



"I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity"

Blessed Frederic Ozanam
Co-founder of the S.S.V.P.

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

International Confederation
of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Council General

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INTRODUCTION by the President General

Madam, Sir,

First, a few words, and a few numbers to introduce our organization.

1833: A group of young laypeople, inspired by several of them, among them the radiant Frederic Ozanam, and benefiting from the guidance and support of a mentor, Emmanuel Bailly who would become the first General President, founds the first “Conference” of Saint Vincent de Paul in Paris.

2007: The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has 50,000 teams (or Conferences) established in 141 countries.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is an international Catholic organization made exclusively of volunteer laypersons who serve in hope those who are in need, regardless of creed, ethnic background, gender, or opinion. The Society is defined through the personal contact to those who suffer; it is this personal contact that is the basis of the identity of all its Conferences. No work of charity is foreign to the Society (charity of proximity always, visits, interventions following disasters, development projects, special works). Its objective is to promote man’s dignity and integrity by testifying to the love of Christ, preferring person-to-person contact, and constantly adapting to the changing conditions of our times.

A lay and ecclesial organization at the same time, the Society respects the Catholic Hierarchy, but operates autonomously.

At the international level, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is united spiritually and administratively within the SSVP International Confederation (or Council General), presided by the President General. Elected by the Confederation member countries for a six-year term, the President appoints all the members of the International Structure, which is deliberately light. The principle of subsidiarity is widely applied.

The International Head Office is in Paris.

Here are what seem to be the highlights of 2007:

- The vitality of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, with three most important poles of work (Africa, Central Europe, and Asia), lies in an extraordinary enthusiasm in “southern” countries (for example, numerous children Conferences in Brazil).
- A particular attention towards Africa, a suffering continent, with the appointment of a specific Commission.
- The mobilization of young "Vincentians" of the world, one year before Sydney’s WYD.
- The special efforts in the fields of communication (an increasingly popular website that is continuously becoming interactive) and SSVP member training at the international level (the birth of a Foundation to help more needy countries in that particular domain).
- The beginning of a reform of the International Structure aiming to greater efficiency.
- The search for external financing towards international organizations, or specialized organisms.

With the strength of a widespread presence and a large number of members, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul plays a major, although discreet, role at the international level.



José Ramón Díaz-Torremocha

2007 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul around the world

The SSVP is present in 141 countries, distributed fairly evenly across the continents. Organised in about 50,000 local groups, called Conferences, more than 700,000 volunteers, men and women of all ages, are giving their time to help the poor. The Conferences gather under Councils. A Superior Council encourages and manages the Society in each country. Most of our volunteers live in Brazil (36%), the US (16%), India (8%), Australia (6%) and Zambia (3%). The Society is growing constantly. The first Conferences have been created in Iraq among other places. A central element of the expansion and stabilization process is our volunteer Service VinPaz. In 2007 Volunteers belonging to this service have given their support in Central America and East Africa with provision of intensive formation programmes. Since the end of 2007 the EU has been supporting mobility and training activities for our elderly volunteers.

In 2007 some 1000 new Conferences were established (2% growth), mostly in India (35%), Brazil (20 %), the Democratic Republic of Congo (17%) and the U.S. (11 %). 22 further countries have aggregated new Conferences.

The forceful implementation of the new statutes (adopted in 2005) has continued, especially with regards to limiting the term of service of senior officers. 80% of all National Presidents have not been serving longer than the agreed 6-year maximum term. Where exceptions had to be authorized, these have been discussed and then approved or disapproved by the Council General, under consideration of the particular regional and political needs involved.

Every six years the Confederation meets for a Regular General Assembly, the highest decision-making body, at which the National Presidents elect the President General. In between the sessions, the International Executive Committee is the responsible decision-making body, meeting twice in 2007. The International Board directs the Confederation on a day to day basis. It is based in Paris and consists of five officers, including the President General. The Board is supported by various Commissions as well as Special Appointees for important matters of the Society. Three manuals have been published in 2007, summarizing general issues of organisation, our international support system 'twinning' and the volunteer service 'VinPaz'.

In 2007 special efforts were made with communications and public relations. Our re-launched website publishes all important documents, news and press material in five languages (French, English, Spanish, Portuguese and Mandarin). The regular newsletter Confeder@tion News provides international news to the national bulletins of the SSVP. Additional press activities have been carried out together with different member countries.



Erich Schmitz

Members of the International Board :

President General : José Ramón Díaz Torremocha

Vice President General : Michael Thio

Deputy Vice President General in charge of the International Structure : Brian O'Reilly

Secretary General : Erich Schmitz

Treasurer General : Ian McTurk

Spiritual Advisor : Father Yvon Laroche, R.S.V.

