October 2009

The Visibility of AIC

Training Booklets Nos. 14 & 15

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Introduction

The 350th anniversary:
a good opportunity to give greater visibility to AIC volunteers throughout the world.

In a letter dated 15 May, the Father General officially announced the start of the Jubilee Year, during which « we will celebrate, as the Vincentian Family, the anniversary of the death of our founders, Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac. The celebrations will begin on 27 September 2009 and end on 27 September 2010. Our theme on the occasion of this 350th anniversary will be « Charity and Mission ». We want to approach this year of celebrations from the point of view of mission. Our mission, to evangelise and serve the poor, is motivated by God’s love which we translate into hands-on charity, direct contact with and love of the poor. »

In celebrating our past, we thank God for the wonderful examples of love which Saint Vincent and Saint Louise left us with. However our objective during these celebrations is not only to commemorate an anniversary; it is also to show the world that the charism of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise is still alive and relevant today, through the Vincentian congregations and associations and through our activities for mission and evangelisation. It is alive and relevant also through the thousands of concrete projects which the members of the Vincentian Family continue to achieve with the poor, transforming situations of poverty and injustice, adapting the Vincentian charism to the era in which they live, while remaining faithful to the teaching of their founders.
The commemoration of the 350th anniversary is therefore an excellent opportunity for the Vincentian Family and for us as AIC volunteers to spread the word internationally about the strength of our Vincentian volunteers, our projects, our actions, and the spirit which drives us.

That is the reason why this Training Booklet is focusing on the « VISIBILITY of AIC ». Its aim is to motivate all AIC teams to make the most of this 350th anniversary to spread the word about our association, to pass on our values, to present our activities, in short to make AIC more « VISIBLE ». To achieve this, certain elements are absolutely indispensable. This booklet will deal with these essential points:

1. **Believe in AIC**, discover its richness, be convinced that the AIC network brings us a great value added element, feel that you play an integral part in the association.

This inevitably means that we have a strong sense of belonging; indeed you need to have a firm sense of belonging in order to be able to bring to fruition the plan of Saint Vincent, and to announce it to the world in order to participate more effectively in international action to eradicate poverty.

2. **Be able to present AIC clearly**: its mission to transform situations of poverty, especially involving women. Its projects and its actions. In this Booklet we will speak, therefore, of the strengths of AIC, and we give some examples of ways of presenting our association.

3. **Know and use the external support** which AIC International makes available to us to enable us to declare this sense of belonging in a concrete and visible way, and to help us to present the Association more clearly.
We have concrete tools to express our sense of belonging. They can be used not only within the association but also in our dealings externally. They express our wish to be faithful today to the Vincentian charism.

To communicate with the world outside the association, concrete tools (the AIC logo, lapel badges, scarves, visiting cards, presentation leaflets, headed paper) are available to us, as well as the website on the Internet. These resources enable us to show in a visual way that we belong to the AIC association. We can also use them at ceremonies during the Jubilee Year and for all occasions when we have to present AIC. Chapter 3 deals with these resources.

Within the Association, the following are signs that we belong:

- enrolment in the association
- taking part in team meetings, in the life of the association, in concrete projects carried out with the poor
- taking part in meetings of the association, whether they be regional, national or international
- paying the subscription, which should not be confused with a donation. Indeed, by paying the subscription, you are expressing your decision to belong to the association and to take on the responsibility of commitment.

We also have a considerable amount of material offered by the Vincentian Family. We spoke about it in the letter sent to the Presidents on 20 July. We ask you to make the most of it and to use it.
PART ONE

I. The richness of AIC

1. The sense of belonging to AIC

*It is* showing our love for God, and consequently for people living in poverty. This love is nourished by our knowledge of the project of Saint Vincent de Paul, which has its foundations in the Gospels of Jesus Christ.

*It is* feeling that we are members of an Association in which we all act together, in which we share a common ideal, in which we strive for the same objective.

*It is* knowing AIC, being loyal to the organisation on a local, regional and international level, following directives and respecting its hierarchy.
It is knowing that, in this year of 2009, we are celebrating the 350th anniversary of the death of our founder, who, in order to fulfil the needs of poor people, made his motto “Charity and Mission”.

