pronounce their Good Purposes, Fr. Mugwe offered heartfelt prayers and encouragement, assuring them that they are held by the prayers of the Church and the hand of Providence.

In his final exhortation, he offered: “Let us finish what we have begun - and the Lord will help us.”



Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM
Superior General

A Future Rooted in Fidelity

As the Congregation of the Mission moves into its fifth century, its enduring contribution to the global Church lies in its fidelity to the Gospel of the poor. Its legacy - sacramental, prophetic, and ecclesial - is not limited to Vincentians. It is a call to the whole Church.

In a world racing toward artificial intelligence and digital disconnection, the Vincentian message is disarmingly simple: go to the poor, listen, serve, and love. For this reason, the Jubilee in Paris did not conclude; it commissioned.

As Fr. Mavrič told the confrères as the liturgy ended:

“Let us not be curators of a museum. Let us be missionaries of mercy. Let us go forth - because that is where Christ already is.”

Blessing of the Marian Grotto at Damascus House



Kamulu, 21 June 2025 - In a moment that united Marian devotion with Vincentian formation, the Novitiate community of the Congregation of the Mission, Vice Province of Kenya, blessed a new Marian Grotto at their residence, Damascus House, Kamulu. The sacred space is intended as a focal point for prayer, reflection, and entrustment to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

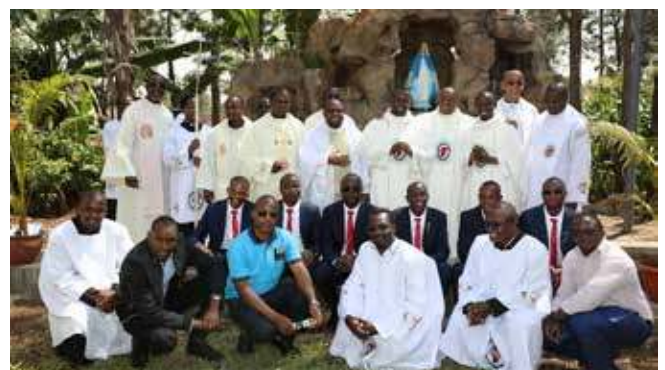
The blessing took place immediately after Holy Mass during which the novices made their Pronouncement of the Good Purposes - a key step in their journey of living out the Vincentian charism in service of Christ and the poor.

The rite was led by Fr. Edwin, Fr. Benson, and Fr. Dominic Makau, Novitiate Director. The celebration included a special prayer, the blessing with holy water, Marian hymns, and the lighting of candles.

“This grotto will be a constant reminder that Our Lady is always present to guide and intercede for us in our vocation,” said Fr. Dominic Makau, noting its importance in the daily spiritual life

of the community.

For the novices, the day marked a dual milestone: a deepened personal commitment to their formation and the dedication of a prayer space that will support their growth in the Vincentian spirituality. The Marian Grotto now stands as a visible sign of the Vice Province's trust in Mary's guidance toward her Son.





CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION VICE-PROVINCE OF KENYA



DO YOU FEEL CALLED?

Is God calling you to serve?

If you feel His divine invitation, we invite you to join Congregation of the Mission (The Vincencians) and share His love with the world.

Step forward in faith and become part of a community dedicated to spreading the gospel and serving those in need.

The congregation of the Mission (commonly known as the "the Vincentian") is a worldwide order of 4000 Roman Catholic priests and brothers in 86 countries founded by St. Vincent De Paul in 1625 for the evangelization of the poor and the formation and education of the diocesan clergy. The men in our congregation pronounce the vows of celibacy, poverty and obedience to God for the whole time of their lives.