Strategic Plan : Rigoberto del Rio Navarro

President African Commission : John Meahan

FINANCES

Below are income and balance sheet statements reports for the years 2006-2007 which show a clear picture of our present state situation. The International Council runs a structural deficit as most of its members providing its funding are mainly concerned with project financing aimed at poverty relief around the world.

IGC BALANCE SHEET 31/12/2006-31/12/ 2007 in €		
	Act 2006	Act 2007
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets at Cost	3.337.919	3.379.711
Accumulated depreciation	(175.061)	(227.632)
Net	3.162.858	3.152.079
Investments	1.805.499	1.323.678
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Inventory at Cost	133.823	135.000
Inventory Reserves	(67.082)	(112.046)
	66.742	22.954
Receivables SSVP	8.621	66.946
Receivables Third Parties	26.056	67.088
Other Receivables	0	(4.007)
Advances	(4.032)	2.936
Prepaid Expenses	17.553	26.658
Bank & Cash	126.354	208.916
	241.294	391.492
Total Assets	5.209.651	4.867.248
LIABILITIES		
Capital Reserves	2.000.000	2.000.000
	557.464	343.161
Period Result	(214.303)	(304.960)
Equity	2.343.161	2.038.201
Dedicated Funds	1.355.273	1.274.145
Personnel Fund	196.659	196.659
Funds	1.551.932	1.470.804
Loans & Interest SSVP	69.977	68.504
SEP SSVP	1.142.668	1.142.668
Special Financing SSVP	1.212.645	1.211.172
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Deferred Income	0	8.350
Payables Third Parties	43.714	60.301
Personnel	13.365	16.175
Social Security	40.298	46.481
Taxes	4.536	7.765
Accrued Expenses	0	8.000
	101.913	147.071
Total Liabilities	5.209.651	4.867.248

IGC INCOME STATEMENT 2006-2007 in €		
() = Expenditure or Deficit	Act 2006	Act 2007
IGC Revenues		
Contributions & Donations	423.463	563.875
Investments Gains & Losses	12.047	50.992
Rental Income	0	14.400
	435.510	629.267
IGC Expenses		
Personnel Cost	(313.461)	(387.617)
Travel & Meetings	(171.983)	(249.771)
External Consultants	(29.702)	(50.542)
General Office Cost	(140.687)	(150.093)
Depreciation	(57.560)	(63.443)
Cost Capitalised	0	16.744
	(713.392)	(884.722)
Publications	60	0
Commercial Activities	(607)	(41.257)
Non-Recurring Items	1.793	(10.208)
	(712.146)	(936.187)
Subsidies Received		
Subsidies Received - EU	0	90.000
Utilisation - Deferral Adjustment	0	(88.040)
	0	1.960
IGC Surplus / (Deficit) - normal activities	(276.636)	(304.960)
IGC Exceptional Items		
Building Proceeds Surplus	62.333	0
IGC Surplus / (Deficit) in Total	(214.303)	(304.960)
Fund Movements		
Donations Received	616.402	333.427
Fund Expenditure	(663.052)	(495.948)
Regular Expense Allocation	(2.877)	(6.646)
Balance-Sheet Reallocation	49.527	169.168
	0	0

MAIN ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTED BY THE COUNCIL GENERAL IN 2007	
Emergency	79,607 € In Africa, America, and Asia
Rehabilitation	288,049 € Reconstruction, access to drinking water, bread oven
Development	59,330 € Education, vocational training...

VOLUME OF ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTED BY SUPERIOR COUNCILS IN 2007 : 446,400,000 €

THE INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURE

The international nature of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul requires a structure that promotes close contact in the field, thus allowing good communication, fair appreciation of situations and needs, and efficient coordination of activities.