It is carrying out, through prayer and through action, the basic project of St Vincent de Paul, adapting it according to the beneficiaries and the economic, social and cultural needs of the geographical region in question.

It is taking part in drawing up the Operational Guidelines of AIC and stressing how important it is to put them into practice. It is achieving social inclusion for victims of discrimination, whether it be through putting in place projects intended to fight against poverty and social injustice, or by calling for structural reform.

It is recognising the importance of networking, whether it be with institutions or public or private companies.

It is being a member of the Vincentian Family.

It is recognising the representations of AIC in international organisations: ECOSOC – The Council of Europe – UNESCO – the Human Rights Council – ICO – the Pontifical Council COR UNUM.

It is considering ourselves to be a TEAM MEMBER, as a free VOLUNTEER, within the context which has just been described, but at the same time responsible for ourselves, with our own motivation and our personal attitude, personally committed and aware of the consequences this can entail in our own lives.

It is feeling responsible for the world in which we live. We have to be aware that our individual and private actions bring about consequences which are either positive or harmful, and that, beyond our own community, their repercussions affect the world.
It is feeling responsible for PEOPLE living in poverty. It is being aware of the fact that everyone has the right to a dignified life, and therefore speaking out and fighting against situations of poverty, injustice and suffering.

It is being happy to be a Christian, and rejecting complacency, which allows injustice to continue.

It is being happy and proud to belong to an Association like AIC; it is joining with AIC in each of its fights against discrimination, humiliation and the oppression of mankind.

It is being happy to work with exceptional partners: the members of our Association, the Vincentian Family, and people living in poverty.

It is being happy to feel the joy of giving, that feeling which comes from charity.

It is feeling alive, competent, being alert and always being ready to act to help those who are very poor, and doing this through social and pastoral action, following the dynamic spirit of St Vincent de Paul.

It is making AIC an integral part of our lives. It is defending AIC, making it better known, sustaining it, making it vibrant and loving it so that, while achieving its objectives, it continues to develop and stand out.

Finally, it is feeling privileged for having being chosen to be part of the first Confraternity of Charity, founded by Saint Vincent de Paul, in Châtillon-les-Dombes, in 1617.
2. **Revitalising the association, a new experience**

The Spanish training committee noted, during various working meetings, that AIC needed a strong impetus. So it chose as a general objective for the next three years (2009 – 2011): **To revitalise the Association.**

To achieve this, four courses of action or guidelines were drawn up. Their aim is for this revitalisation of the Association to come into effect during the coming years. These action guidelines are:

- To grow in our sense of belonging and in our sense of the Family;
- To move towards more co-responsibility;
- To improve our sense of communication. To spread the word about the Association both externally and at the very heart of our teams;
- To pay careful attention to training and to helping new team members.

The General Assembly of AIC Spain, which was held in June in Salamanca, enabled a new experience to take place. Indeed, it was the volunteers themselves who were present at the Assembly who chose the points to be studied and worked on « **Growing in our sense of belonging** » and « **Moving towards more co-responsibility** ».  

First of all, these two action guidelines were presented orally. Then the various working groups studied a series of questions relating to these guidelines, and answered them.
These answers, which were given by volunteers from teams from all over Spain, are an exact reflection of what the people at grass roots level think. That is how they see things now, that is how they view the areas of shade and light within our Association now.

Questions were asked, starting from the principle that the sense of belonging to AIC rests on three basic pillars:

- A deep knowledge of AIC
- Belief in the project, loving it and feeling committed
- The human factor, that is to say solidarity

To develop these three important pillars, the participants also worked on the Purpose or Mission of AIC, on its Structure, on its Basic Document and on its Statutes. They also worked on the values on which AIC is based.

As for studying the way to move towards more co-responsibility, this was done whilst always keeping in mind the fact that it is a privilege to have been chosen for this task, and the fact that we have to thank the Lord.
Here are the questions, and the answers which kept on coming up in the various groups:

1) **Do AIC teams really live the Mission of our Association?**

We are more about « doing » than « being ». We do not spend much time on training. There is great resistance to change. We are not able to communicate our sense of belonging.

(Although these replies may seem rather negative, they give us a precise idea of what we need to work on, what we need to change in order to improve).

