



# VINCENTIAN CONGREGATION



**Dear Rev. Fathers, Brother and Seminarians,**

*Prayerful Greetings from Vincentian Generalate, Edappally!*

*“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” (Mt 5:7)*

## **1. Misericordiae Vultus (Face of Mercy)**

As you know, we are going through the “Year of Mercy”. The Papal Bull, announcing this Jubilee Year, provides a beautiful reflection on this theme. Here is a summary of the Papal Bull. [This passage is based on the summary of the text, prepared by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M., with slight modification]. A meditative reading of this passage will be quite fruitful. Let us remember that as Vincentians, we are in a special way obliged to preach and practice “Mercy” as part of our Vincentian Charism.



### **Here is how the Pope opens the bull**

Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him.

### **Reason for proclaiming Jubilee Year of Mercy**

We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity and peace. Our salvation depends on it.

Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. ... At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives. For this reason I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church; a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective. We recall the poignant words of Saint John XXIII when, opening the Second Vatican Council, he indicated the path to follow: "Now the Bride of Christ wishes to use the medicine of mercy rather than taking up arms of severity."

### **Mercy as a key word that indicates God's action toward us**

As we can see in Sacred Scripture, mercy is a key word that indicates God's action towards us. He does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love, after all, can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviours that are shown in daily living. The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our well-being and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other.

### **Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life**

Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. All of her pastoral activity should be caught up in the tenderness she makes present to believers; nothing in her preaching and in her witness to the world can be lacking in mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love.

## **The Pope draws from John Paul II's encyclical *Dives in Misericordia* (Rich in Mercy)**

Let us not forget the great teaching offered by Saint John Paul II in his second Encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia*, which at the time came unexpectedly, its theme catching many by surprise. There are two passages in particular to which I would like to draw attention. First, Saint John Paul II highlighted the fact that we had forgotten the theme of mercy in today's cultural milieu: "The present-day mentality, more perhaps than that of people in the past, seems opposed to a God of mercy, and in fact tends to exclude from life and to remove from the human heart the very idea of mercy." ... Furthermore, Saint John Paul II pushed for a more urgent proclamation and witness to mercy in the contemporary world: "It is dictated by love for man, for all that is human and which, according to the intuitions of many of our contemporaries, is threatened by an immense danger. The mystery of Christ ... obliges me to proclaim mercy as God's merciful love, revealed in that same mystery of Christ. It likewise obliges me to have recourse to that mercy and to beg for it at this difficult, critical phase of the history of the Church and of the world." This teaching is more pertinent than ever and deserves to be taken up once again in this Holy Year.

## **The Church's call during the Jubilee Year of Mercy**

The Church makes herself a servant of this love and mediates it to all people: a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of one's self. Consequently, wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy.

## **Key scripture for the Jubilee Year: “Be merciful just as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36)**

We want to live this Jubilee Year in the light of the Lord’s words: Merciful like the Father. The Evangelist reminds us of the teaching of Jesus who says, “Be merciful just as your Father is merciful” (Lk 6:36). It is a programme of life as demanding as it is rich with joy and peace. ... Merciful like the Father, therefore, is the “motto” of this Holy Year. In mercy, we find proof of how God loves us. He gives his entire self, always, freely, asking nothing in return. He comes to our aid whenever we call upon him.

## **Pope’s burning desire that during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy**

It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead.

## **This is to be a “Year of the Lord’s favour” or “mercy”**

Luke writes that Jesus, on the Sabbath, went back to Nazareth and, as was his custom, entered the synagogue. They called upon him to read the Scripture and to comment on it. The passage was from the Book of Isaiah where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord

God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to those in captivity; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Is 61:1-2). A "year of the Lord's favour" or "mercy": this is what the Lord proclaimed and this is what we wish to live now. This Holy Year will bring to the fore the richness of Jesus' mission echoed in the words of the prophet: to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, to restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves, to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed. The preaching of Jesus is made visible once more in the response of faith Christians are called to offer by their witness. May the words of the Apostle accompany us: He who does acts of mercy, let him do them with cheerfulness (cf. Rom 12:8).

**The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year is to be lived more intensely, with emphasis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy. How many pages of Sacred Scripture are appropriate for meditation during the weeks of Lent to help us rediscover the merciful face of the Father! ... The initiative of "24 Hours for the Lord," to be celebrated on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent, should be implemented in every diocese. So many people, including the youth, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace.

