Misevi

Statuti Internazionali
Missionari Laici Vincenziani

International Statutes
Lay Vincentian Missionaries

Estatutos Internacionais
Missionários Leigos Vicentinos

Estatutos Internacionales
Misioneros Seglares Vicencianos

Statuts Internationaux
Missionnaires Laiques Vincentiens

Famille Vincentienne Internationale
Familia Vicenciana Internacional
The Worldwide Vincentian Family
famvin

Rome, January 20, 2011

To all the members of MISEVI

May the grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts today and always!

In recent years MISEVI has been valued as a new entity in the Vincentian Family, an entity that has spontaneously arisen in different countries, among people with different cultures, but among people who share a common characteristic, namely, an enthusiasm and a generosity with regard to the task of evangelization and a desire to become present to those people who are most poor and disinherited and therefore most in need of the Lord's grace.

Representatives from all the countries with approved Statutes and representatives from other countries where lay missionaries have initiated their journey participated as full members in the General Assembly that was held in February, 2010 in Bogotá.

In said Assembly the task of revising our International Statutes was begun. This work was completed by members of a commission who together with the members of the International Coordinating Team were able to accomplish the work that was entrusted to them by the General Assembly.

The final text was presented to the Holy See and on November 25th, 2010 our Statutes were approved by the Congregation for Institutes of the Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

I invite you to receive these Statutes with great love because they represent the path that the Church officially offers us in order that we might be faithful to our charism. These Statutes ought to help each and every member of MISEVI to be witnesses to the gospel and servants in the midst of the world in which we live.

May Saint Vincent intercede on our behalf with the Virgin of the Miraculous Medal so that we might be assisted in going out to the encounter with her Son, Jesus Christ in the midst of those persons who are most poor.

Your brother in Saint Vincent,

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.
Superior General

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CONGREGAZIONE
PER GLI ISTITUTI DI VITA CONSACRATA
E LE SOCIETÀ DI VITA APOSTOLICA

Prot. n. P 53 - 2/99

(Translated from Spanish)

DECREE

The Association known as *Lay Vincentian Missionaries* (MISEVI), approved by the Apostolic See, is an international, public Association of the faithful who desire to share the charisma and the spirituality of Saint Vincent de Paul, the Founder of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity and whose proper statutes have been approved by the competent authority of the Church.

Recently, after a profound work of revision was carried out by a special commission at the request of the General Assembly of the Association, the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission has presented the new text of the Statutes to the Apostolic See and seeks their approval.

This Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, after a thorough examination, approves and confirms with this present decree the new text of the Statutes that were presented. The original copy, in Spanish, is preserved in our archives.

Not withstanding anything to the contrary.

Vatican, November 25, 2010.

Franc Cardinal Rodé, C.M.
Prefect

+ Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop Secretary

INTERNATIONAL STATUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LAY VINCENTIAN MISSIONARIES (MISEVI)

0.- BASIC PRINCIPLES.

0.1.- The Association of lay Vincentian Missionaries (MISEVI) endeavors to develop an organized presence of the laity in the midst of the *ad gentes* missionary undertakings of the Church, especially in those missions connected to the Vincentian Family. The relationship with the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity is spiritual, charismatic and collaborative.

0.2.- The primary end of the Association is one of support, especially morally or spiritually, and coordination of the adult lay missionaries. Obtaining funds for the accomplishment of missionary projects is a secondary aim.

0.3.- The Association has a missionary and Vincentian spirituality which includes the guidelines of the Church's Social Doctrine and is based on the specific virtues that Saint Vincent entrusted to the missionaries. The spiritual dimension of the Association will be developed in a separate document.

0.4.- This Association came into existence as a result of the development of the missionary dimension of the Vincentian Marian Youth Association, formerly known as the Association of the Children of Mary Immaculate.[1]

0.5.- Within the possibilities of each specific situation, MISEVI promotes contact and collaboration with the Vincentian Family, especially on the local level, that is, at the point of origin of the missionaries being sent forth and in the places of missionary service.

1. NATURE

1.1. The International Association of Lay Vincentian Missionaries (MISEVI) is a public association of the faithful, canonically erected by the Apostolic See according to the universal law of the Church. The Association is composed of lay men and women, baptized in the Catholic Church, who wish to share the charism and the spirituality of Saint Vincent de Paul, founder of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity and who adapt these realities according to their state of life.[2] Thus, the Association can possess, administer, and dispose of every form of goods and can engage in actions to defend its interests before every class of people, authority and jurisdiction.