For more information

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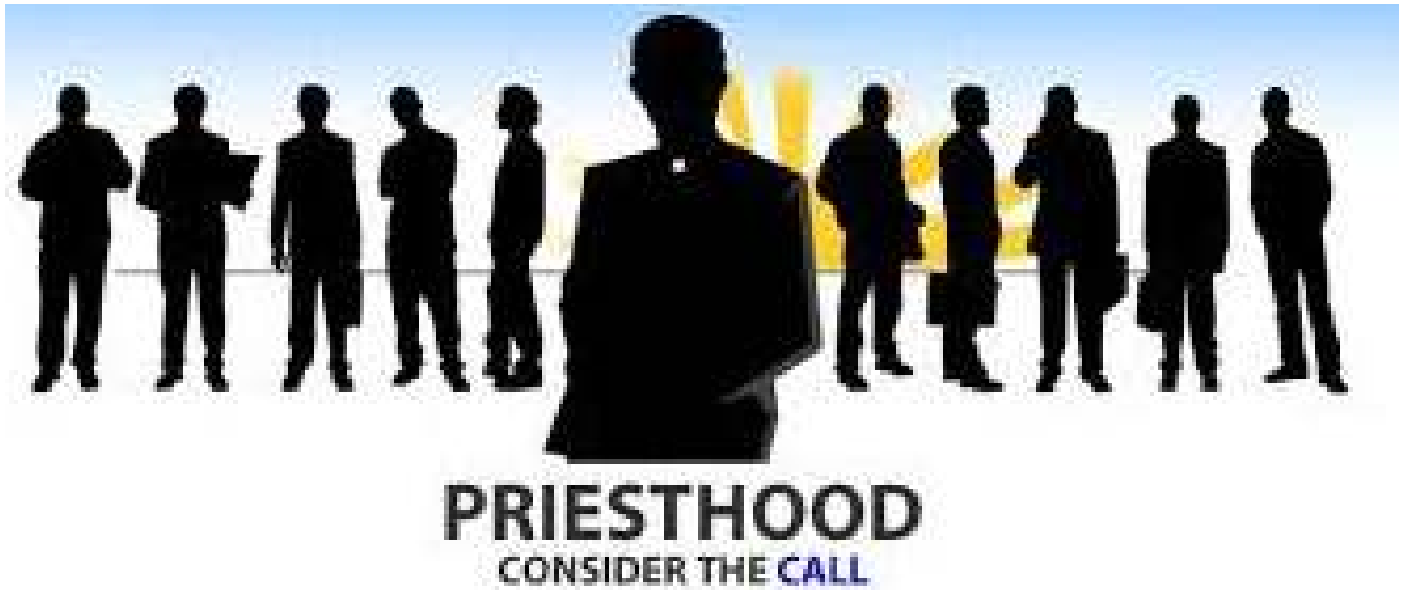
Karen, Nairobi



ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

Answering the Master's Call:

Nurturing Vocations in the Spirit of St. Vincent



"Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will." - Psalm 40:8-9

As we gratefully and joyfully mark 400 years since the foundation of the Congregation of the Mission, the call to nurture vocations remains as urgent and sacred as ever. In the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

"The harvest is abundant, but the labourers are few; so ask the Master of the harvest to send out labourers for His harvest." - Luke 10:2

From the very beginning, Christ sent out His disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all corners of the world (Mark 16:15). This missionary spirit is still very much alive in our Congregation, which continues to bear fruit through annual diaconate and priestly ordinations, preparing confreres to be sent out to serve in parishes, seminaries, and among the poor - those who remain at the heart of our Vincentian mission.

Yet, the need persists - not only for more priests but also for **Vincentian brothers**. Every year, we open our doors and hearts to young men discerning their call to serve God through the Vincentian way of life. These candidates are invited into a journey of discovery - learning about our **charism, community life, and**

Vincentian spirituality through structured programs such as Come and See experiences, spiritual direction, and formation resources.

As the **Vocation Director for Kenya and Uganda**, I am privileged to accompany these young men on their path of discernment. Many reach out with genuine desire to serve. My mission is to help them listen to the voice of God, understand His will, and respond with courage and faith.

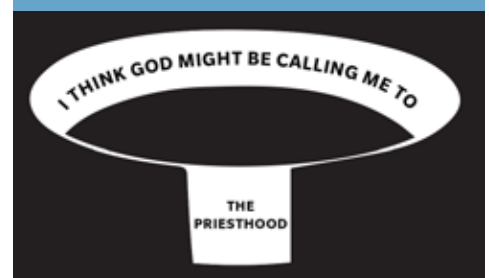
Through the loving intercession of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, we continue to pray for holy and dedicated vocations - men who are ready to serve as priests and brothers in the Vineyard of the Lord.

Let us never tire of inviting, mentoring, and praying for those whom God is calling. The mission continues - and the Master of the harvest is still sending.

