CEVIM ASSEMBLY: LAS PALMAS 2012  
MINUTES

The CEVIM Assembly of 2012 was held in Las Palmas, Spain, in the House "St. Catherine Laboure", from 16 to 20 April. Most Visitors were already present for dinner on April 16, after which a first meeting of logistical information was held. Also on 21 April, some Visitors visited the communities of confreres present in Tenerife island. The meeting saw the participation of the following confrere Visitors: Pavle Novak (Slovenia), Franz Kangler (Austria), Elie Delplace (Paris), Jean-Yves Leboeuf (Toulouse), Hans-Georg Radina (Germany), Enrique Alagarda Nácher (Barcelona), Juan Julián Díaz Catalán (Zaragoza) Vice-president CEVIM, Eblerino Diez Llamazares (Salamanca), Viktor Kunay (Hungary), Joseph Guerra (Naples), who left the House on the morning of 20 April, Nicola Albanesi (Roma), Pietro Angelo Fanzaga (Turin)Alvaro António Esteves da Cunha (Portugal), Kryspin Banko (Poland), Tomaž Mavrič (SS. Cyril and Methodius), Jozef Noga (Slovakia).

Absent: Antoine Pierre Nakad, Visitor of the East, Harrie Jaspers, Visitor of the Netherlands, Eamon Devlin, Visitor of Ireland and Theo Jeuris, regional superior of Belgium. It was also not participated by any representative of the province of Madrid.

There also present were, as representatives of the General Council, Javier Alvarez Munguía, Vicar General, and Stanislav Zontak, Assistant General. The following confreres served as translators: Marcelo Manimtim, Bernard Massarini, Kazimierz Stelmach. Also present was the Secretary of CEVIM, Claudio Santangelo.

Tuesday 17: morning

Assembly opened at 8.00 a.m. with the Eucharist presided by the Visitor of Germany, who highlighted in his homily what it means to be disciples, and not just admirers, of Jesus. At 9.30 a.m., after breakfast the first morning session started with a common prayer of suffrage for Brian Moore, President of CEVIM, who passed away last December. According to the program, a report by Fr. Jean Landouises on the Lineamenta of the next Synod of bishops on new evangelization should have followed. Due to an interruption of electricity, however, which prevented the use of the translation booths, it was decided to change the order of the day in this way: the presentation of Fr. Landousies was moved to the afternoon and the work of the group placed in the morning. Two groups were formed, who gathered in two separate rooms: the first group of Spanish/French, with the presence of the vicar general, Fr. Javier Alvarez Munguia, and the second group of Italian/English, with the presence of Assistant General, Fr. Stanislav Zontak. Theme of the Group work was the implementation of the Lines of Action decided by 2010 General Assembly relating to the CEVIM provinces, as requested by the Superior General in his letter (April 1, 2012) to the Presidents of the Conferences of Visitors. At 11.15 a.m. the group work finished, and in anticipation of the return of the electrical connection, the group photos were done. With the return of power at 12 o'clock, the original program was followed: Fr. Alvarez gave his report on: The New Evangelization and St. Vincent De Paul. In it he first describes few convergences between St. Vincent and the new evangelization: catechumenate and catechesis, the "new ardor" as the style of the missionary, the new relationships between evangelization-charity and and evangelization-laity. In his concluding reflections, he highlights some attention that we Vincentians must have in the project of the new evangelization: discern, capture and cultivate the new; review our ministries; broaden our horizons. An exchange between the participants followed the conference. The morning ended with lunch at 13.15.

Tuesday 17: afternoon

The afternoon session begins at 16.00 hours, with the report of Fr. Landousies on the Lineamenta of the next Synod of Bishops dedicated to the new evangelization. The exposition covers mainly three parts: the time of a new evangelization, the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the initiation to the Christian experience. The usual exchange of reflections and some interventions followed. After the break, we return in plenary session, at 18.00, with an exchange on the subject of initial and ongoing formation in CEVIM, led by the Vicar General. The points touched were:

1. The interprovincial Internal Seminary. This has not established for the year 2011-2012, yet there were three Internal Seminaries in three different provinces. The Vicar General asks for explanations on this phenomenon. Visitors of the concerned provinces concerned make various explanatory interventions. The discussion moves on the prospects for the year 2012-2013. Some Spanish Provinces and the province of Naples will have candidates for the interprovincial Internal Seminary, which could count on a total of nine seminarians. Regarding the place where it should take place, the body decides on Teruel, Spain, welcoming the offer made by the Visitor of Zaragoza. With regard to the Director, there is consensus on the name of Fr. Corpus Delgado. Possible places are also explored to hold the Seminary for the year 2013-2014 and Fr. Leboeuf suggests Buglose. Finally it is decided to put the review of the Statute of the interprovincial Internal Seminary on the agenda for the next meeting of CEVIM.