## **Goal of conversion in mind for those involved in criminal organizations and in corruption**

May the message of mercy reach everyone, and may no one be indifferent to the call to experience mercy. I direct this invitation to conversion even more fervently to those whose behaviour distances them from the grace of God. I particularly have in mind men and women belonging to criminal organizations of any kind. For their own good, I beg them to change their lives. ... The same invitation is extended to those who either perpetrate or participate in corruption. This festering wound is a grave sin that cries out to heaven for vengeance, because it threatens the very foundations of personal and social life. Corruption prevents us from looking to the future with hope, because its tyrannical greed shatters the plans of the weak and tramples upon the poorest of the poor.

## **Granting of indulgences for the Jubilee**

A Jubilee also entails the granting of indulgences. This practice will acquire an even more important meaning in the Holy Year of Mercy. God's forgiveness knows no bounds. In the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God makes even more evident his love and its power to destroy all human sin. Reconciliation with God is made possible through the paschal mystery and the mediation of the Church. Thus God is always ready to forgive, and he never tires of forgiving in ways that are continually new and surprising. ... To gain an indulgence is to experience the holiness of the Church, who bestows upon all the fruits of Christ's redemption, so that God's love and forgiveness may extend everywhere. Let us live this Jubilee intensely, begging the Father to forgive our sins and to bathe us in His merciful "indulgence."

## **Mercy in Judaism and Islam**

There is an aspect of mercy that goes beyond the confines of the Church. It relates us to Judaism and Islam, both of which consider mercy to be one of God's most important attributes. ... I trust that

this Jubilee year celebrating the mercy of God will foster an encounter with these religions and with other noble religious traditions; may it open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; may it eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination.

### **Towards the end of the bull, Pope Francis turns to Mary, Mother of Mercy**

My thoughts now turn to the Mother of Mercy. May the sweetness of her countenance watch over us in this Holy Year, so that all of us may rediscover the joy of God's tenderness. No one has penetrated the profound mystery of the incarnation like Mary. Her entire life was patterned after the presence of mercy made flesh. The Mother of the Crucified and Risen One has entered the sanctuary of divine mercy because she participated intimately in the mystery of his love.

After Mary as the Mother of Mercy, Pope extends his thoughts to the saints and blessed ones who have made divine mercy their mission in life. In this regard, he singles out St. Faustina: may she, who was called to enter the depths of divine mercy, intercede for us and obtain for us the grace of living and walking always according to the mercy of God and with an unwavering trust in his love.

### **How the Pope ends his bull**

In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: "Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old" (Ps 25:6).



Dear confreres, let us imbibe the spirit of the exhortation of the Holy Father on mercy. Jesus Christ was the face of the Father's mercy. May God enable us to be the face of Jesus' mercy in our living circumstances. With this wish and prayer, let me wish every one of you a blessed Lent and a joyful Easter.

## **2. Rev. Fr. Paul Kariamadam**

Rev. Fr. Paul Kariamadam was called to the heavenly home on January 27, 2016 at S.H. Medical Centre, Kottayam. For several years, he had various health problems. However, he had learned to cope with most of them, and lived at Vincentian House Adichira, enjoying rather satisfactory health. On January 23, almost unexpectedly, he developed serious breathing problem and was hospitalized. His condition gradually became worse and he died peacefully by 5:15 pm on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

The funeral took place at 2:30 pm on January 29th at Vincentian House Adichira. A large number of Vincentians, family members, relatives and others participated in the funeral. Bp. Mar George Madathikandam was the main celebrant for the concluding rites. Card. George Alenchery, who was in Rome, sent a cordial condolence note, and it was read out during the funeral.

Fr. Paul Kariamadam will live long in the hearts of the Vincentians and all others who came into contact with him. As a Bible scholar, he distinguished himself to be an excellent teacher and an eminent author. His classes and books were quite authentic and were well appreciated.

As the Superior General of our Congregation from December 1988 to December 1992, he had a unique role to play. As the Congregation was being formed into Provinces, he provided efficient and faithful leadership to the full satisfaction of all the members. He became the chief instrument in bringing into existence our Genera-



late at Edappally, De Paul Institute at Bangalore and De Paul Care Centre at Thiruvanathapuram.

He served the Congregation in various other capacities such as secretary to the Superior General, Rector, Superior, Spiritual Father etc. Wherever he lived, he was keen to promote the Vincentian Charism, especially our service to the poor.

May the Lord grant our beloved confrere Fr. Paul the peace and joy of heavenly life. Let us continue to pray for him, and make sure that we have fulfilled our obligations prescribed in PN 112a.