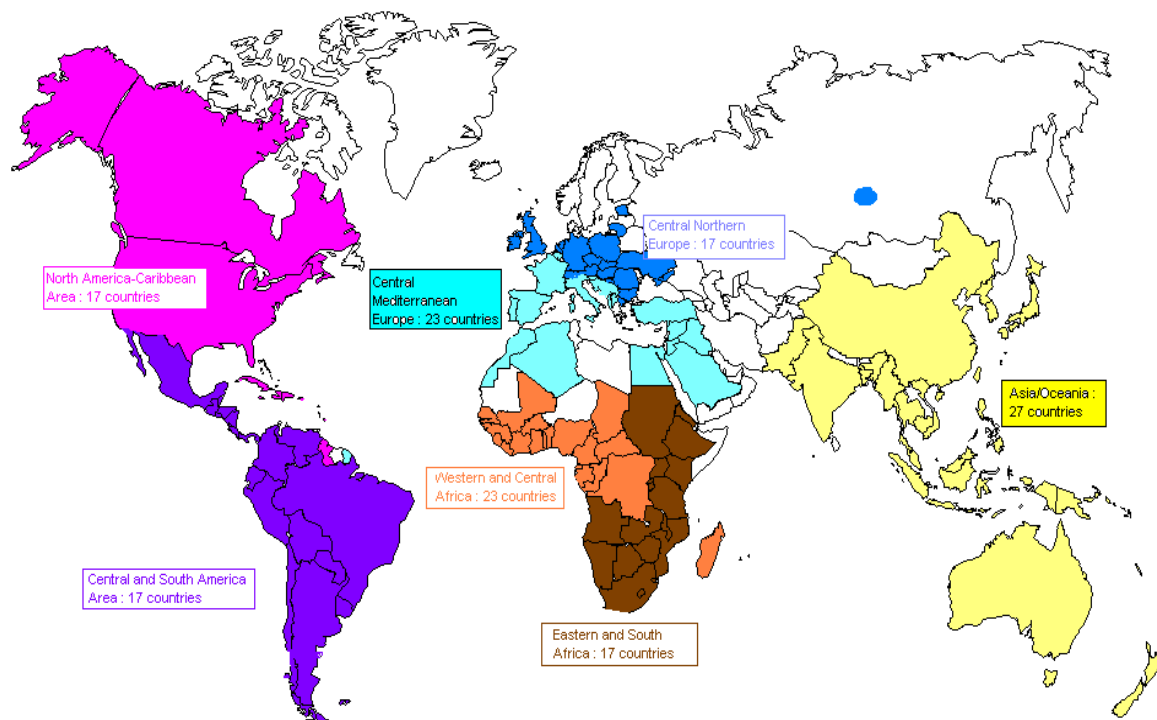
The Confederation's 141 countries are located in seven territorial zones, each of them administered by an International Territorial Vice-President (ITVP).

Each ITVP supervises a variable number of Coordinators, who have a very good knowledge of the Society at the local level.

The seven ITVPs are in direct contact with the Deputy Vice-President General in charge of the Structure, who is a member of the International Bureau.

Brian O'Reilly

Deputy Vice President General in charge of the International Structure



Presence of the SSVP in the world

Region	ITVP	Coordinators
Western and Central Africa	Pius O.Ehiagwina	3
Eastern and South Africa	Mike Nolan	3
North America – Caribbean	Eduardo Gomez	2
Central and South America	<i>Vacant</i>	3
Asia/Oceania	John Lee	4
Central Northern Europe	Alfons ten Velde	3
Central Mediterranean Europe	Marie-Françoise Salésiani-Payet	3

THE « NETWORK OF CHARITY » - A PHYSICAL REALITY

While each country is responsible for directly helping the poor in their own community, the International Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul responds to requests for support for development projects and organizes the Society's response to need throughout the world. This includes the allocation of funds for development activities and monitoring of the use of these funds as well as the coordination of the Society's international relief and emergency help in case of disasters.

Council General coordinates this work by means of several successfully established structures for its international work and assistance that in 2007 have again helped to ease the suffering of the poor throughout the world.

TWINNAGE

“Twinning” is the basic form of direct assistance and cooperation between the Society in the most developed countries and in the developing world. This direct link between two Conferences or Councils consists in sharing prayers, know-how, deep friendship and material resources.

Countries tend to twin with countries with which they have an historical, geographical or cultural link (Australia and New-Zealand are twinned with Asian countries, France and Belgium with French-speaking African Countries, every region in Ireland is twinned with an African English speaking country) but not only these: while England and Wales are twinned with India and Sudan, they also have twins in Romania, Grenada and Guyana.

“Twins” are usually the first to respond to international solidarity appeals in the event of natural disasters. For example, Australia and New Zealand have been very generous after India and Bangladesh were hit by floods last summer, strongly supporting CGI's efforts to assist the victims. Worldwide, there are thousands of twinning schemes: as an example, in 2007, 330 French Councils and Conferences sent more than 110,000 € to 23 countries, to develop projects in twinned countries or help Conferences to provide day to day assistance, and 2,295 Australian Councils and Conferences have this kind of relationship with 13 Asian and Pacific countries.

VINPAZ

“VinPaz” missions assist the development of the Society in areas where it is weak or non-existent, and strengthen its overall impact and response to need, through the commitment of international volunteers relocating to the country of operation for an extended period of time.