2) **Is it worth belonging to the Association?**

Yes, it is worth it, because serving the poor means going towards God. The Association passes on to us strong values. Working together gives us strength and reaffirms our vocation, but often we lack the conviction to say who we really are.

3) **Do we really have fraternal/sisterly feelings towards the other members of the Association? Are we really a family?**

Although we make an effort to live these values, we are preoccupied above all by a series of « shadows », which we usually detect in volunteers. There is a lack of fraternity/sisterhood, a lack of respect and communication, great individualism, a lack of joint activities as teams, and a lack of support towards the weakest teams.

4) **What is the aim of our Association?**

Comprehensive training of volunteers and poor people. Giving poor people their dignity and « empowerment ». The culture of « giving freely », in its deepest and most evangelical sense. An awareness of society as far as the new forms of poverty are concerned.
5) How can we make all volunteers share the spirit of our basic document, and the standards of the new statutes?

By continuing to read and study these two documents. By circulating them and living them responsibly. By bearing witness to what we are and what we are doing. It seems to us that, to achieve this, we need to make training meetings more dynamic and attractive.

6) It is all the constituent elements that form the structure of the Association. How can we make this structure stronger?

By all working together as a team, and supporting those who take on responsibilities.

7) When we speak about the values of AIC, we are speaking about the ideals we want to live. In your opinion, what are they exactly?

It seems to us that, amongst others, they are the following values:

- Availability – Serving the Association and poor people

8) How do we live and how do we experience the link between AIC Spain and AIC International?

Through national and international bulletins. But AIC International continues to be misunderstood by the majority of volunteers. Consequently, we must improve communication and information at each of these levels.

9) What specific points must we improve to succeed in « Moving towards more co-responsability »?
We need greater knowledge about the Association as a whole. We have to work as a team on the sense of belonging, with a commitment to strengthen the Association and help it to grow. We have to improve participation and emerge from our usual routine. We must realise that the Association belongs to all of us, and within it we are all equally important.

3. **Interview with a President**

Interview with Carmen Gómez, the national President of AIC Spain

- Carmen, you already have great experience in a post of responsibility within the Association. In your opinion, what would have been lacking in your work as a volunteer if you had not been able to rely on the structure of AIC?
  - «A vision of universality;»
  - *Feeling the strength of the charism on different continents and in different cultures;*
  - *Strengthening Vincentian training and the organisation within the Association*. 

Visibility of AIC
According to what you have just said, in your opinion what does AIC bring to you, in practical terms?

- «Strength. An intercultural knowledge which enriches me and motivates me in my work, broadening the horizon of my mission.

- Not feeling isolated, but instead knowing that we are a living branch which is nourished by the sap of the tall tree which is the Project of Vincent de Paul.

- It has also brought me spiritual, human and technical training”.

There are many NGOs working throughout the world and very good ones. In your opinion, what makes us different to others? What does AIC have that other organisations don’t?

« What makes us different is our Vincentian spirituality, focused on Christ. Christ embodied in the poor. Live and feel the service, knowing that it is Christ himself that we are serving.

What also makes us different from other NGOs is the fact that we are not just content to give our labour and our time for X hours a week; our life is also that of Vincentian Christians. We are witnesses of a God who loves us and who wants that love, through our service and the zeal with which we carry it out, to reach all men and women, and especially the poor.»

Every four years, during the Assembly of Delegates, AIC invests an enormous amount of time and work in preparing the Operational Guidelines. Do you think that this investment is worth it? What do these Guidelines mean to the work of the volunteers?
«I think that it is worth it, since these Guidelines are used by us to direct the work of training the volunteers. Indeed, they have been thought out and prepared, taking into account current problems, based on a broad vision of reality. In addition, if they are adapted to the realities which are specific to each country, they suggest directions to help find solutions.»

- Could the Operational Guidelines, or something similar, exist if there was not the structure of AIC?

«Without a suitable structure, I wonder what could exist. But what is certain is that if we did not set ourselves objectives, with stages to follow, and policies, there would be no way of evaluating the work carried out by AIC world-wide, or to ensure monitoring. Each national Association would take a different path. Now it is very important that there should be homogeneity world-wide.»

