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Letter from the Preparatory Commission for the 2004 General Assembly to the Visitors of the Congregation of the Mission (Rome, 30 June 2002)

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**LETTER FROM THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION
FOR THE 2004 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO THE VISITORS OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION**

30 June 2002

Dear Father,

The grace of our Lord be always with us.

After having listened to the Visitors of the Congregation of the Mission at the meeting in Dublin (June 2001), and having received the responses to the consultation of 20 December 2001, the Superior General, with his Council, has proposed as the theme of the next General Assembly:

Our Vincentian identity today, having lived the new Constitutions for 20 years — an evaluation and three challenges for the future.

In the same letter, the Superior General has fixed the place and date of the General Assembly: Rome, 5-29 July 2004.

We, the members of the Preparatory Commission, met in Rome from 3-9 June 2002, in our first working session, to formulate some proposals which may help the Domestic and Provincial Assemblies to prepare for the 2004 General Assembly.

At this time, we are sending you the **CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**. We hope it will be useful in animating the Domestic and Provincial Assemblies. With the responses and reactions from each of the Provinces, the Preparatory Commission will draw up a **DOCUMENTUM LABORIS** for the 2004 General Assembly.

Along with the Consultation Document, we are sending you a CD which contains the articles published in *Vincentiana* (4-5/2000) under the title: "The New Constitutions: 20 Years of Existence." Using this format, your Provincial Preparatory Commission will be able to select articles which may help in deepening your study of the Constitutions.

We are also sending you: a Model for the Minutes of the election of Delegates to the General Assembly, and Guidelines for the presentation of Postulates to the General Assembly.

Upon receiving these documents, in accordance with the Norms of your Province, you should begin the preparation for the Domestic and Provincial Assemblies. We suggest that they be held between September 2002 and October 2003. The report from your province should reach the General Curia **on or before 30 October 2003**.

In addition to sending to the Secretary General all the documentation from your Provincial Assembly, we would appreciate if you would send also, by e-mail, the responses of your province to the Consultation Document, as an attached file, in Word format. This would facilitate the work of our Commission.

The celebration of the Assemblies constitutes a privileged moment “*to preserve and promote the spirituality and apostolic vitality of the Congregation*” (C. 135). We ask the Lord that these efforts bring about a more focused response to the challenges facing our Vincentian identity today, after having lived our Constitutions for 20 years.

With assurances of our prayer, we extend to you our fraternal greetings.

*John Sledziona Simão Valenga Manuel Ginete
Corpus Delgado Jorge Pedroza*