



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 [NEW CONTACT EMAIL](mailto:info@aic-uk.org.uk) .This email address is linked to our website; aic-uk.org.uk

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

A short Reflection for the great Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Sr Bernadette Ryder DC. AIC Spiritual Advisor.

'Reverend Father, By the mercy of God, we have heard Mass every day...'

These words were the opening words of Madame Goussault in a letter to Saint Vincent of 16th April 1633 which recounted a trip she made. Madame Goussault was one of the first Ladies of Charity, a dear friend of St Louise and who was with St Louise when she died. Her daughters in law were also Ladies of Charity. Her letter to Saint Vincent indicates how fervent and full of enthusiasm she was in spreading the Gospel amongst the people she met.



This letter brings to the fore how she was – on this trip – constantly in the Presence of God. At the beginning of the journey she prayed: 'In viam pacis, In the way of peace'. She would remind those with her of the points of prayer, say the Angelus, chat about the thoughts they had during prayer, apart from more entertaining conversation. She encouraged spiritual reading and two of the girls on the journey with her would sing the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus with the rest of the group responding. They would greet the Guardian Angel of the village they were passing through, and in the village where they were to stop, would ask particular assistance from Our Lord. She prayed the Our Father with some little children after chatting with them, which did away with the slight sadness she had the morning of her departure. When the clock struck the hour, they would say a Hail Mary, placing themselves again in the presence of God and asking for the accomplishment of His holy Will.

The letter goes on for many pages, and one can only be struck by her never waning enthusiasm for prayer and to listening with encouragement to those whom she met and offering them counsel.

For us today, life is very different as we know. But when we have a deep faith, are prudent and know the right time to offer a prayer or counsel, then it can only bear fruit, like that of Madame Goussault.



The Leadership Team. LtoR, Harriet, Naomi, Dee, Jo, Shanti, Sr Bernadette, Sheila



Dear Friends, may I take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself, and to provide some early thoughts on why I am so excited about working with all of you in the coming months. As some of you may know, I joined AIC in 2010 and what a joy to know I am part of an organisation that does so much for the world and has so much more to do for our poor brothers and sisters across the world.

I am originally from Nigeria and have residence in the UK for 24yrs. After graduation, I started my career in business and IT and sometime in 2005 changed career into the health service where I worked for 13 years before branching out to start my own business in health and social care in 2017. I am a hard worker but do try to relax every now and again with friends and family by going out for a meal or parties. Apart from my local AIC obligations, I love my role as a catechist and member of the choir in my church.

As a newly elected president, I am grateful for all your support and the wealth of experienced people around me to guide me on this journey and I really look forward to doing my best. We are all members of a great and forward thinking organisation and it is my wish that we will all show our commitment in our various wonderful projects and groups to foster the AIC agenda and attract new members through our good works.

I look forward to visiting everyone in the near future, Love and Blessing. Jo

Every blessings for the next two years! You have a strong team with you, and all our members are grateful you said "Yes" to leading us forward in our continuing work for people who live on the margins of society. Enjoy your first International experience in Strasbourg in June, and we will be very happy to send you off with our love, after our first Leaders Meeting on 8th June 2019.

God bless,

Dee Mansi