Fr. David Mwaura, C.M
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Saint Vincent de Paul (1581 - 1660)



Welcoming VMY-SEMO from the U.S.A



VINCENTIAN MARIAN YOUTH

The International Vincentian Marian Youth Association is an updated form of the Association of the Sons and Daughters of Mary which originated from the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Saint Catherine Labouré on July 18, 1830. We are an international youth association committed to other young men and women, the world, the Church and the poor. At this time, we are present in 78 countries and have more than 30,000 members on five continents.



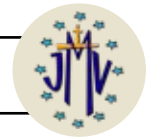
Young Vincentians from Missouri, USA Witness Joy, Simplicity and Faith during Mission to Kenya

On 22 July 2025, the Vice Province of Kenya welcomed a spirited team of young missionaries from the Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY) South-east Missouri (SEMO) program in the United States for a 10-day mission immersion in Nairobi. Their visit, unfolding amid ongoing youth evangelization initiatives across Vincentian ministries in Kenya, was a vivid sign of the growing bond between Vincentian communities across continents.

We caught up with Gabriel Pecaut, Erin Urhahn, and Matthew Hoog - all from Missouri- as they shared the heart behind their mission, what they've encountered in Kenya so far, and how Mother Mary is guiding them ever closer to Jesus.



By Communications Desk, Vice Province of Kenya | August 2025



Learning how to serve better



Gabriel Pecaut

Originally from Perryville, Missouri, Gabriel Pecaut has journeyed with VMY since high school, later serving as a program coordinator and now as a young adult volunteer. His desire to participate in the Kenya mission was inspired by "a hope to learn how to be at the service of others better," and to grow deeper in his relationship with Christ through community and service.

What struck Gabriel most since arriving was the Kenyan culture's profound virtue of simplicity. "The way

they live with a childlike faith and such joy in welcoming others really inspired me," he said.

Reflecting on the Marian spirit of VMY, Gabriel shared, "Our Heavenly Mother Mary is always there waiting for us to reach out, especially when we stumble. She lifts us back to her Son with joy."

His prayer? "That I may proclaim the greatness of God and bring back the joy I've found here in Kenya, so I can reflect it in my day-to-day life back home."

The authenticity of the people has touched me



Erin Urhahn

Erin Urhahn, from the small community of Oak Ridge, Missouri, joined VMY in 2020 after her parish youth group closed during the pandemic. She now serves as Program Coordinator for VMY SEMO.

When asked why she joined the Kenya mission, she said, "I was excited to witness a country filled with Vincentians, to share the good news about VMY with the youth and try to be the face of Christ to them."

What's moved Erin most is the openness and sincerity of Kenyans: "Everyone shares themselves freely, whether

in dancing, singing, or conversation, and all without fear of judgment. It's deeply authentic."

For her, the Marian motto of VMY - To Jesus through Mary - offers consolation and clarity: "The closer I am to Mary, the closer I am to Jesus. I find comfort in relying on her as my mother and asking for her intercession."

Erin hopes her time in Kenya transforms her. "I want to return home a better woman, having learned to prioritize Christ as the Vincentians here do. I also want to share with others the zeal and simplicity I've seen and experienced."

Follow what your heart is calling you to do



Matthew Hoog

Matthew Hoog hails from Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, and first got involved in VMY by tagging along with his older brothers for a local outreach initiative. Since then, he's stayed active in VMY events and now finds himself traversing the planet and landing in Kenya.

"I was hesitant at first," Matthew admitted. "I'd never even left the country before. But after praying about it, I felt called to serve and share our faith with the community in Nairobi."

Matthew was particularly touched by the joy he witnessed in Kenyan schoolchildren. "Whenever they saw us, they were so filled with excitement and love, it warmed my heart more than any-

thing." He also expressed sorrow upon visiting Kibera and seeing the realities of life there, calling it both "amazing and difficult."

On the spiritual front, Matthew finds strength in Marian intercession: "As Vincentians, we believe Mary can bring our prayers closer to Jesus. Praying through Mother Mary makes Jesus feel nearer."

With youthful enthusiasm, he adds: "I hope to see more villages, learn local customs, and maybe even spot some giraffes and zebras!" His message to those following his journey? "Follow your heart and serve others the best you can. Serving draws you closer to both God and people."