As our Basic Document says: «AGAINST ALL FORMS OF POVERTY, LET US ACT TOGETHER»
II. Speak about AIC

In the first chapter, we said that to achieve the objective of making AIC more visible, it was important to have a strong sense of belonging.

In this second chapter, we are going to deal with another essential point: to present our Association well, we must know the strong points of AIC and know how to speak about it, adapting our presentation to the different people or institutions we are addressing.

1. The AIC network: what strength!

AIC nowadays is a network of 200,000 volunteers who are involved with the poorest, especially women.

We who are members of AIC, an international association, present in 52 countries, represent a real force!

Our actions, at grass roots level with the poorest, are the very essence of our mission and we do it well. But AIC brings us more strength, enthusiasm, organisation, legitimacy and, might one say .... daring!

The strength of an international organisation:

In order to achieve the common objective, AIC puts at the disposal of its associations 5 areas of action:

- spreading the mission,
- networking,
- training,
- help with fundraising,
- visibility.
a) A common objective

AIC unites its volunteers around

- **a vision**: to build, with people who are living in poverty, a fairer world;
- **a mission**: to fight all forms of poverty and exclusion, mainly that of women, through projects which change their living conditions;
- **values**: the ethical values of the Gospels and St Vincent: Justice, Charity, Tolerance, Respect for the dignity of the person and their right to participate in their own destiny.

b) The areas of action

1. Spreading the mission

AIC coordinates 52 national associations. AIC brings to life the charism of St Vincent de Paul through the whole AIC network: during the regional meetings on each continent, during international assemblies and during visits to associations.

The *Operational Guidelines* are voted for every 4 years by the presidents of the national associations during assemblies; they give direction to the actions.

*AIC is a coordinator.*

2. Networking of the associations

AIC coordinates the 52 national associations and their 200,000 volunteers. It promotes communication between the associations, an exchange of skills, the development of actions and talents, the international element.
It allows solidarity between associations through *twinning*. These twinnings between groups belonging to two different countries are an opportunity to build bridges between two cultures, to increase our knowledge, to give us a better understanding of others. In addition to that there is also financial help from one team for the project of another team which is less privileged.

*AIC is a unifier.*

3. **Training**

AIC gives us access to training. Indeed, we have the duty to constantly do training in order to *always improve our actions*, to adapt them to the needs of the poorest.
To help volunteers in their task, AIC publishes training booklets, twice a year, about subjects chosen according to the needs of the moment (as in this booklet: being convinced and knowing how to communicate the richness of an international organisation!).

All our local, regional or national, or international meetings are moments for training; and as one of you said, we come away from these with more energy.

This possibility of acquiring knowledge, sharing it, and communicating it to others is a great richness for all of us.

AIC is a trainer.

4. Help with fund-raising

AIC supports and encourages local projects, especially those which present an innovative aspect and which can be reproduced in another country.

AIC does not have its own funds to finance projects, but it can put people in contact with foundations, private donors or international organisations.

This help with inventiveness and an exchange of knowledge is important for the dynamism and the development of our action.

AIC is innovative

5. Visibility, political action

AIC acts at an international level, with other large NGOs, to make known the problems and realities seen at grass roots level, from which leaders are often very far removed.
AIC is present in numerous bodies, notably in the UN, in its agencies in UNESCO, ECOSOC, the Human Rights Council and the Council of Europe.

It is present in Church bodies, in the Pontifical Council Cor Unum and it has canonical status recognised by the Pontifical Council for lay people.

It also belongs to various pressure groups relating to social and political structures in order to get laws voted in which are more just towards the poorest people. In some countries, such as France, it has a consultative role with the government.

That is why it is essential to **inform AIC of the real poverty experience and the concrete proposals which you are bringing** in to change the life of the poorest. Members of the Executive Board who are coordinators for your continent, try to establish a flow of information between you and the representatives in the international organisations. Please answer their requests.

*AIC is a transforming force.*

**The spiritual dimension of AIC**

St Vincent wanted to give women a role in the church. AIC is in line with this Church - Universal. But just as people constantly look at the Gospels to understand them with the eyes of the XXIth century, so AIC, helped by its spiritual guides, constantly places itself beneath the gaze of St Vincent and St Louise to make the oldest humanitarian NGO in the world a modern and effective association giving aid and love.
Some 300 years before the Declaration of Human Rights, our « heavenly leader » was already saying that every man and woman has the right to dignity, respect and decent living conditions.

