



July 4, 2020 - SSVP International Youth Day



Young Vincentians: Sharing Hope and Charity

JULY 4, 2020 - SSVP INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

under the blessings of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati patron of Vincentian Youth.

**Letter of Motivation for celebration and commemoration in all
the Vincentian Territories of the World**



LETTER TO YOUNG VICENTIANs

Paris, 4 June 2020

Dear friends, Young Vincentians, other members of the SSVP

I am writing this letter so that we can live together the 4th of July, the date of the commemoration of the International Day of Vincentian Youth of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, a date that motivates us to understand that, from its origins, our institution was initiated by young people, surrounded by young people, and grew up through the courage, boldness and testimony of many young people, who gave themselves to the mission of being Church alongside the most needy, the Poor.

The year 2020, is a year that will be marked in the history of humanity, we are living in a period of Covid-19 pandemic, which affects not only health, but also the economy, politics and social life. And, of course, the poor are the most affected in this period. To all of you I send my wishes for comfort, my affection and my prayers, especially for the missing victims, for their families and friends who are still feeling the pain of loss, we believe in the Resurrection, and this faith helps us and will continue to help us overcome this moment.

Knowing this, I want to encourage all Vincentian Youth around the world, to **share Hope and Charity**, in the week of July 4th, which marks our day as Young members of the SSVP.

The International Committee for Youth, Children and Adolescents of the International Council General of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, has understood that it is good to maintain the celebrations of 4 July of this year, as a way of honoring all those who are on the front line in the fight against the pandemic and also to motivate you, young Vincentians, to be a channel of hope for a new time and to continue to exercise our mission of embracing the world in a great network of charity.

The theme we chose for this year is **“Young Vincentians: sharing Hope and Charity”**, a theme that helps us to understand two pillars that are characteristic of the Young SSVP member. Youth is a channel of **hope**, especially in these times of uncertainty in which we live. The Holy Scriptures affirm this when they say: "Suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope. And hope does not disappoint" (Rom 5:3-5a).

The Catechism of the Holy Church says the following about the theological virtue of Hope: “The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man; it takes up the hopes that inspire men's activities and purifies them so as to order them to the Kingdom of heaven; it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment; it opens up his heart in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity...” (Catechism 1818).

In this sense, we want Young Vincentians to be able to spread Hope around the world, using at this time when we need to distance ourselves physically, social networks, the internet, in short, different



platforms, so that it is possible that many people receive messages that calm their heart and renew their hopes.

Charity is well known to us Vincentians, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, teaches us that “Charity is Love”, and Saint Paul in one of his letters says that “Charity will never end”. We want to encourage Young Vincentians, in this time of pandemic, whenever possible, with due care for safety and health preservation, to continue the mission of helping those who need it most, the Poor: do not abandon them. This is the time for us young Vincentians to show our leadership at this time, to assume responsibility, to take care that the poor are receiving the necessary help. We need to be creative to maintain the SSVP mission around the world.

So, dear friends, dear young people, let us live the 4th of July and every other day sharing Hope and Charity, I reaffirm the position of the SSVP Council General International: you, Young person, are very important, this day was thought to remember, to celebrate the importance of the Youth for the entire structure of the SSVP.

We need young leaders, young people who take responsibility in the various Councils and Committees, young people who stand in favor of the Poor, young people who are weekly in the Conferences (physically or virtually) making the choice to change the reality of poverty for families in need. SSVP does not only need young people to report once a year, SSVP needs young people with a voice, with action, with courage, with boldness, with joy, with a commitment to continue the mission initiated by Frédéric Ozanam and his companions.

SSVP needs you, Young one!

I want to leave 4 pieces of advice for all the Vincentian Youth of the SSVP, so that they can fulfill their mission well every day:

I - Live the **Joy** that is characteristic of young Christians. (At the World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Pope Francis reminded us that the young Christian cannot be sad, he must live the Joy that flows from God's merciful heart).

II - Live the **Charity** that is so necessary for SSVP members. (Virtue chosen by our founders to achieve holiness).

III - Live the **Boldness** that belongs to the followers of Frédéric Ozanam. (Ozanam was a daring young man, who knew how to respond with courage and wisdom to God's call to care for the poor and to care for the Church).

IV - Live the **love of the Eucharist** that belongs to those who have Blessed Frassati as their patron. (Our life, our spirituality, our mission have meaning only within the Catholic Church, and the Eucharist is the center of the Church's life, and Frassati had a great love for the Eucharist and the Mass).

Let us live these 4 councils every day, so that we may succeed in our mission to renew the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and continue the work started by those 7 young people in 1833.



SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
COUNCIL GENERAL INTERNATIONAL

International Youth Committee

May Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, patron of Vincentian youth, intercede to God for each one of us, Young Vincentians of the SSVP, so that we may be healthy and willing to fulfill our mission of sharing Hope and Charity in everyone, today and forever.

Happy International Day for Young Vincentians!!!