Mission in Picture



VMY in Nyeri



The VMY -Semo at Giathugu Parish led by Fr. John Mburu, C.M and Fr. Anthony Kioko, C.M through some of the parish project



VMY at Kamulu



The VMY -Semo interacting with St. Vincent DePaul School in Kamulu and later interacting with novitiate at Damascus house



VMY at Depaul Centre and Dinner at Lazare House



The VMY -Semo visited Depaul Centre animal farm, interact with woodwork students and later had a dinner with Very Rev. Fr. Benson, C.M. - Visitor



VMY at Kamulu parish for Mass



The VMY -Semo attended a Sunday Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Fredrick Wandera, C.M and later had a session with youths from Kenya



VMY in Kibera slums



The VMY -Semo visited Kibera to interact with St. Vincent Depaul nursery school pupils and later visited their homes



VMY Visit Kenya Wildlife Service

The VMY -Semo on Safari having fun day enjoying the nature



VMY in Kibera slums

The VMY -Semo visited Kibera to interact with St. Vincent Depaul nursery school pupils and later visited their homes



The presence of this Vincentian Marian Youth (VMY) Southeast Missouri (SEMO) team, including Gabriel, Erin, and Matthew, in Kenya this month is a powerful witness to the universality of the Vincentian charism. Whether in Missouri or Nairobi, the mission remains the same: to evangelize and serve, especially the poor, with the heart of Christ and the hands of Mary.

As their time in Kenya continues, the Vice Province of Kenya rejoices in this global family spirit, one that builds bridges, ignites vocations, and brings joyful hope to young people across the world.



Vincentians Extend Christ's Compassion to the Elderly through Grace-Filled Outreach at St. Vincent dePaul Giathugu Parish



Vincentians extend Christ's compassion through the Elderly Self-Help Care Program at St. Vincent DePaul, Giathugu Parish

In a world that so easily forgets its elders, the Vincentians of the Congregation of the Mission - Vice Province of Kenya offered a powerful counter-witness of love and presence through a heart-felt outreach to the elderly of Nyeri County. On Thursday, 17 July 2025, the Elderly Self-Help Care Program was held with profound meaning at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Parish, Giathugu, in the Archdiocese of Nyeri.

Inspired by the legacy of St. Vincent dePaul, whose gaze was always fixed on Christ present in the poor and forgotten, the outreach was not simply about material assistance - it was a gesture of love, dignity, and spiritual solidarity with the elderly, many of whom live alone or with minimal family support.

A total of 60 senior citizens were reached during this mission of mercy. Each person was not only offered essential provisions but was also embraced with genuine human warmth and prayerful accompaniment - two gifts no store can stock, but which restore both dignity and hope.

Working side by side with parish volunteers and collaborators, the Vincentian missionaries brought the Gospel to life through practical acts of charity. The elderly received warm blankets for the cold nights, solar-powered lamps to illuminate homes without electricity, eco-friendly cooking stoves for safe and sustainable meal preparation, and essential food supplies to sustain them in body and spirit.

More than a work of social relief, the day stood as a pastoral moment rooted in the Church's preferential option for the poor. Those selected - mainly from Small Christian Communities - were not treated merely as beneficiaries but as cherished members of the Body of Christ, bearing within them the lived wisdom of the Church. > Fr. John Mburu, C.M., Parish Priest at St. Vincent dePaul Giathugu, described the outreach as "a moment of mutual grace." > "It is not just us giving," he reflected. "We receive so much from

this beautiful generation - one that deserves our fullest attention. The gratitude, the smiles, the silent tears - these are sacraments in their own right. As Vincentians, we are called not only to give alms, but to bring the presence of Christ wherever there is human suffering."

The day's spiritual centerpiece was a Holy Mass celebrated in honour of the elderly, during which many also received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The Mass was followed by a moment of thanksgiving led by Fr. Mburu and the Vincentian collaborators, during which the elderly were consecrated to the maternal protection of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal - a devotion central to the Vincentian mission.

This outreach marks yet another chapter in a growing Vincentian commitment to pastoral care for the elderly, especially in rural and underserved areas where social support systems are increasingly fragile. In such settings, the Church's presence is not only vital - it becomes a lifeline of faith, fellowship, and human dignity.

The Vincentians expressed deep gratitude to all stakeholders, benefactors, and friends who made this work of mercy possible. They offered special thanks to the local parish community for their hospitality, coordination, and partnership that made the day's activities run smoothly.