Let us all pray together on the 15 March, on 4 continents, in order to continue the prophetic vision of St Vincent. That will give us strength.

*AIC is Christian and visionary.*

In conclusion, one could say that belonging to AIC means:

- Never being alone in our work at grass roots level;
- Belonging to a system in which every element needs all the others;
- Belonging to an NGO of which we should be proud;
- The guarantee that our painstaking work will always be part of the great world plan of which St Vincent was the founder and remains the leader;
- Giving a general sense to what we are doing individually.

With AIC, we can go very far. Let us come and draw from it strength, dynamism, and the faith we need to bring to fruition our mission to help people who are very poor. Let us use the words of Benedict XVI: with AIC « *let us spread solidarity worldwide* ».
2. Conversation between an AIC volunteer and a friend

(in the street)

Friend (F) : « Hi, Justine, how are you ? »
Volunteer (V) : « Fine, but I'm very busy. How about you ? »
F : « We haven’t seen you around recently ! »
V : « That’s right. I’ve joined AIC. »
F : « What is AIC ? »
V : « AIC is a network of 200,000 volunteers throughout the world. »
F: « 200,000 ! But what do all those volunteers do ? »
V: « They work with people who are extremely poor, especially women ».  
F: « Why women ? »
V: « Did you know that more than 70% of the poorest people in the world are women ? »
F: « No, I didn’t know; but 200,000 is a lot. Are you in several countries ? »
V: « AIC is in 52 countries, on 4 continents, and each AIC group works locally with the poorest. »
F: « I know other NGOs but what does AIC stand for ? »
V: « It means International Association of Charities, and we were founded 400 years ago by St Vincent de Paul.»
F: « Saint Vincent de Paul : was he the one who founded the Daughters of Charity ? »
V: « Yes, but first he organised lay women into « confraternities », as they were called then, to serve the poorest people, and today we continue the work. »
F: « And what do you do exactly ? »
V: « I belong to an AIC team which runs a literacy group for disadvantaged women. Actually, we need volunteers. Would you be free once a week to come with us ? »
F: « Well, why not. I’d be interested in that. You know I’m retired now and I’d really like to do something useful.»
V : « Well, come on Thursday, at 2pm, to 27 St Vincent Street. We’ll meet the other volunteers and I’ll introduce you to the president of the team. You’ll see ; they’re really nice ; do you know my telephone number ? »

F : « Yes, of course. So, see you on Thursday. I’m really pleased I bumped into you ! »

V (to herself) « You’ll see. St Vincent does things well. »
To present AIC during a chance meeting:

下发兴趣，不要说太多就直说。

引导你正在谈话的人自己提问。

对第一个问题“什么是AIC?”，避免仅仅回答“AIC是国际慈善协会”。回答是正确的，但它结束了对话，因为它不会引导任何新问题。

让对方想加入我们作为志愿者或捐赠人。

避免回复像“哦，我什么都不做”。在任何情况下，我们都以团队行动，所以不要虚假谦虚。

展示我们对AIC的热情。

Visibility of AIC
PART TWO

III. Resources to present AIC

1. Letter presenting AIC

Model letter presenting AIC for fund raising.
(This letter must, according to the circumstances, be accompanied by a specific request).

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to introduce AIC to you. AIC is an international non-governmental organisation with 200,000 volunteers in 52 countries, whose work directly affects the lives of millions of poor people.

AIC is probably the oldest NGO. Its origin dates back to St Vincent de Paul in 1617. Its specific nature is that it is mainly an organisation of women volunteers – more than 200,000 of all different cultures and origins – organised in local teams. They help the poorest women to take responsibility for themselves, to gain their independence, and thus to become the driving force behind their family and their community.
We work through concrete local projects, individually or as a group – currently there are more than 16,000 – ranging from subsistence to health, education, training or violence against women.

We would like to outline to you in greater detail our projects and our structure. You will find details about this in the enclosed Activity Report, and also on our Website: www.aic-international.org which gives a more complete and detailed picture of the dynamism and professionalism of our teams as well as the breadth and depth of our activities.

