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Vincentiana, July-October 2004

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION
40th GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2004
FINAL DOCUMENT

Rome, July 29, 2004

My dear Confrere,

*May the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ
fill your heart now and forever!*

The document from the 40th General Assembly belongs to all of us. It began to see the light of day in the Domestic Assemblies of every house in every province. It took more definite shape in 51 Provincial Assemblies. A Preparatory Commission took what had been offered and crafted a *Documentum Laboris* for the 120 delegates of the General Assembly.

The document you have in your hands has been handled thoroughly by linguistic groups and continental groups. They have put their finishing touches on the document and yet it is still not finished.

What remains is for each province to put its personal stamp on the General Assembly document. How will your province look at the future in light of the Constitutions, the permanent reference point for our life and mission as Vincentians?

My challenge is simply this: take what belongs to all of us and make it more uniquely your own. Find a way to have this document play well in your province. Perhaps your Visitor and his council will begin the process to bring this document to full circle. Perhaps a province-wide meeting day could be organized, or regional meetings could be planned and chaired by the Visitor or by a member of his council. Since one size does not fit all, allow yourselves to be corporately creative. The matter of living our Constitutions and allowing ourselves to be formed and re-formed by them is too precious a treasure to be left hidden in a field. The 40th General

Assembly, your Visitors and your delegates, earnestly desire that this document challenge every confrere personally.

I invite each Visitor to share with me within the next two years the concrete results of the living out of this document in his province.

Your brother in St. Vincent,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Gregory Gay, C.M." in a cursive script.

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.
Superior General