As the Church observed the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on Sunday, July 27, 2025, the outreach at Giathugu Parish stands as a living expression of Pope Francis's call to; > "honour the wisdom of our elders and build a future in which no one is excluded."

In the words of St. Vincent dePaul: "The poor are your masters, and you are their servants." And on this day in Giathugu, the Church once again lived that truth - proclaiming not only in word but indeed that in serving the least among us, we truly touch the face of Christ.

Beneath the Smile: A Vincentian Encounter with Hidden Suffering

By Sem. Okoth Christomus Omondi, CM



We are called to bear witness through presence

In the rhythm of our pastoral journeys, some encounters pierce deeper than others, not with drama, but with quiet depth. During the third week of my apostolate, amid the ordinary routines of ministry to the sick and elderly, I came face-to-face with a form of suffering that reminded me what it truly means to be Vincentian: to stand beside the broken-hearted and to carry the hidden crosses of others in the silence of presence.

As is our custom on Thursdays, we set out to bring the Eucharist to those unable to join the larger community. One visit in particular left a mark on my heart. We entered the humble home of a middle-aged woman, cheerful in demeanour and warm in hospitality. On the surface, she radiated strength and calm. But as we communed her and prayed together, a moment of sacred vulnerability emerged.

She began to share her story. Not long ago, she had suffered the tragic loss of two close family members, both under mysterious and painful circumstances. These deaths had left a deep wound in her soul, not only because of the loss itself, but because, in her darkest hour, those she trusted most to stand by her remained silent. The very relatives from whom she expected solidarity and comfort kept their distance. That absence became almost as painful as the grief itself.

In her reflection, she admitted something few would dare say aloud: that in her loneliness and heartbreak, she had even begun to wonder - though not out of malice, but anguish - whether there could have been something more behind the silence. Unanswered questions tormented her. She did not accuse anyone, but the lack of truth, support, and clarity left her navigating a storm of sorrow without a compass.

What moved me most was not only her suffering, but the dignity with which she carried it. Her face bore no bitterness. Her words were measured, honest, and searching. She did not ask us to solve her mystery. She only needed us to listen.

That encounter shattered something within me, the subtle assumption that when Christians smile and attend our services, everything must be well. The truth is that many carry silent burdens tucked behind practiced smiles and gentle laughter. Sometimes, all they long for is someone to simply be present; not to fix, but to listen without rushing; to stand with them in the shadow of their cross.

In that quiet home, Christ was present - not in thunder, but in tears held back; not in answers, but in accompaniment. We encouraged her to surrender her questions and pain to God's justice, to entrust her aching heart to Our Lady, the Mother of Sorrows, who walked the same path of loss and uncertainty. We reminded her that while the world may offer silence, God listens with infinite compassion.

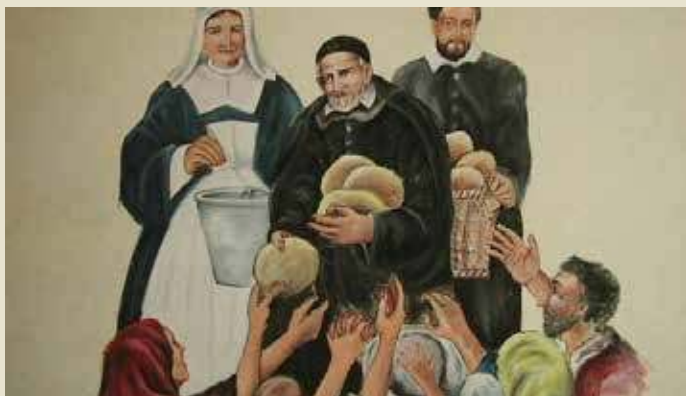
This encounter gave new meaning to our ongoing Jubilee Cross ministry, where we visit homes, share prayer, and offer miraculous medals as signs of hope. The Jubilee is not just a Church celebration - it is an invitation to be pilgrims of hope, especially to those walking through spiritual deserts. That day, I learned that hope does not always shout; sometimes, it whispers through a listening presence, a silent prayer, a rosary placed gently into the hands of the weary.

As Vincentians, we are called to more than sacramental service. We are called to bear witness to hope through presence, to walk with those the world forgets, and to stand still long enough to see the pain beneath the smile. In our small way, we become instruments of healing - not by solving life's mysteries, but by showing that no one should carry them alone.