2. The interprovincial theologate. There are various interventions on the proposal already made by Visitor of Rome to do an interprovincial theologate at the Collegio Alberoni in Piacenza. P. Guerra reminds that Italian provinces have already agreed to send their students for the cycle of studies in theology (three or four years) in Piacenza. P. Zontak underlines the urgency of preparing students to an understanding of international reality, given that the future of the CM in Europe will depend much on putting together of our forces. P. Albanesi advocates the creation of an international team of formators. P. Banko points out the difficulty in sending students to Piacenza, due to the non-recognition of the Pontifical baccalaureate by the Polish State. Frs. Mavric and Novak express a favourable opinion in having their students spend a year studying at Piacenza. At the conclusion of the Exchange Fr. Alvarez points out that the proposal from the Visitor of Rome is supported by many Visitors. Fr. Alvarez proposes that the Visitor of Rome, together with other Visitors contacted by him, prepare a draft containing various options for an interprovincial theologate. The draft will be sent to interested Visitors and will be discussed at the next Meeting, which will take a decision. The proposal of Fr. Alvarez is approved and Fr. Nicholas Albanesi undertakes to submit the draft at the meeting of Visitors on the interprovincial Internal Seminary to be held in Teruel.

3. CEVIM Agreement for students from other provinces. P. Alvarez questions whether it would be useful to establish common criteria for defining the scope CEVIM mode of reception of these students. A series of interventions is made by the Visitors. Due to lack of time it is decided that the Exchange will be resumed in the afternoon of Thursday, 19.

At 19.30 o'clock the afternoon session ends with the Vespers.

Wednesday 18: morning

At 9.30 a.m. the first session of the day starts. The body accepts the proposal of the Secretary-General to align the access to the site of CEVIM with one username: cmeuropa and a single keyword: folleville. Later Fr. Pablo Domínguez Garatachea presents the Conference on evangelization in parishes Vincentians. The main points touched from exposition were: the parish as evangelizing community; the Vincentian parish, in theory, in projects and in the meetings of CEVIM; some characteristics of the evangelical work of Vincentian parish: the look at Jesus, the Father's first missionary, evangelizing according to the proper charism and through diakonia, the proclamation of the kerygma, koinonia, liturgia and martyria. After the exchange of reflections and the mid-morning break, the session resumed at 11.40, with group work, focused on the letter sent by the Superior General on the subject of parishes. At 12.40 a.m. back in plenary session, the secretaries of the two groups relate what emerged in the work of the group. The session ended at 13.00.

Wednesday 18: afternoon

The afternoon is dedicated to the visit of the city of Las Palmas and the celebration of the Eucharist at the Cathedral, presided over by the bishop and animated by various branches of the Vincentian Family. The day ends with a dinner in the Vincentian parish "Inmaculada Concepción".

Thursday 19: morning

At 8.30 a.m. the Eucharist is celebrated, presided by Visitor to Slovakia, who develops his sermon on the theme of obedience. At 9.30 a.m. the first report of the day, done by Fr. Dan Borlik on: the New Evangelization and the Poor. Object of his attention were the relationship between conversation and conversion and the mystical dimension of evangelization. The report is followed by the usual exchange of reflections, which ended at 11.00. After the break the session resumed with the second report, held by Fr. Stanislav Zontak, on the topic: the New Evangelization and the Vincentian missions in Europe. Center of his talk is the specific contribution that the consecrated person is called to give to the new evangelization, starting from evangelization itself. The conference was followed by the sharing of reflections of the participants. The Vicar General launched the proposal that CEVIM establish an interprovincial community for new evangelization, which might be in a city in Central Europe. Many Visitors have commented positively on the proposal, which, however, has not come to a realisation. The session ends at 13.00 p.m.