In 2007, VinPaz was active in 5 countries: the Superior Council of Zambia has benefited from a leadership training programme; and has been given full responsibility for a farm jointly managed for the past 4 years by VinPaz volunteers from abroad and Zambian Vincentians.

In Haiti, VinPaz has continued to support the National Council in training, project planning, and governance. In Ukraine, it has continued to advise at a Vincentian Family's project for street children (hot meals, medical assistance, day-care, etc.). In Cuba and Madagascar, VinPaz did the preparatory work for missions that could start in 2008 with the aim of developing the structure of the Society in these countries and improve its response to the poor.



AFRICAN COMMISSION

The International Confederation has set up two structures to address the urgent needs of the African continent: the “African Convention” focussing on structural development in French speaking African countries, and the “African Commission”, that will implement development projects over a period of three years.

The African Commission met twice in 2007. At the February meeting the Commission invited the national Presidents of the SSVP in African countries to themselves develop the types of projects they consider the most interesting for this body to support: *Training and development of the Society, Construction of multi-purpose centres, Agriculture, and Micro-credit* have been requested.



In September, a second meeting was held to approve the first projects and set guidelines to ensure their success and sustainability. 9 projects have been approved, totalling 163,114 € of direct aid.

The projects range from food production and agricultural projects in Zambia, Liberia, Madagascar and Senegal and craft production in DR Congo to the construction of a building in Nigeria providing temporary accommodation and rehabilitation for families or the supply of energy saving stoves in Eritrea, while Sao Tome and Principe set-up a SSVP training project to improve their service to the poor.

The work will continue in 2008, to implement projects already approved, follow up on their progress and approve new projects to be presented by other African countries. President of the African Commission is John Meahan.

Meanwhile, the African Convention, a joint work of CGI, France and Belgium, and French speaking African countries provided training courses to improve good governance, transparency and the efficiency of the national SSVP structure in different African countries.

TERRITORIAL TECHNICAL COMMISSION

The Territorial Technical Commission (TTC) is responsible for managing requests for financial help coming from the SSVP in developing countries for development projects and emergency assistance. It could well be, for the global outreach of the aid projects it supports, the most important of all Commissions of the Council General. This is why it is chaired by the Vice-President General Michael Thio, through explicit delegation of the President General,

In a “normal” situation, most of the projects reviewed by the Commission are development projects; they allow the Society to provide direct aid to the poor or to develop micro-credit schemes, to create jobs or income generating activities, to give access to education, or provide medical care.

Unfortunately, 2007 has been a terrible year in terms of natural disasters and wars, and this situation forced the Commission to mobilize its efforts and resources to alleviate the suffering of the victims: 86% of the funds spent by the TTC in 2007 were dedicated to emergency assistance and reconstruction or rehabilitation projects in favour of victims of natural or human disasters all over the world.

The funds allocated by this Commission come from donations in their great majority made by richer Vincentian countries that send these to the Council General to help in concrete situations of need. The Commission is monitoring the successful implementation of the funds it sends to countries in need.

Emergency situations:
Swift responses by Vincentians



When disasters strike help is needed immediately, even before any international material help can be given. The Vincentians in the affected regions always make themselves available immediately and start carrying out first aid work in terrible conditions in the hours immediately after the disaster happens.

CGI supports these activities by sending limited amounts of money to allow local Vincentians to bring immediate

on the spot help for the victims, before asking them to draft more detailed plans for their reconstruction work. In 2007, this has happened several times, resulting in the donation of more than 50,000 euros to 11 countries:

- April: Mudslides and floods in **Thailand**
- July/August: Floods in Africa: emergency assistance to **Mali, Uganda and Burkina Faso**
- August/Sept: Floods in **Bangladesh and India**
Earthquake in **Peru**
Floods in **Mexico**
Hurricanes Dean, Felix, Henriette in **Central America and the Caribbean.**
- October: Hurricane Noel in the **Caribbean.**



In all cases, this has allowed the local Vincentians to assist thousands of people with food, medicines, clothes or temporary sheltering; to deal with the emergency situation while beginning to evaluate the damage in order to draft longer term reconstruction plans.

Long term action



The main goal of Vincentian long term support after a disaster is to help the victims to get back to “normal life” as far as possible.

The first concern, in the cases of very destructive and damaging natural disasters is to put a roof over the heads of those who have lost everything. This was the case in the Philippines, after the 2006 typhoon Durian - 100

houses have been built for the victims, as part of a huge reconstruction programme undertaken by the Vincentian family, (the Daughters of Charity). Similar activities took place in Thailand, after floods and mudslides provoked by the monsoon.