And perhaps, in God's eyes, that is enough.



A gentle pastoral visit to the home of a widow, where Vincentians bring the Eucharist wrapped in compassion and respect.



The Sacred Harmony of Stillness and Prayer

By Seminarian Gabriel Erayu



Prayer in stillness makes our words more genuine

In the relentless rush of life's bustling rhythms, where deadlines, worries, and distractions vie for our attention, the gentle call to stillness often goes unheard. Yet it is precisely in these sacred moments of quiet that we unlock the profound depths of our spiritual journey. The ancient and reassuring words, *"Be still, and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10), stand as a beacon, guiding us toward the transformative power hidden within stillness and prayer.

I have come to truly appreciate the value of stillness. For me, stillness is more than simply stopping movement; it is a purposeful, sacred act of surrender, a mindful retreat from external chaos to listen inwardly. It is like a calm lake at dawn, its surface a perfect mirror reflecting the silent majesty of the sky. In stillness, we create a quiet sanctuary within, where the divine presence can gently unfold. Here, the heart opens like a blossoming flower, receptive to the subtle whispers of God, free from the noise of everyday worries.

My discernment journey began in the restless noise of imagination, but slowly gave way to stillness, and with it came the clarity of dawn breaking through the darkness. How do we discern God's voice amid the clutter of thoughts and fears? I would say: through prayerful quietness. It is in these tranquil pauses that we gain insight, patience, and renewed purpose. Stillness invites us to slow down, to breathe deeply, and to remember that amidst the chaos, God's peace is always accessible, an ever-present refuge for the soul longing to listen to Him and receive His direction.



If we strip away the noise and embrace prayerful silence, we will find it easier to listen and to discern God's will. In prayer, we pour out our hopes, fears, and gratitude - our very selves - trusting that the Lord listens and responds. These moments of heartfelt connection lift our spirits, lighten our burdens, and transform our perspectives. Prayer becomes a sacred anchor

in turbulent times, instilling strength and guiding us through doubt toward God's light. It is the gentle whisper reminding us that we are never alone, that His love enfolds us, and that He gently leads us along the path of life.

Stillness and prayer may appear to be separate practices, yet in truth they are "two movements of a sacred dance," each enriching the other. Stillness prepares our hearts, clearing the clutter so our prayers may be offered with sincerity and depth. As we settle into the quiet, our souls become receptive, like fertile soil awaiting the seed of divine truth. In turn, prayer deepens our stillness, anchoring us in God's presence as firmly as roots anchor a mighty tree.

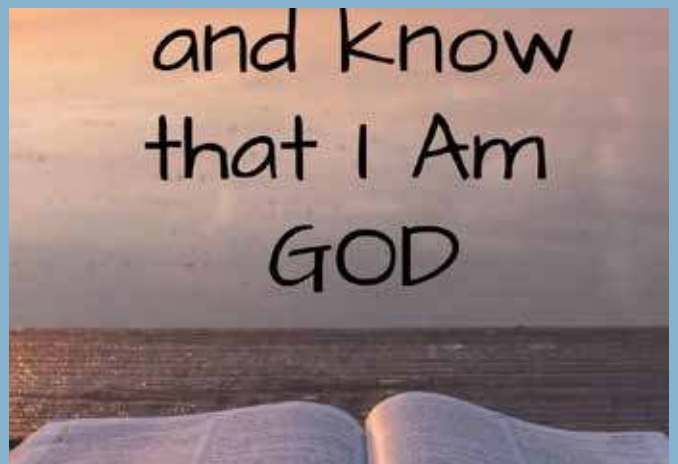
My own experience has shown me that prayer in stillness makes our words more genuine and our hearts more open. Even the silence between words becomes a sacred space where divine grace flows freely. Imagine sitting quietly at dawn, your breath slowing, the world hushed around you. In that stillness, you speak, or simply listen, allowing God to whisper His truth into your heart. This is the spirit we must reclaim in our noisily possessive world.



To embrace stillness and prayer together is to open ourselves to a deeper awareness of God's eternal presence. As Psalm 46:10 reminds us, *"Be still, and know that I am God."* In such moments of surrender, we encounter Him in His fullness, like dawn breaking after a long night, revealing the beauty and peace that have always been within.

