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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PHOTOS**

**400-Year-Old Vincentian Family Historic Meeting in Germantown, Philadelphia, Charts a
Course for the Future**

*This Marks the First Time the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Vincentian Family
Was Held Outside of Europe*

Note: Please click links to download photos.



Photo: The Vincentian Family Executive Committee (VFEC) held its annual meeting on January 6 and 7 in Germantown, Philadelphia. This was the first time the meeting was held outside of Europe because the Vincentian Family Office (VFO) is now located in Philadelphia.

TOP Row: Sr. Blandine Klein, SC (SC-Federation of Strasbourg); Rev. Joseph Agostino, CM (VFO); Brothers of Mercy — Bro. Lawrence Obiko, CMM, Bro. Broer Huitema, CMM; Sr. Veronika Häusler, SC (SC-Federation of Strasbourg), Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, C.M., Edmund Keane (St. Vincent de Paul Society), Renato Lima de Oliveira (St. Vincent de Paul Society)

BOTTOM Row: Maria Eugenia Magallanes (AIC), Sr. Kathleen Appler, DC Alicia Duhne (AIC), Sr. Eileen Haynes, SCL (SC Federation of North America), Sr. François Petit, DC (DC), Sr. Julia Cutter, DC (SC-Federation of North America)

<https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/611bdbf3-80df-4d51-8f53-ae83dfd173e6>



Photo: *Very Reverend Tomaž Mavrič, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, or Vincentians, blesses the International Vincentian Family Offices, located in Germantown, Philadelphia, PA, at St. Vincent's Seminary.*

<https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/b1f1f0f4-ac4b-4391-83ea-4d7652b01c39>



Photo: *Alicia Duhne, of the International Association of Charities, Fr. Joseph Agostino, Coordinator of the Vincentian Family Office, Very Reverend Tomaž Mavrič, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, and Sr. Kathleen Appler, Superior General of the Daughters of Charity, participate in the Vincentian Family Executive Committee historic meeting in Germantown, Philadelphia.*

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Germantown, Philadelphia, PA—January 12, 2017– The following article was published by famvin.org to celebrate the success of the Vincentian Family Executive Committee's historic meeting in Germantown, Philadelphia on January 6 and 7. This was the first time the meeting was held outside of Europe.

Vincentian Family Executive Committee Meeting at the Beginning of the 400th Anniversary

By: Francely Perez, DC

January 11, 2017

The Vincentian Family is a growing community of more than two million people seeking to follow Christ, the evangelizer of the poor, in the model presented by the life of St. Vincent de Paul and his collaborator, St. Louise de Marillac. It is comprised of people from all walks of life. Organizations include: the Congregation of the Mission, Daughters of Charity, and a host of other groups that all follow the teachings of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac.

The Vincentian Family Executive Committee (VFEC) held its annual meeting on January 6 and 7 in Philadelphia, PA, USA. This was the first time the meeting was held outside of Europe because the Vincentian Family Office is located in Philadelphia. It was a good opportunity for attendees to see the Office and its development.

The current members of the VFEC are: Fr. Tomaž Mavrič and Fr. Joseph Agostino (Congregation of the Mission), Sr. Kathleen Appler and Sr. Francois Petit (Daughters of Charity), Renato Lima de Oliveira and Edmund Keane (Society of St. Vincent de Paul), Bro. Broer Huitema and Bro. Lawrence Obiko (Brothers of Our Lady, Mother of Mercy), Alicia Duhne and Maria Eugenia Magallanes (International Association of Charities), Sr. Veronika Haeusler and Sr. Blandine Klein (Federation of Sisters of Charity of Strasbourg), Sr. Julie Cutter and Sr. Eileen Haynes (Sisters of Charity Federation of North America).

Fr. Tomaž Mavrič, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, celebrated Mass in the Chapel of the Provincial House of the Congregation of the Mission at 11am to begin the meeting. He invited participants to celebrate as a Family the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism. After Mass, everyone was invited to the blessing of the Vincentian Family Offices. It was a moment of gratitude for having a place where the Vincentian Family can strengthen its connection in order to better serve those who are poor.

In the afternoon, Fr. Joseph Agostino, Coordinator of the Vincentian Family Office, presented the tasks of the Vincentian Family Office followed by Sr. Donna Geernaert, Sister of Charity of Halifax, who spoke about “Living into a Structure.” As followers of Saint Vincent de Paul, the Committee is invited to work with others. Collaboration is not a goal, but a way of living. The idea is, “Why are we doing alone what we can best do together?”

At 5pm, there was a reception given by the community at St. Vincent’s Seminary, followed by supper.

On Saturday, activities began at 8am. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Joseph Agostino in the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Germantown, a beautiful church that depicts the Apparition of the Virgin Mary to St. Catherine Labouré. He talked about the Incarnation of Jesus and invited attendees to recognize Him in the face of those who are suffering. At 9:30am, the VFEC met to discuss plans for this year's 400th Anniversary of the Charism.

The VFEC decided to hold the next meeting, in 2018, again in Philadelphia. They felt at home in their home. Everyone was grateful for the welcome, hospitality, and organization of the meeting.

The Vincentian Family Office thanks all those who helped to make this meeting possible: the Congregation of the Mission Eastern Province, Daughters of Charity, Sisters of St. Joseph, Translators Team, and staff of St. Vincent Seminary.

[Click Here to View the Original Article.](#)

For more information on the Vincentian Family, visit famvin.org. See also the Vincentian Family Office at <http://famvin.org/vfo-en/>.

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