



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)**

**AUTUMN**



**NEWSLETTER 2018**

**Autumn and God in everything.**

Recently, I have been reading Fr Richard McCullen's inspiring book called 'Deep Down Things' from talks which he gave to the Daughters and Priests of the Mission. A chapter heading interested me, '*Hidden with Christ in God*', and on reading it, found it was about St Catherine Laboure, the Daughter of Charity who was privileged to receive several beautiful apparitions of Our Blessed Lady.

As this month of November celebrates the feast of the 'Miraculous Medal' and of St Catherine Laboure, I would like to share a few thoughts from Fr Richard's book.

Catherine lived her life "*hidden with Christ in God.*" (Colossians 3:3) At the end of the book by Fr Laurentin on St Catherine, he sums up her sanctity in this phrase: "*God in everything,*" and also "*everything in God*" and "*everything for God.*" This programme of sanctity was not devised by Catherine, but came from the virtue of Simplicity advocated by St Vincent – "*acting with God alone in view.*"

Catherine was not canonised solely because she was blessed with seeing of Our Lady with her eyes, but because she saw God with her spiritual eyes. After Catherine died, one of her companions said, "*Her pure and limpid gaze looked only to God.*"

As we come to the feasts, we would do well to remember, that Catherine was a saint of 'silence'. Our Lady had told her "*You will have much to suffer, but come to the foot of the altar. There you will receive all the graces you need.*" "*You will have much to suffer...*" She had, as there were many misunderstandings in her life where she had to 'bite her lips' and be silent. No doubt too, she had to bite her lips in order to keep her secret of forty-four years, that she was the instrument Our Lady had used to have the Medal struck.

On the day before she died, her Sisters asked her to tell them anything about the Blessed Virgin. Catherine replied: "*The rosary must be said better...The Immaculate Conception must be honoured and that purity, of which it is the most beautiful symbol, must be dear to our children... Did she (Our Lady) not promise: I shall grant special graces every time that people pray in the Chapel of the rue du Bac, especially for an increase of purity, that purity of the spirit, of the heart and the will which is pure love?*" May St Catherine obtain for us all that purity of heart, of mind and of body, which is pure love.

*(With grateful thanks to Fr Richard McCullen C.M., RIP, for sharing his wonderful words with us all.)*

**St Catherine Laboure, pray for us.  
O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.**





## AIC BEXLEY

Saturday Friends' summer outings with The Passage clients were successful again this year.

Among places visited were; West Malling and Worth. Photo is some of our members and clients visiting Minster.



**UNESCO & UNITED NATIONS DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD.** Elspeth Robinson, AIC Darlington, Great Britain photo of her work in Uganda. Reported at UNESCO, Paris during 11th October Day of The Girl Child. The slide in French about reusable menstruation pads means girls can go to school. This was presented by the AIC NGO Isabelle Chaperon who is one of the team of NGOs in UNESCO, Council of Europe, Crescendo and UN that Dee co-ordinates for AIC Executive.

It was a great thrill to see one of our members projects showcased here!

***So, our local, national and international justice work does have an impact!***

## ST VINCENT'S FEAST DAY ANNUAL MASS FOR VINCENTIAN FAMILY



29<sup>th</sup> September at the Carfin, Scotland Marian Shrine.

Dee Mansi as Chair of the Vincentian Family GB accompanied Vincentian Family Office Sr Marge Clifford DC (Philadelphia USA) on a tour Great Britain. She met with the AIC, Vincentian Family Mass organisers; AIC Rosaleen Glancy & Liz Anne O'Hare



Sr Marge heard AIC Peckham Agat Njoku explain project work in London from where they had travelled to Carfin! The Mass was "signed" by deaf Vincentian Family members, the Rendu Choir. Celebrant Fr Fergus Kelly CM challenged us to break out of any complacency we might have in mission. We were all "piped" out of church, and Sr Marge and I were treated to a lovely fish n chip supper with the Daughter of Charity, Lanark. We also managed to squeeze in a few hours down the motorway to AIC Darlington to attend their meeting and hear of their projects including their work with ABLE.

***AIC DIPLOMA – Supported by Christine Crump; Agat, Alice and Harriet from AIC Peckham are the latest AIC Diploma students. Darlington AIC are starting together, with Dee Mansi, in early 2019 and Helen has already started reading through Module 1.***

***HAVE YOU SEEN THE AIC INTERNATIONAL TRAINING ON TRAFFICKING?***

***See the 3 Training Reflections I sent to you in the past 3 months. VERY IMPORTANT***

***SAVE THE DATE! RETREAT DAY – 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018 – PROVINCIAL HOUSE, MILL HILL – WATCH THIS SPACE FOR MORE INFORMATION.***

Dear AIC Sisters, as we move towards the feasts of All Souls and All Saints may we remember with affection all those who have passed from this life. We are all called to be saints! Although tried and tested, in among our own frailties, let us forgive ourselves and others. Our Vincentian charism asks that we encounter Christ in each other one by one, and it is in this connection we can change the world for us all!

*Love and blessings, Dee Mansi. President. AIC UK*