



## International Association of Charities - Vincentian Family

### **ACTING TOGETHER – AGAINST ALL FORMS OF POVERTY**

AIC UK is part of the 150,000 strong International group of, primarily, women whose spirituality is rooted in Vincentian tradition. Begun in 1617 by St Vincent De Paul, the Confraternities of lay volunteers help the disadvantaged in society. Groups became the Ladies of Charity – a name that many countries still use today under the AIC umbrella.

Groups in ABBEY WOOD, BEXLEY, DARLINGTON, GLASGOW, MILL HILL & PECKHAM. **Contact AIC UK: [info@aic-uk.org.uk](mailto:info@aic-uk.org.uk) *NEW CONTACT EMAIL***

**[This email address is linked to our website; aic-uk.org.uk](http://aic-uk.org.uk)**

### **VINCENTIAN FAMILY SYMPOSIUM. ROME OCTOBER 13-15 OCTOBER 2017**



***AIC UK WERE OUT IN FORCE AT THE SYMPOSIUM! We were among 11,000 other Vincentians! Enjoy this snapshot of our experience!***



Rome on any visit is a sensory explosion of history, culture and Italian food washed down liberally with a fragrant Frascati from the local Alban Hills. Rome for the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Vincentian Family beginnings was exhilarating and inspiring, and we return refreshed, renewed and invigorated determined as Fr Dennis Holtsneider CM exhorted us to “work smarter” because “the poor deserve more than good-hearted amateurs. They deserve experts”.



With 3 truly excellent speakers at the Friday conference, we gained much from Fr Dennis and Sr Peggy O'Neill SC received a standing ovation for her exploration of the Trinity and when she asked us to remember *"Vincent and Louise instructed all of us, the Vincentian family, to ask forgiveness of those receiving our help.....receiving our love. How well they knew that the "giver is the getter and the getter is the giver"!* It really was ...it truly is...love touching love." We also enjoyed seeing our UK SVP family friends as well as 4 Daughters of Charity from UK and 4 from Ireland. Our banner was seen!



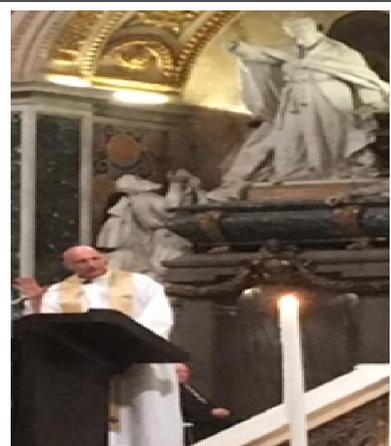
Love needed to be in full force leading up to the Symposium. As the numbers rose, those of us in the Vincentian Family Office "back office" became very busy and more "Crew" were enrolled to process what became 11,000 Vincentian pilgrims for the 3 day Symposium joined by 3,000 more for the Saturday audience with Pope Francis. When I shook his hand, it was more his kindly, knowing eyes that made most impact.



We worshipped in wonderful Rome churches, paraded with 154 flags of countries where we 2 million members of the Vincentian Family serve, and we wore our yellow pilgrim scarves with pride; calling out to each other in the street in myriad languages.



Pope Francis prayed for quite some time in front of the Heart of St Vincent which had been carried up the ramp in front of us. ***The relic will come to the UK in 2019.***

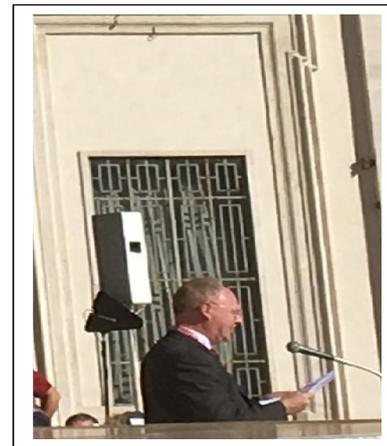


#### OUR HERITAGE & OUR FUTURE

Fr Joe Agostino CM preached about our devotion to the Miraculous Medal.

Mark McGreavy spoke about our mega-project to end homelessness by 2030 –

**FAMVIN Homeless Alliance.**



At the very end of the last Mass, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, & 25<sup>th</sup> successors to St Vincent de Paul, our past and present Superior Generals Frs. Bob Maloney, Greg Gay and Tomas Mavric CM.

*We mustn't squander what we have gained with this experience.* As Fr Tomaz Mavric said in his closing homily **"now we must water, nourish and trim the tree so that it can flourish"**.

*Dee Mansi. President AIC UK*