We obviously need your support - moral, political and financial, to carry out and strengthen our action. That is why we are taking the liberty of contacting you in the hope of being able to make an appointment to discuss this in more detail.

Thanking you in advance for considering this request.

Yours faithfully,

Signature and position in AIC

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>AIC Bank details</strong></th>
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</tbody>
</table>
ALTERNATIVE FOR THE LAST PARAGRAPH

...strengthen our action. That is why we are appealing for your generous contribution.
Your donations can be paid to the AIC account.
Thanking you in advance,

YOU CAN ADD, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE

Some examples of projects:
All devoted to the fight against poverty; our projects are anchored in local reality and therefore take the most varied forms.
Here are a few examples : *********************

Each person will put examples of local actions (or AIC action if the fund raising is for AIC).
2. The AIC logo

This logo was chosen in the early years following the international restructuring of AIC, in 1976.

At that time, the President was Claire Delva. Claire and the International Board were convinced that it was necessary to give visibility to AIC. To do this, it was necessary to choose a logo and a slogan which were common to all countries, carefully chosen and effective, so that the association can be identified anywhere in the world and in international organisations. All associations were asked to create a Public Relations service to look after their presentation to people outside, and relations with institutions and society.

The red logo with the three letters AIC was chosen with the help of a public relations expert. Since that time, this logo has been used in all AIC documents and letters, and also in several national associations. It was mainly the newly created national associations who used the same logo and the same slogan as AIC International. When they were formed, these new associations put the acronym next to the name of their country.
Over the years, several older national associations have added the letters AIC to the name of their country, to make the fact that they belong to the international AIC network clearly visible. Some examples:

« Federación Nacional de Voluntarias Vicentinas de la Caridad AIC Colombia »
« Ladies of Charity – AIC Nigeria »
« Fédération Française des Equipes Saint Vincent – AIC France »
« Ladies of Charity of the Philippines – AIC Philippines »
« Consejo Nacional Vicentino – AIC Panamá »
« Associação internacional de caridades – AIC Brasil »
« Gruppi di volontariato vincenziano – AIC Italia »
« Asociación de Caridad de San Vicente de Paúl – AIC España ».

The meaning of the logo:

The logo of AIC symbolises the dynamism of a network of volunteers from several continents, who succeed in transforming situations because they move forward and they are united.

The logo also includes a spiritual image, namely the image of Jesus Christ. AIC is a group of people united by St Vincent de Paul and the outward moving arrows spiralling from it epitomise the spirit of the Association; for St Vincent took to heart the words of Jesus: « Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me » (Matthew 25:40).
3. **The AIC slogan**

*Its origin, its objective, its use*

« Change the world, women can »

The Prospective group, which works on AIC communication and fundraising, wondered about how to *improve the visibility and image of AIC*.

They embarked on a reflection about the name AIC, the word « Charities » and its different connotations according to different cultures, not to mention the various names of a good many national associations.

The AIC acronym, on its own, is not explicit. So we thought it was necessary to add a *short, appealing slogan*, focusing on the beneficiaries and explaining what we do, while stressing the aspect of « women » which is our unique character and appears essential to us.

In addition this slogan must have the same meaning in the different cultures and be easy to translate into the three official languages of AIC.

The group was able to benefit from the help, which was given free, of international communication experts.

At the same time checks were made on the Internet to avoid choosing a slogan which had already been used.
There was consensus for « Change the world, women can... ». Indeed, this slogan refers to both the women who help and also those who are helped, and it includes the dynamic and intentional idea of progress towards a better world.

The suggestion of the Prospective group is for this slogan to be used consistently, at an international level, and by all national associations, in any external communication (the website, writing paper and any printed document) and also in any internal communication within AIC, to reinforce the image of AIC and the pride of its volunteers.
4. **Our Internet site**

The AIC website was completely changed in 2009, from the point of view of design and content.

The welcome page on the website emphasises the principles of AIC:

- A network of volunteers, mainly women;
- Committed to local actions;
- Following the path of Vincentian spirituality.
The objective is both:

- **Internal**: to inform members about the life of AIC, through the different « News » windows, the list of associations, publications, a members’ area, a photo gallery

- **External**: to present AIC to people outside the movement.

