**THE VOCATION MINISTRY TEAM IN THE PROVINCE OF SLOVENIA**

**CEVIM Assembly 2021**

1. **PRESENT SITUATION**

The Vocation Ministry team notes that the most convincing way to attract new religious vocations is an example of each individual who lives an authentic life in the midst of his everyday life. The lifestyle of each Vincentian is attractive only insofar he lives his own vocation to the fullest. That is the best way to testify for the Vincentian charism. As members of the Vocation Ministry team, we estimate that all our pastoral work so far has been indirectly oriented towards religious vocations – work in the parishes, work in the student dormitory, work with the youth, work with the homeless people, work with the sick and the disabled, spreading the message of the Miraculous Medal etc.

Zeal and authenticity at our work is the best testimony for the presence of God among us. A man with a name and a surname must always be at the forefront of all our efforts – our attitude towards him also reflects our attitude towards God. Only if people notice that a Vincentian is content and peaceful in his life and that he works with love despite all life's problems, they can be persuaded.

The Vincentians are concretely present in different branches of the Vincentian family, where we try to live the Vincentian charism. We also conduct spiritual retreats for various groups of adolescents (altar servers, confirmands, students), where it is especially important to spend time with young people and to share their concerns and problems. In the past, we have published a leaflet about the presentation of the Vincentians, we also have a website of the Province of Slovenia and a Facebook site dedicated to St. Vincent de Paul.

1. **LOOK INTO THE FUTURE**

As before, we will continue to pray for new religious vocations (»O hope of Israel«, the »Our Father« after the midday prayer) and have hours of prayer (every first Thursday or every first Saturday of the month). We wish to insist on what we've already been doing. Our pastoral work (including, among other things, also spiritual retreats for altar servers, youth and students) aims to be focused on the expansion of the Vincentian charism among young people. We want to be in direct contact with young people, we want to encourage them and accompany them. At the same time, it is also important to be in contact with families and to promote religious life in families

Our personal attitude needs to be genuine, in our endeavour for the good of a fellow man we will not close our eyes to sin. We strive to be witnesses of God in truth and love. Our goal is to be transparent and responsible in our human relations; in relations among confreres as well as in relations with other people we will engage for the truth and honesty.

It is highly important that we have a clear identity as members of the Congregation of the Mission. Our way of life must differ from the way of life of members of other religious orders and diocesan priests. As members of the Vincentian family, we will continue to strive for good relations and exemplary collaboration with other branches of the Vincentian family.