Moments of quiet reflection and heartfelt prayer are vital for every Christian. They become sacred sanctuaries where our spirits are nourished, our burdens lifted, and our hearts renewed. May we cherish these moments, remembering that in stillness and prayer, God's loving presence is always near, ready to fill us with peace, hope, and grace.

My dear brother, my dear sister, don't you hear Jesus saying to you today, and every day, in times of trouble: *"Come away with me to a quiet place, and we will talk"* (cf. Mark 6:31)?



Rooted in Service: My Journey into the Vincentian Novitiate

By Newton Manjala Likuyani, NCM



I wish to be an instrument of hope and healing

What inspired me to join the novitiate was the deep desire to immerse myself fully in the charism and rule of life of the Congregation. Even more, it was my inner longing to live a life rooted in loving service to the poor. St. Vincent de Paul, whose life testified to Christ's compassion and self-giving, ignited a fire within me to follow the Lord more intimately in evangelizing the poor. Witnessing the transformative impact of Vincentian priests on the lives of the marginalized, particularly in Thigio and Indangalasia Parishes, challenged me to discern more seriously the call to embrace the Vincentian way of life. I felt drawn to live the virtues of simplicity, humility, meekness, zeal, and ardent love for souls.

As I anticipate this formative journey, I long to deepen my grasp of the Congregation's spirituality, cultivate an intimate relationship with Christ, and be molded into a faithful servant of the poor. I look forward to growing in community life, learning from my formators and fellow novices, and developing the virtues necessary for a committed Vincentian missionary. This is a time of self-discovery and deeper discernment, and I trust in God's grace to form me into a truthful, charitable, and mature human being.

My past experiences, especially through philosophical studies, pastoral engagements, and spiritual direction, have been a profound preparation for the novitiate. They have taught me the value of human wisdom, attentive listening, perseverance, and humility. Interacting with people at various stages of life has opened my eyes to the real demands of missionary service. Through these encounters, I have come to know my own strengths and weaknesses, and

to appreciate the importance of inner silence, obedience, and generosity in serving others. These lessons have only strengthened my desire to begin this novitiate journey.



During my time here, I hope to grow spiritually by deepening my prayer life and embracing a more contemplative approach to mission. I long to be personally transformed by the Gospel and inspired by the Congregation's saints and blessed. My desire is to integrate faith and action more fully, to remain open to God's will in all things, and to mature emotionally, intellectually, and morally. With joy and freedom, I embrace a life of celibacy, poverty, obedience, and stability, trusting these foundations will shape me into an authentic and compassionate Vincentian Father.

The Vincentian preferential option for serving the poor and the call to evangelize through humble service move me profoundly. I seek to find Christ in the face of the poor and to uphold their dignity. I envision living this mission by being truly present, listening attentively, and serving lovingly wherever I am sent. I wish to be an instrument of hope and healing, walking alongside the disadvantaged and the spiritually hungry, letting them know they are neither forgotten nor without a shepherd.

Zeal for Souls: My Path in Vincentian Formation

By Sylvester Bulimo, CM



A key experience during my novitiate was encountering the life and spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul. Through prayer, meditation, the study of Vincentian literature, and service to the poor, I became more aware of God's presence in them and grew in relationship with Christ, the Evangelizer of the Poor. Prayer, both personal and communal, shaped my heart and helped me see formation not as a requirement but as a loving response to God's call.

Community life taught me that fraternity is both a gift and a challenge. At first, I saw it simply as getting along with others, but I came to understand it as a space for growth, mutual support, and a shared mission. It tested my strengths and revealed my limitations, teaching me to love others not because it was easy, but because we are called together by God.

A major challenge I faced was feeling misunderstood, as my quiet nature was sometimes perceived as disinterest in community life. Through prayer and insights from psychology, I gained self-awareness and recognized how personality differences shape perception. This helped me embrace humility and simplicity. I learned to express myself more and to be present in small but meaningful ways. Silence became a space to encounter God and to discern His will.



During my vacation, I maintain a rhythm of daily prayer, participate in parish apostolate, and spend time with my family. These practices help me live out the Vincentian virtue of zeal for souls.

As I continue my formation, I aim to deepen vocational clarity, grow in pastoral charity, and be more available for mission with humility, zeal, and trust in Divine Providence.