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[1] This Association was approved by a rescript of His Holiness Pius IX on June 20, 1847 and July 19, 1850.
[2] Cf., Canon 303.

2. ENDS

2.1.- The Association has been created to encourage, facilitate, support and coordinate the missionary presence and labor of the laity in missions *ad gentes* [3] entrusted to or animated by the Vincentian Family.

2.2.- Among the ends of the Association are the following:

2.2.1. To offer human, moral, spiritual formational, and financial support to the missionaries bound up with the Vincentian Family through the sending forth of lay people who work in the missions and through material support for the different projects.

2.2.2. To be a channel of communion and exchange between the lay missionaries who form part of the Association.

2.2.3. To strengthen the spiritual life of the group and community sharing.

2.2.4. To support the collaboration and relationship of the members of MISEVI with the Vincentian Family of the place

2.2.5. To facilitate the communication of the lay Vincentians with their community of origin.[4] Said responsibility falls upon MISEVI on the national level.

2.2.6. To receive the missionaries when they return from their labor *ad gentes* and to offer them human, formational, spiritual and financial support in conformity with the Internal Rules of the Association.

3. SCOPE

3.1.- The Association is international in its scope.

4. THE SEE OF THE ASSOCIATION

4.1. The international see of the Association and its Permanent Secretariat is: c. Mar Báltico 6c, 28033, Madrid, España.

5. MEMBERS

5.1.- The Association is composed of lay Christian Vincentians who are preparing themselves to live in "ad gentes" mission lands, who live there or who have lived there, or who are joined in some other manner to the missionary work of the Vincentian Family.

5.2.- The members of the Association can be:

5.2.1. Members in formation: persons in the process of formation and vocational discernment. Each national group of MISEVI will determine the exact length of time

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[3] The III International Assembly accepted the concept" mission ad gentes" according to the way that this is expressed in 33 and 37 of Redemptoris Missio and in the Final Documento of the V Episcopal Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean, #375.

[4] "Community of origin" is understood as the local group, the parish and the diocese.

for this stage of formation and vocational discernment. Said time will be at least one year.

5.2.2. Full members: those who after a process of formation and missionary experience, request in writing of the competent authority to become full members. They accept the commitments of the Association and place their lives at the service of the mission.

In a celebration they receive the cross of MISEVI as a symbol of their consecration.

5.2.3. Each national group of MISEVI has the authority to define in their statutes the bonds and the type of support that their collaborators will give.

5.3.- Admission and withdrawal of full members

5.3.1. Those who aspire to become full members ought to be accepted in writing by their National Coordinating Team having first requested full membership.

5.3.2. Withdrawal in any form is defined by a request of the person, in accord with the norms of the church and as specified in the National Statutes.

5.3.3. The National Coordinating Team has the power to expel a member for a grave reason. In the case of expulsion of a full member this must be confirmed by the Director General.

6. COMMITMENTS OF THE MEMBERS

6.1.- **Members in formation** will make every effort to take on the attitudes and the way of life proper to an integral missionary preparation. They will also form themselves in a style of life proper to full members. As it attempts to provide the best possible formation, MISEVI will help to coordinate and set down the minimum requirements of this initial formation with highest quality possible.

6.2.- **Full members** will give maximum interest to collaborating with the ends of the Association. Specifically they shall endeavor:

6.2.1. To give themselves generously to the missionary tasks defined in the missionary commitment and in the community and pastoral plans, thus, living out a concrete commitment in the service/evangelization of persons who are most poor.

6.2.2. They will make every effort to deepen themselves in Vincentian spirituality: prayer life, reflection on their service in prayer, knowledge of Vincentian doctrine and Vincentian witnesses.

6.2.3. They will offer suggestions and initiatives in order to further the identity of the Association.

6.2.4. They will be willing to serve on the Coordinating Team of the Association.

6.2.5. They will live a communion of goods, placing in a common fund the financial fruits of their labor in the mission. This will be done according to the Internal Rule and the community plan in the area where one is sent.

6.2.6. They will preserve a concern for permanent formation and collaborate in the preparation of members in formation.

6.2.7. Full members, sent to the mission in a permanent and stable manner, will sign a contract with the Association. Said contract is renewable every three (3) years.

6.3.- **Collaborators** will make available the necessary information about the plans of the Association and will seek the good of the missions through prayer, the management of projects, soliciting financial contributions, social sensitization, contributing to the formation program and established fees. Collaborators can have an experience of service if they desire and request it.