Thursday 19: afternoon

The session starts at 16.00 hours, moderated by the Vicar General. He proposes that the Secretary of CEVIM mail the minutes of the Assembly twice to the Visitors: some time after the Assembly and some time before the next Meeting. The proposal is accepted. The debate resumes then the theme of initial and ongoing formation in CEVIM, touching the following themes:

1. A point left suspended Tuesday afternoon: the possibility of a model for common agreement of CEVIM for CM students of other provinces. After further discussions by the Visitors the proposal put forward by the Vicar General is approved, that Visitors send to the Secretary of CEVIM models of agreement in use in their provinces. The material will be studied in the next CEVIM Assembly.

2. Interprovincial Retreats. After finding insufficient exchange of information on the possibility of retreats provided by various provinces, the Visitors are asked to communicate to the Secretary the dates of the annual spiritual exercises, so that he can give them information on the CEVIM website.

3. Future CEVIM meetings for confreres. There is consensus on the need to organize new meetings. There are several areas of interest: popular missions, formation, elderly confreres, ecumenism, a look on Europe. It is decided to organize an international meeting of three days (besides arrival day and departure day) in January 2013 at the Collegio Alberoni in Piacenza, on the subject of the transmission of the faith. The Visitor of Rome will collaborate with the Permanent Council regarding the organization of the meeting.

4. Ratio Formationis. P. Stanislav Zontak updates on the work of the Committee responsible for the drafting the new Ratio: in its meeting of last March the Commission has viewed the material collected and in June the first draft of the document will be made. This will be discussed by the General Council at a later Tempo Forte and the final version will be presented at the meeting of Visitors in New York in July 2013.

5. SIEV Talks. The Vicar General gives information about the colloquium on Vincentian spirituality organized in February by the SIEV in Dublin. He noted the low participation of the confreres in the colloquium. He reminds that another encounter, on Vincentian history, will be held in Dublin at the end of June.

At 18.15, after the afternoon break, the theme of systemic change in CEVIM is discussed. P. Nicola Albanesi reports on the meeting in Italian, to be held from 5 to 7 October in Rome. The meeting in the Spanish language has not yet been scheduled.

The Assembly then goes on to treat the theme of reconfiguration. The Visitors of Italy relate on what is scheduled for the three Italian provinces: the next provincial assemblies will be held at the same location and will be largely conducted in common. They will produce a final document, must approve the Provincial Norms, as well as a unique schedule of the various stages of unification. The table then passes to the Visitors to France: they inform that in view of the forthcoming provincial assemblies, reflection cards on reconfiguration have been sent to members of the two French provinces. An Instrumentum Laboris will also be prepared for the provincial assemblies: they will come to a joint decision on the reconfiguration.

The Secretary updates the participants on the subject of interfaith dialogue, informing that at the urging of the Superior General a Permanent Committee of the Vincentian Family on international dialogue with Islam is being set up. At 19. 00 the afternoon session ends.

Friday 20

At 9.30 a.m. the final session of the Assembly begins. The Vice-Visitor of the province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius takes the word: through a powerpoint presentation he outlines the situation of the Vice-province and the various ways in which it can be supported financially, both short and long term.

The Secretary takes the word, asking the Visitors to send him a short report (of about a page) on the updated status of the respective province.

11.10 a.m., after a brief break, we return in plenary: The Secretary presents the economic report, which was approved. It is decided that each province (excluding the Vice-province of Sts. Cyril and Methodius) verses a contribution of 500 euros on behalf of CEVIM.

The body approves the themes to be taken up in the next CEVIM Assembly, which will be held on the occasion of the world meeting of Visitors in July 2013 in New York: review of the Statute of the interprovincial Internal Seminary, the draft of the interprovincial theologate, CEVIM common agreement for CM students from other provinces.

The body then moves to the election of a new President. The results of the first ballot were as follows: Pavle Novak 6 votes, Juan Julian Diaz Catalan 5 votes, Elie Delplace, Tomaz Mavric, Joseph Guerra and Enrique Alagarda Nacher 1 vote. The second vote has the following result: Pavle Novak 12 votes, Juan Julian Diaz catalan 3 votes. Pavle Novak is elected, who accepts. Then the election of the Visitor Councilor; Kryspin Banko is elected, who accepts. At 12.00 a.m. the new President declared the closure of the Assembly. This was followed by the concluding Eucharist, presided by Fr. Zontak.