**Hugs from the International Youth Committee of the Council General International
of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul**

Confreere Willian Alves
*International Vice President for
Youth Children and Adolescents*



CONCRETE GESTURES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES 2020



In the face of the Covid-19 Pandemic crisis, we want to encourage the actions and activities to celebrate the 4th of July to be virtual, in compliance with the recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO).

The activities can be carried out on the 4th of July, in the week or in the month of July, the important thing is that all the National and Superior Councils encourage the realization of activities to recognize the importance of the Youth in the SSVP.

Proposals (each Council will be able to adapt according to its reality):

- 1) Conduct virtual meetings, videoconference through applications such as Zoom, WhatsApp, Google Meet, etc., and in this meeting hold a moment of prayer, spirituality and meditation on the Word.
- 2) Promote a virtual chat about the importance of Youth in SSVP, Vincentian Talk Show, with questions and answers about SSVP, and publicize it on social networks.
- 3) Share Hope messages on social networks.
- 4) Share photos of happy moments with young Vincentians (even from other years).
- 5) Ask young people, children and adolescents to write letters and distribute to the elderly, families who have lost loved ones, health professionals, among others.
- 6) Promote, with a group of Vincentian musicians, "lives" through social networks.
- 7) Promote moments of Prayer and Sharing with the theme of Hope and Charity through social networks (Rosary prayer, Reflection, among others).
- 8) Promote virtual campaigns, associating Hope and Charity, to promote the SSVP, of the work of the conferences.
- 9) We are going to do an international virtual exchange: the National Youth Commission, will choose another Vincentian country, to send messages of Hope and Charity, so we will have young people from all over the world communicating and celebrating together.

Share your photos on the International Committee's social networks:

Facebook: SSVP Youth, Children and Teenagers International (@SSVPYouthCGI)

Instagram: @ssvpyouth_international

Email: cgi.ivp-youth@ssvpglobal.org



INTERNATIONAL PRAYER NETWORK - JULY 4, 2020

On this day we invite all young Vincentians to come together in prayer.

Make a private or group moment of prayer and reflection, asking God for the grace of a miracle and for the Holy Church to accept and consider Blessed Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam a Saint.

Through the intercession of Ozanam, we will ask for an end to the pandemic and healing all those who are suffering at this time.

Opening



“For the youth who thirst for love, I offer them charity” (Blessed Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam).

- Put intentions
- Set up a small oratory (if possible with the image of Blessed Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam)

Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Our Father
Holy Mary

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 112)

Happy is the man who fears the Lord.

Hallelujah! Happy is the man who fears the Lord and takes pleasure in his commandments. His offspring will be strong on earth: the posterity of the righteous will be blessed. In your home there will be abundance and wealth, your generosity will remain forever. For good the light shines in the darkness, it is the Gentle, the Compassionate and the Just. Blessed is he who sympathizes and lends and manages his business with righteousness. The just will never waver, his memory will remain forever. You will not have to fear bad news: your heart will be firm, trusting the Lord. His spirit is right and he will not be afraid until he sees the defeat of his enemies.

“I was never able to live without friends” (Blessed Frédéric Ozanam).



Prayer for Canonization Blessed Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam

Hoping for a miracle



Lord,
You made Blessed Frédéric Ozanam a witness of the Gospel, full of wonder at the mystery of the Church. You inspired him to alleviate poverty and injustice and endowed him with untiring generosity in the service of all who were suffering. In family life, he revealed a most genuine love as a son, brother, husband and father. In secular life, his ardent passion for the truth enlightened his thought, writing and teaching. His vision for our society was a network of charity encircling the world and he instilled St Vincent de Paul's spirit of love, boldness and humility. His prophetic social vision appears in every aspect of his short life, together with the radiance of his virtues. We thank you Lord, for those many gifts and we ask, if it is your will, the grace of a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. May the Church proclaim his holiness, as a Saint, a providential light for today's world!

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Closing

Do your thanks.
Sing a song that you like.

Pray Holy Mary 3 times, asking for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patron of the SSVP.



Eucharistic Liturgy

Review of the Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, the patron saint of the Vincentian youth

International Youth Day of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP)



Initial Remarks

In the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, there are friends and brothers, and as its founders grow older, it needs to be renewed by young members, who can bring audacity and creativity and come up with new ideas to serve the poor of today.

Today, July 4th, we commemorate the International Youth Day of the SSVP, to honour the memory of Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young Italian Vincentian who died at the age of 24, when he fell ill after visiting poor families.

Let us pray to the Lord that, through the intercession of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and Pier Giorgio Frassati, we may renew our commitment to the SSVP.

As we rise, we receive the priest who presides over this Holy Eucharist.

Collect Prayer

O Father, who gave Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati the joy of meeting Christ in faith and charity through his intercession, help us to spread the spirit of the blessedness of the Gospel amongst the people of today. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that the true fasting will be that which is not simply an activity of the body keeping a day of penance, but entails committing oneself to the plight of others. Shared suffering forges bonds of solidarity with people.