7. ORGANIZATION

7.1.- Director General

The Association, autonomous and independent as a juridical entity, is bound up with the Vincentian charism and its spirituality. As such, it recognizes in these areas the supreme guidance of the **Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity.**[5] In addition to what is indicated in the present Statutes, the Director General of the Association has the competency:

7.1.1. To guide and accompany the living out of the charism and the missionary and Vincentian spirit.

7.1.2. To appoint, after previous consultation, the Advisors of the International Coordinating Team.

7.1.3. To confirm the election of the President and other council members that takes place during the General Assembly and the election of the Presidents that takes place during the various National Assemblies.

7.1.4. To propose possible commitments, areas of action and topics for study.

7.1.5. To receive the annual financial report of the Association.

7.1.6. To approve the National Statutes of MISEVI and any modifications of these statutes.

7.2. General Assembly

7.2.1. **The General Assembly** is the highest form of participation and governance of the Association. All its members have the right to speak and to vote.

7.2.2. The General Assembly will meet ordinarily every four years and extraordinarily at the request of the International Coordinating Team or at the request of one-third of the full members.

7.2.3. The ends of the Assembly are:

7.2.3.1. To review the progress of the Association.

7.2.3.2. To offer guidance concerning programs for future action.

7.2.3.3. To review the financial report and the budget.

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[5] In light of the Pontifical Rescripts granted by his Holiness Pius IX on June 20, 1847 and July 19, 1850, the superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity is the Director General of the Association of the Children of Mary Immaculate, now known as the Vincentian Marian Youth Association.

7.2.3.4. To elect, in a secret ballot, a president from among the full members. An absolute majority is required on the first two ballots. In the case that no one is elected, then the two (2) individuals who have obtained the highest number of votes will move to a third ballot and the one who obtains the highest number of votes will be considered elected6. The election of the president will be confirmed by the Director General.

7.2.3.5. The General Assembly, after presenting the possible candidates, will elect in successive ballots four lay members of the International Coordinating Team. Any full member of the Association and any member of the General Assembly can be elected. These elections will be done by secret ballot; an absolute majority is required on the first two ballots and a simple majority is required on the third ballot.

7.2.3.6. Members of the Assembly

With voice and vote:

a) By reason of their office, the Director General of the Association or his delegate and the members of the International Coordinating Team.

b) By reason of their office, the presidents of the National Coordinating Teams.

c) By election, one missionary, who is a full member, from every permanent community. This individual is elected, in a secret vote, by the lay missionaries of the same community. A simple majority decides the election.

d) By election, one full member for every ten members is elected in accord with the National Statutes.

With voice but not vote:

e) By invitation of the International Coordinating Team: members in formation, collaborators from the country where the Assembly is held and other groups and/or persons.

7.2.4. The Assembly will be considered validly constituted when, with the consent of the International Coordinating Team, it has been convoked by the President and two- thirds of its members are present. Decisions will be made by voting: an absolute majority is needed on the first ballot or a simple majority on the second ballot, with the exception of those matters for which the present Statutes establish the need for another type of majority.

7.3.- International Coordinating Team

The International Coordinating Team is responsible for the activities of the Association. Its members will act in accord with the Statutes, the Internal Rules, the Spirituality Document and the orientations of the General Assembly. It will give special attention to the pastoral and community plans of the missionary communities.

7.3.1. This team is composed of the President and four lay members. A Daughter of Charity and a Missionary of the Congregation of the Mission serve as advisors.

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[6] Cf., Canon 119.

7.3.2. The International Coordinating Team will assume internally the functions of secretary, treasurer and representatives in accord with the determinations of the President.

7.3.3. The International Coordinating Team will meet at least once a year. The President will convoke this meeting and set the agenda. A quorum (an absolute majority) is needed for a valid meeting and decisions are made by a vote of an absolute majority.

7.3.4. The members of the International Coordinating Team are elected or appointed for four years and can be renewed for two more terms of office. The term of office for the Daughter of Charity and the Missionary of the Congregation of the Mission will be flexible and adapted to the time needed for other functions of coordination that they might undertake in the Vincentian Family. They will serve for no more than twelve (12) consecutive years.