### **3. Formators' Meet**

A meeting of all the Formators as well as the members of the Administrative Teams of our Congregation will be held in the Generalate on May 18, 2016, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. The main theme of discussion is: **The Dynamics of Dropouts: Reasons and Remedies**. Let us pray for all the formees and formators of our Congregation, as well as for the success of this meeting.

### **4. Forthcoming events for seminarians**

Post Regency Program (Coordinator Fr. George Vettaparmbil, Mobile No.9446143724, Email: georgexavierv@rediffmail.com) will be from April 22 to May 18. Preparation Course for Final Vows (Coordinator: Fr. Varghese Chiraparamban, 9497614004, frvarghesevc@yahoo.com) will be from April 18 to May 18. Vestition and Perpetual Profession will be held in the Generalate at 10:30 am on the 19th of May 2016.

### **5. Vincentian Vidyabhavan has a new Rector**

Fr. Varghese Chiraparamban is appointed as the new Rector of Vincentian Vidyabhavan, in the place of Fr. Sebastian Thundathikunnel, who rendered efficient and faithful service as Rector during the last three and a half years. On behalf of our members, let me

express cordial appreciation for the valuable service of Fr. Sebastian Thundathikunnel and prayerful best wishes to Fr. Varghese Chiraparamban.

## **6. The New Batch of Jubilarians**

Many of our confreres have their Jubilee in 2016-2017. Their names and the date of Ordination are given below:

### **Golden Jubilee**

Fr. Kavumkal John	-	10-03-1967
Fr. Thalanany Joseph	-	10-03-1967
Fr. Vallooran Augustine Sr.	-	10-03-1967
Fr. Arackal Joseph	-	16-12-1967
Fr. Parayaruthottam Joseph	-	16-12-1967

### **Silver Jubilee**

Fr. Alackakunnel Francis	-	05-09-1991
Fr. Mangalathukary Joseph	-	26-12-1991
Fr. Puthenpura Augustine	-	27-12-1991
Fr. Aykaramattam Emmanuel	-	27-12-1991
Fr. Thoyalil James	-	27-12-1991
Fr. Kanichery John	-	27-12-1991
Fr. Kalarickal Paul	-	28-12-1991
Fr. Thundathikunnel Sebastian	-	28-12-1991
Fr. Mangalath Antony	-	29-12-1991
Fr. Arolichalil John	-	01-01-1992
Fr. Chettoor Jose	-	01-01-1992
Fr. Otherakunnel Jacob	-	27-04-1992
Fr. Kallungal Joseph	-	28-04-1992
Fr. Vettaparambil George	-	02-05-1992


Let us remember them in prayers in this Jubilee Year and offer our congratulations and best wishes to them.

## **7. Mission Gathering**

The next Mission Gathering will be held on 7-9 October 2016 in Vincentian House, Jamshedpur. Just before it, a batch of annual retreat is arranged there itself for Oct 2-7. For details, please contact Fr. Mathew Vattakuzhy (8281896224, frmathewv@gmail.com), Fr. Varghese Naickomparambil (7693817177, frvn.vc@gmail.com), or Fr. Francis Kolenchery (8085808182, shinkola@gmail.com).

**Once again, I wish every one of you a fruitful Lent, a blessed Holy Week and a joyful Easter. May the risen Lord be always with us and strengthen us in our life and ministry.**

Vincentian Generalate  
De Paul Nagar, Edappally  
March 01, 2015

  
Fr. Varghese Parappuram VC  
Superior General

## **Appendix**

### **Ceases to be a member:**

Fr. Mathew (Johnson) Enthumkuzhiyil, a perpetually professed member of the Marymatha Province of the Vincentian Congregation, left the Congregation in September 2010, while he was a member of the Vincentian House Khetri. Ever since, he has been unlawfully absent from the community. The Provincial Superior wrote to him repeatedly, requesting him to return. He was also given warning letters, reminding him about the consequences of his unlawful absence. But he never responded positively. Hence the Provincial Superior, with the consent of his council, requested me to take appropriate steps in this regard.

After due process of enquiry, and after having ascertained the facts, I, Fr. Varghese Parappuram, Superior General of the Vincentian Congregation, with the unanimous consent of the General Council, declare the fact that Fr. Mathew Enthumkuzhiyil ceases to be a member of the Vincentian Congregation, with effect from February 06, 2016 (CCEO 550). He is dispensed from the vows he made in the Congregation and all his rights and obligations in the Congregation cease (St. 143; CCEO 553).

The Apostolic See is the competent authority to grant him dispensation from the obligations arising from the Holy Order of Priesthood.

Given from the Vincentian Generalate at Edappally on 06th February 2016.