Let's listen with reverence and in silence.



First Reading (Isaiah 58, 5-11)

Book of the Prophet Isaiah

"5. Is this the fast I have chosen, a day for a man to deny himself, to bow his head like a reed, and to spread out sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast and a day acceptable to the Lord? 6. Is not the fast I have chosen to break the chains of wickedness, to untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free, and tear off every yoke? 7. Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, to bring the poor and homeless into your home, to clothe the naked when you see him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? 8. Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will come quickly. Your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. 9. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry out, and He will say, 'Here I am.' If you remove the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger and malicious talk. 10. [...] and if you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then your light will go forth in the darkness, and your night will be like noonday. 11. The Lord will always guide you; He will satisfy you in a sun-scorched land and strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (Psalms 112)

R. Happy the man who fears the Lord.

V. Alleluia! Happy the man who fears the Lord, who takes delight in all his commands. His sons will be powerful on earth; the children of the upright are blessed.

R. Happy the man who fears the Lord.

V. Riches and wealth are in his house; his justice stands firm for ever. He is a light in the darkness for the upright: he is generous, merciful and just.

R. Happy the man who fears the Lord.

V. The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honour. The just man will never waver. He will be remembered for ever.

R. Happy the man who fears the Lord.

V. He has no fear of evil news; with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; he will see the downfall of his foes.

R. Happy the man who fears the Lord.

Remarks on Second Reading

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul composed a sublime hymn about love. He depicts it as patient, obliging, detached, exonerating everything, believing in everything, hoping for everything, the everlasting love. Love is a gift of the Holy Spirit. This is how our charity should be.

Let's listen with reverence and in silence.



Second Reading (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

"1. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a ringing gong or a clanging cymbal. 2. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute faith so as to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3. If I give all I possess to the poor and exult in the surrender of my body, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4. Charity is patient, charity is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs. 6. Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the truth. 7. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8. Charity never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be restrained; where there is knowledge, it will be dismissed. 9. For we know in part and we prophesy in part [...]. 10. [...] but when the perfect comes, the partial passes away. 11. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I set aside childish ways. 12. Now we see but a dim reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 13. And now these three remain: faith, hope, and charity; but the greatest of these is charity.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Remarks on the Gospel

The evangelist Matthew portrays the beatitudes as the life plan for every follower of Jesus Christ. They are described as fundamental conditions each disciple shall comply with to be involved in God's plan. Whoever wants to live according to Jesus' plan will encounter difficulties and problems, but will have God's strength and the joy of living according to his redeeming Word. Stand up, sing the Alleluia chant and listen to the Gospel.

Gospel (Matthew 5, 1-12)

"1. When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain and sat down. His disciples came to Him [...]. 2. [...] and He began to teach them, saying: 3. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven! 4. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted! 5. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth! 6. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled! 7. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy! 8. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God! 9. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God! 10. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven! 11. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12. Rejoice and celebrate, because great is your reward in heaven; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets before you.

Word of Salvation!



Glory to God in the highest

Prayer of the Faithful

To each of the calls we will respond: ***“Through the intercession of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, O Lord, listen to us”***

1. *“Entirely immersed in the mystery of God and totally dedicated to the constant service of others: thus you can sum up your earthly life.” (St. John Paul II)*

For the Pope, the Bishops and the whole Church, so that they may bear witness to and defend the love of God and your neighbour. Let us pray.

2. *[...] I would like for us to pledge a pact which knows no earthly boundaries nor temporal limits: union in prayer. (Pier Giorgio)*

Because united in prayer, we can spread the Word that redeems all the people we meet over the course of our lives. Let us pray

3. *“Jesus pays me a visit every morning in Holy Communion, and I return the visit in the meager way I know how, visiting the poor.” (Pier Giorgio)*

O Lord, help us live the Eucharist as the source and summit of life, at the service of mankind. Let us pray.

4. *“With love, peace is sown among men [...]” (Pier Giorgio)*

So that we know how to be peacemakers. Let us pray.

5. *“But I am poor like all the poor. [...] And we have the duty of putting our health at the service of those who do not have it.” (Pier Giorgio)*

May the imprint of our faith be service to the poor, the weak and the downtrodden, the sick, the lonely and the hopeless. Let us pray.

6. *“Living without Faith, without a patrimony to be defended, without a steady struggle for truth, that is no living, but existing.” (Pier Giorgio)*

For us, young people, so that, following the example of Pier Giorgio, we can make courageous decisions that bear witness to our faith in life, truth, love and justice. Let us pray.

Prayer over the Offerings

Our Lord, we place these offerings upon your altar with the same spirit of love and genuine faith as Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. May our sacrifice, celebrating this Eucharist in purity of heart and love, be acceptable to You and leads us to eternal salvation, through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Post-Communion Prayer

O Lord, may we renew ourselves through the mysteries and follow the example of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, who served and loved the poor wholeheartedly, through Christ our Lord. Amen.