“Renewing the Fire”:

Global Lessons from the Paris Commemoration of 400 Years of Vincentian Mission



PARIS, FRANCE - The 400th anniversary of the Congregation of the Mission, celebrated at the spiritual heart of the Vincentian Family in Paris, was not merely a commemorative milestone - it was a prophetic encounter with the past, an unflinching call to the present, and a bold summons to the future of the global Church's mission to the poor.

At a time when much of the world is grappling with social fragmentation, spiritual fatigue, and systemic inequality, the anniversary of the missionary society founded by St. Vincent de Paul in 1625 offers compelling insights for ecclesial renewal, pastoral reawakening, and theological clarity. From Rue de Sèvres to Gannes-Folleville, the Vincentian Jubilee provided more than nostalgia - it offered living theology in action.

1. Prophetic Memory: History as a Horizon for Mission

In the Church of Saint Eustache, amid soaring stained glass and solemn hymns, Auxiliary Bishop Emmanuel Tois of Paris led a Eucharistic celebration that brought together bishops, priests, and Vincentian confrères from across continents. Beneath the liturgical beauty lay a deeply theological truth: memory in the Church is not about preserving relics but animating purpose.

“This anniversary is not just about memory - it is a call to move forward,” said Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, CM, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission.

2. Ecclesial Identity: The Poor as the Locus Theologicus

What does it mean to be a Church “of the poor and for the poor”? The Vincentian mission has long embodied an ecclesiology grounded in Matthew 25: “Whatever you did for the least of these...” For four centuries, Vincentians have lived out what Pope Francis calls a “preferential option for the poor” - not as a slogan, but as a sacramental commitment.



In his 2024 letter to the Congregation, Pope Francis affirmed:

“I pray that this significant anniversary will be an occasion of great joy and renewed fidelity to the vision of missionary discipleship, grounded in the imitation of Christ's preferential love for the poor.”

This papal exhortation underscores the Church's call to re-center itself around the margins. As rising inequality, forced displacement, and moral confusion shake global institutions, the Vincentian model offers a radical alternative: proximity over prestige, presence over programs, service over status.

3. Collaborative Mission: Charism across Borders and Generations



One of the striking dimensions of the Vincentian Jubilee was the intergenerational and intercultural depth of its participants. Over 3,000 members of the Congregation of the Mission now serve in 100 countries - a testament to the universal appeal of a charism born in post-Reformation France, but matured across every continent.

This was evident in the pilgrimage's international composition: from African provinces where Vincentians serve in refugee settlements, to Latin American missions embedded in urban slums, to European confrères revitalizing post-Christian parishes.

The message is clear: missionary charism must be collaborative. St. Vincent knew this when he co-founded the Daughters of Charity with St. Louise de Marillac, or when he mobilized laywomen to form the Ladies of Charity in 1617. Today, that impulse continues in lay-led initiatives like the Famvin Homeless Alliance, particularly the “13 Houses” campaign - a bold commitment to address global homelessness by creating sustainable housing in the spirit of Vincent.

4. Formation for Transformation: The Need for Spiritual Re-Conversion

Another key highlight was the formation sessions that preceded the Paris liturgy - sessions grounded in the renewal of Vincentian spirituality, interior conversion, and ecclesial discernment.

Held at Notre-Dame, Rue du Bac, and Folleville, the days were marked by silence, prayer, and the Rite of Penance. These were not symbolic gestures. They were acknowledgments that the Church's mission must always begin with its own purification. The Vincentian charism reminds us: we cannot speak to the wounds of the world if we are not being healed ourselves.



Ongoing developments ...

Disability Unit Emakala - Indangalasia



DePaul Centre Parameter wall



DePaul Centre Sports



Fr. Dominic John Ngangah, C.M.
Date of Birth: **21/08**



Fr. John Mburu Ngugi, C.M.
Date of Birth: **30/08**



Fr. Humphreys Makokha Okumu, C.M.
Date of Birth: **9/15**



Happy Birthday!
For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life,' Proverbs 9:11. May you continue to grow in wisdom and understanding.





Script: Charles
 Designer & Co-Script: Barack
 Producer: Rev. Fr. Benson Odhiambo, C.M.

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION VICE-PROVINCE OF KENYA

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