7. 3.5. The functions of the Coordinating Team are:

a) **President:** to animate and coordinate the life of the Association and to represent the Association in ecclesiastical and civil forums. The president will convoke and set the agenda for the meetings of the Team and after consulting the members of the Team will determine the distribution of the tasks of the secretary, treasurer and representatives. The President will also maintain contact with and accompany the missionary communities and will maintain relations with the other branches of the Vincentian Family and other missionary movements.

b) **Secretary**: will write up the minutes of the meetings and will maintain the archives and documents in order. The secretary is responsible for the correspondence and communication and any other tasks assigned by the President and the Coordination Team of the Association.

c) **Treasurer:** will prepare and present the budget, balance the books and prepare the financial report of the Association; the treasurer will be vigilant with regard to the financial situation of the Association and in accord with universal law and this Statute keep and guard accounting ledgers, open bank accounts together with the President and register the patrimony of the Association and watch over it.

d) **Representatives**: will substitute for the officials in their absence and will participate in the meetings of the International Coordinating Team and the General Assembly with voice and vote and will carry out any other tasks assigned them by the President and the Coordinating Team.

e) **Advisors:** Will animate the Association as reflected in number 0.1.

7.4.- National Associations

7.4.1. The approval of the Director General and the prior consultation of the International Coordinating Team are necessary in order to establish a National Association.

7.4.2. The National Association has its proper Statutes that are approved by the Director General in accord with Canon Law and the present International Statutes.

7.4.3. The National Statutes establish the particular norms that are seen as most

appropriate in that country for the organization of the members, the fulfillment of their rights and obligations and as well as the missionary labors that the Association proposes to accomplish.

7.4.4. The National President will be elected according to the determination of its proper Statutes. The election ought to be confirmed by the Director General.

7.4.5. The two Vincentian advisors (a Missionary of the Congregation of the Mission and a Daughter of Charity) are appointed according to the determinations of its proper Statutes. Their appointment ought to be confirmed by the Director General.

7.4.6. The election of the other officials of the Association is done in accord with the universal Church's Canon Law and its proper Statutes. The duration of said term of office is determined by its proper Statutes. The minutes of the election are to be sent to the International Coordinating Team.

7.4.7. The National President will inform the International Coordinating Team about appointments that are made on the national level.

8. FINANCES

8.1.- The Association is a non-profit entity; its goods are for the service of people who are poor. The normal form of collaboration is that of non-salaried volunteers, except for those situations approved by the General Assembly. Work relationships are not established with the members of the Association.

8.2.- The Association, together with the different social organizations and institutions with whom it collaborates, will help in providing sufficient financial resources so that each one of the lay missionaries, their spouses and children, can provide for their basic needs of food, housing, clothing, travel, recreation, health, and retirement in accord with the usual customs and the civil law in vogue in the missionaries place of work.

8.3.- The economic funds used in the Association can proceed from

- Contributions and donations from supporters or institutions,
- Fees from the members of the Association,
- Funds obtained from the work of the lay missionaries,
- Contributions from the institutions where the lay missionaries are serving,
- Subsidies from public or private entities,
- Other appropriate means.

8.4.- A special accounting process will be put in place for the purpose of reserving and capitalizing funds that will help defray the cost of insurance and also support the reinsertion of the missionaries into their country of origin; only missionaries who have more than three years as full members of the Association will be eligible.

8.5.- The International Coordinating Team is charged with establishing the criteria for financial arrangements and must be vigilant with regard to the correct application of these criteria. The treasurer will present an annual report to the Coordinating Team

which must approve said report. The International Coordinating Team is responsible for drawing up and approving the budget, reviewing balance sheets, and writing reports of the Association that will be submitted annually to the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity.

9. RELATIONS WITH THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY

9.1.- With regard to follow up and Vincentian formation of all the members of the Association, collaboration is necessary: collaboration of the Daughters of Charity and the Missionaries of the Congregation of the Mission as well as collaboration of the lay Vincentian Association or persons and institutions who share the Vincentian charism. This spiritual accompaniment will be encouraged primarily by the Missionary of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughter of Charity who form part of the Coordinating Team.

10. AMENDING THE STATUTES; MERGER AND DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

10.1.- The decision to amend the Statutes or merge the Association with others who pursue the same aims should be agreed upon in the General Assembly and require a majority of two-thirds of the valid votes. Before presenting this decision for approval by the Holy See, it must be ratified by the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity,

10.2.- With a majority of the two thirds of the valid votes in an extraordinary session and with the ratification of the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity, the General Assembly can petition the Holy See for the dissolution of the Association.[7]

10.3.- When the dissolution is approved by the Holy See, the funds that result from its liquidation will be given to a non-profit entity identified by the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Company of the Daughters of Charity and proposed to the General Assembly. Said entity will pursue ends similar to those of MISEVI and will have stated in their Statutes a similar clause that deals with dissolution. The Holy See always has the right to dispose of these goods in a different manner.

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[7] Cf., Canon 320.