Visibility of AIC
The Projects section will be developed further on the website of AIC Solidarity, planned for the end of 2009.

👍 So that the website is a real communication tool between AIC members, we ask you to regularly look at it, www.aic-international.org, as well as sending us your opinions, suggestions and news...

📧 contact@aic-international.org

👍 To improve the visibility of AIC on the Web, we need to develop the multiplicity of backlinks, in other words links placed on other sites and pointing to our site. Do not hesitate to place a link to the AIC website on the websites of national associations which are members of AIC.
5. **Material for greater visibility**

Especially when presenting the Association when speaking to people outside the Association, it is important to bring to each meeting material which gives AIC greater visibility.

AIC lapel badges

AIC scarves

Visiting cards

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL DES CHARITES
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHARITIES
ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL DE CARIDADES

Rampe des Ardennais 23  tel.+32.10.45.63.53 • fax +32.10.45.80.63
1348 Louvain la Neuve—Belgique e-mail:info@aic-international.org
Leaflets presenting AIC

AIC Activity Report

Headed paper
Conclusion

TO AIC NATIONAL PRESIDENTS
for the 350th ANNIVERSARY

Dear Sisters:

May the love of Christ, Evangelist of the poor, be with you!

As you know, from 27 September of this year till 27 September 2010, we will celebrate the Jubilee Year for the 350th Anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac. This Jubilee year is the opportunity for us to deepen and reflect together on our Vincentian charism, to develop it and promote it and share it with the whole Church and the people around us, because it is a treasure which belongs to everyone.

That is why we would like to ask you to get in contact with the other branches of the Vincentian Family in your country to collaborate in preparing the celebration activities which are being arranged. We also ask you to suggest events and, depending on your resources: form, on a national, regional and local level, the various Committees which Fr Gregory Gay, Superior General, spoke about in the letter which we sent to you recently.

The HERITAGE Committee is in charge of encouraging the study of the reflections which the International Committee will publish every month during the Jubilee Year, as well as organising training sessions on Vincentian history, spirituality and experiences with the poor.
The CELEBRATION Committee is in charge of the Solemn inauguration of the Jubilee Year in the Churches which are most representative of our Association, and the Vincentian Family, inviting the hierarchy of the Church, as well as benefactors and beneficiaries.

The PROJECTS Committee is in charge of drawing up a (preferably Systemic Change) project for the poorest people, and, in addition, in joining us in the International Vincentian Family project for our brothers and sisters in Haiti.

The SECRETARIAT Committee is in charge of supporting the various commissions in their task coordinating and distributing the information, as well as all the activities to celebrate the 350th anniversary.

The FINANCES Committee is in charge of collaborating in drawing up budgets and doing fundraising to finance the various activities of this Jubilee Year.

Let us be creative and let us organise events such as festivals, plays, film clubs, processions, days of prayer, etc. Let us celebrate with all our enthusiasm so that everyone will know that we are proud to have, in the Church and in today’s world, a rich, living charism, very close to those who live in a situation of poverty, in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, and faithful to the way of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise.

Laurence de la Brosse María Eugenia Magallanes
AIC International President Responsible for Relations with the Vincentian Family
Spiritual reflection papers for the jubilee 2009-2010

The editorial team are proposing this year to use the spiritual reflection papers produced by the « Heritage » Commission of the Vincentian Family for the 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac. You will find them on the website www.aic-international.org, in the Vincentian Family section, or directly on the website http://famvin.org/anniversary/welcome.html. There will therefore not be a spiritual booklet.

Method:

Personal use: To really live our Vincentian Jubilee let us try to meditate personally on the papers which will be offered every month.

Using this in teams: 2 or 3 volunteers can prepare in advance the spiritual part of the next meeting from the reflection paper for that month. Each of them will present to the team what struck them when reading it, and the team will be able to answer together one or two questions suggested at the end of each paper.
International Association of Charities

A world-wide association of mainly women, with about 200,000 volunteers in 52 countries.

Founded by Saint Vincent de Paul in 1617 to fight all forms of poverty and injustice and to give women a recognised active life helping the community in a spirit of solidarity.

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