Bangladesh was also affected by serious floods during summer 2007, and the SSVP has been able to work on the repair or reconstruction of houses in 5 villages, benefiting 500 families.

There was also a reconstruction programme after the floods that affected the region of Bihar, India, where the SSVP repaired 140 houses, and built 25 new ones.

Another example of the SSVP's long term investment in reconstructing infrastructure after natural disasters is to ensure access to drinking water after such networks have been destroyed: in Thailand, for example, the SSVP has built a water tank in affected regions, and in Bangladesh huge efforts were made on restoring wells as part of the reconstruction programme.

Man-made disasters

In 2007, CGI focussed its efforts on fighting the terrible aftermath of war in three countries. In the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo (especially in the Kivu and Katanga regions), Vincentians have organized missions to bring basic assistance to hundreds of families, including medicines, clothes and blankets and food distribution.

As for Iraq, the creation of first three SSVP Conferences in 2007 further highlighted the immense needs faced. CGI helped these newly arrived Vincentians to start their assistance work, distributing food, and providing health services to hundreds of families.



In Lebanon, the rehabilitation work after the war of summer 2006 continued. Supported by the International Confederation, a bakery started work, for the first time since the war giving access to bread for the entire region and thus helping to combat the exodus of population from the region. The project also creates jobs (from construction workers to bakers) and allows free bread to be distributed to the poor. In addition, it provides the local Society with some income from the sale of some of the production, which helps with other work in the region.

Development and Charity project

As Macedonia is a very recent Vincentian country with serious poverty and huge needs, its projects and efforts have received particular attention from the Council General through the Technical Commission. As well as funding a training course to help the local volunteers work efficiently within the Society's values, rules and spirit, two projects have been supported this year: a food distribution project and a project to combat domestic violence, through awareness courses, information and education.

In Russia, a country where the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is still in the very early stages, the TTC has supported several activities such as visits to elderly people in retirement homes, the supply of food and hygiene products, emergency assistance to desperate people and sporting activities for 30 children in the area.



In Jerusalem, the Conference has requested and obtained CGI's assistance to finance their vocational scholarship programme, providing young people who have not finished school with the opportunity to work for a diploma that will help them to find work in Jerusalem later on. This will help to avoid their emigration. Through a generous grant from a German organisation "Carol Singer (Kindermissionswerk)" the Jerusalem Conference can also expand its Kindergarten support program.

Education has also been the focus of a project supported in Turkey: with international help, SSVP Turkey helps children from poor families to go to school by paying for their fees, their meals and their transportation to the school.

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Vincentian Family

The Family has several clerical or secular “branches”, either founded by Saint Vincent de Paul, or finding in him their inspiration and engagement towards the poor. Let us name the Congregation of the Mission, the Daughters of Charity, the Religious Order of Saint Vincent de Paul, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, the International Association of Charity, the Marian Youth, the Association of the Miraculous Medal, the Lay Vincentian Missionaries /MISEVI, although that list is not exhaustive. Those different "branches" share and work together.

The Vincentian Family presented in 2007 a common project for a "Systemic Change" aiming to adapt interventions towards the most needy according to the modern world.

It has also launched an awareness campaign on water management.

The Holy See

Holy Father Benedict XVI has reappointed the President General of the International Confederation of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as member of the Cor Unum Pontifical Council.

In 2007, a delegation of the United States SSVP presented a report at the congress on the homeless organized by the Pontifical Council on Migrants.

At the beginning of December 2007, a delegate of the SSVP has participated, in Rome, to a Forum organized by the State Secretariat of the Vatican on behalf of 90 international Catholic organizations.

The SSVP website allows a direct link to the site of the Vatican and immediate access, for example, to Encyclicals.

SSVP and Religious of Saint Vincent de Paul: two branches of the Vincentian Family that have become closer since 2005.

A joint Committee has produced a document that highlights their common roots and particular charisma, reports on their current collaboration, and envisions the future in a very tangible way: a moral assistance project for youths and families that relies on the SSVP's international experience and that acquired by the RSV with their "Patros"

International Organizations

The SSVP has participated to the Conference of the International Catholic Organizations General Assembly in Paris, in July 2007.

The SSVP has obtained from the European Commission a subsidy of 300,000 EUR for a project aiming to improve the mobility, communication and training among its members in European Union countries.

All the above focuses on special projects. These are based on the tireless work of each of the Conferences worldwide, which year upon year, help millions of people throughout the world to survive terrible living conditions.