

Part II. Institutes and Associations

Chapter 3.

Catholic Institutes of Consecrated Life

And

Societies of Apostolic Life

1.1 Institutes founded by Vincent de Paul.

FRANCE

1.1-FRA.625.22

Congregation of the Mission

(Lazarists or Vincentian Fathers and Brothers)

Founded 1625 in Paris, France, by Vincent de Paul (1581-1660, canonized 1737) with the collaboration and financial support of Françoise Marguerite de Silly, Madame de Gondi (1580-1625) and her husband, Philippe Emmanuel de Gondi (d. 1662), the Count of Joigny and General of the Galleys of France, in order to evangelize the rural poor. The initial apostolates included preaching missions as a means of evangelizing in rural areas and formation of the clergy through seminary education. The first missionary thrusts were to Madagascar and the British Isles. The first motherhouse was the Bons-Enfants (1625-1632), the second was Saint Lazare (1632-1792), the third is at 95 rue de Sèvres where the relics of Vincent de Paul are enshrined. The institute received papal approval from Urban VIII in 1633.¹ Approxi-

¹AP, 1449; DIP, s.v. "Congregazione della Missione" 2: 1543-51; "San Vincenzo de' Paoli" 8: 953-54; Jean Gonthier, C.M., "La Congrégation de la Mission," *La Tradition Vivante: Saint Vincent Aujourd'hui Comme Hier. Album Officiel Quatrième Centenaire* (Paris, 1981), 15-17; Henry Daniel-Rops, "The Great Foundations: The Missions," *The Church in the Seventeenth Century*, trans. J. J. Buckingham (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1963), 17-24. According to John W. Carven, C.M., there were several unsuccessful attempts by different communities to unite with the Congregation of the Mission during Saint Vincent's lifetime. These involved the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament, a community from Orvieto (1652), and a community from Naples (1658). See CED, 1: 156, n. 1; 2: 580, n. 1; 582, 662, 677; 4: 1312; and 7: 2712.



Common Rules of the Congregation of the Mission

mately 4000 members serve in eighty countries. Its members are known by various names in different countries: Vincentian Fathers and Brothers, *Lazaristes*, *Padres Paúles*, and *Padres Paulinos*. (Generalate: Via dei Capasso, 30; 00164 Rome, Italy.)

1.1-FRA.633.22

*Company of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul,
Servants of the Sick Poor*
(Grey Sisters)

Founded 1633 in Paris, France, by Vincent de Paul (1581-1660, canonized 1737) and Louise de Marillac (1591-1660, canonized 1934) in order to serve the poor. This institute developed from the parish based Confraternities of Charity and became the first successful institute of uncloistered religious women serving in the active apostolate. As

such, the *Common Rules of the Daughters of Charity* became a prototype (see L-1.1-FRA.617.22). The rule developed by the cofounders was first explained to the sisters on 31 July 1634 and refined on the basis of the lived experience. Saint Vincent invited the sisters to sign the *Act of Establishment of the Company* on 8 August 1655. However, Saint Vincent's immediate successor as superior general, Reverend René Almérás, C.M. (1613-1672; superior general 1661-1672), reorganized Saint Vincent's original text, which was a series of articles, and arranged them into chapters.² Almérás also included some teachings of the founder that had not yet been published. This edition was in effect 1672-1983 and became commonly known as the rule of Vincent which other founders adopted. In imitation of Saint Vincent's first Daughters, whom Vincent called his "good country girls," many communities carry the title "Sisters of Charity" and adopted a similar habit. The



Seventeenth-century Daughter of Charity
of Saint Vincent de Paul of Paris

²Vincent de Paul remarked in the conference of 18 November 1657 that the rules (published in 1655) contained forty-three articles. See the text in *CED*, 10: 363 or in *Conferences to the Daughters of Charity*, 4: 3. See also Chapter 1, "Design and Methodology," note 7.

original habit was grey with a large white *cornette* (peasant head dress). Following the French Revolution when the habit was regularized (after temporarily wearing black), blue-grey was adopted towards the end of the nineteenth century. The institute first received ecclesiastical approval by the archbishop of Paris in 1646, but the first approbation, together with the royal letters patent were inexplicably lost. Cardinal de Retz, archbishop of Paris, gave his approval on 18 January 1655.

The statutes of this institute were confirmed in the name of Pope Clement IX by his legate, Cardinal Louis de Bourbon, duke de Vendôme, on 8 July 1668. Vincent de Paul had modified these statutes at the insistence of Louise de Marillac so that the Daughters of Charity would be under the perpetual direction of Vincent and his successors as superior general of the Congregation of the Mission. At its motherhouse are enshrined the relics of Saint Louise de Marillac and Saint Catherine Labouré, D.C., (1806-1876, canonized 1947) in the chapel of the Miraculous Medal. Approximately 27,000 Daughters of Charity serve in eighty-three countries.³ (Generalate: 140 rue du Bac; 75340 Paris, Cedex 07, France.)

1.2 Institutes which adopted the *Common Rules* of Vincent de Paul or substantially incorporated major principles into their rule.

AUSTRIA

1.2-AUS.823.1.11.3

Sisters of Charity of Zams

(Sisters of Mercy of Saint Vincent de Paul)

Established 1823 at Zams in Tirol, Austria, from the Strasbourg foundation (see 4.1-FRA.734.3.11F) by Reverend Nicolaus Tolentin Schuler (1756-1831) who had sent his niece, Caterina Lins (Mother Josepha Nicolina, d. 1836), to Strasbourg for formation. She returned with the rule with which the institute began. At the insistence of Emperor Frederick I, the *Common Rules of the Daughters of Charity* of Paris were adopted in 1835. (In 1844 all sisters in that area adopted the rule of Vincent de Paul.) Their mission includes pastoral ministry,

³AP, 1616. DIP, s.v. "Figlie della Carità di San Vincenzo de' Paoli" 3: 1539-48; "San Vincenzo de Paoli" 8: 953-54; "Luisa de Marillac" 5: 764-68; Blandine Delort, D.C., "La compagnie des Filles de la Charité," *La Tradition Vivante*, 18-19; *Grand Larousse Encyclopédique*, "Filles de la Charité; Soeurs de la Charité," 3: 994.

Chapter 4.

LAY ASSOCIATIONS

1.1 Institutes founded by Vincent de Paul.

FRANCE

L-1.1-FRA.617.22

Confraternity of Charity

The first foundation by Vincent de Paul. It was a model of social ministry based on the experience of the first Confraternity of Charity (for women) founded 1617 at Châtillon-les-Dombes (Châtillon-sur-Chalaronne) in France. Louise de Marillac worked with parish based Confraternities of Charity for women whose members became known as the Ladies of Charity. The Company of the Daughters of Charity had its genesis in the Confraternities of Charity and the experience of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise in forming their first servants of the poor, including Marguerite Naseau, the first Daughter of Charity. In 1620 a Confraternity of Charity for men was established at Folleville in the diocese of Amiens. The Confraternities of Charity for men seem not to have survived the French Revolution, but Frederic Ozanam later revived the concept (see L-1.1-FRA.634.22 and L-3.2-FRA.833.22). The Teams of Saint Vincent (Equipes Saint Vincent) which are active in France trace their origin to this institute.¹

L-1.1-FRA.634.22

Ladies of Charity

(International Association of Charities of Saint Vincent de Paul, AIC)

Established 1634 at the Hôtel-Dieu of Paris in France by Vincent de Paul as a development of his pattern of establishing Confraternities of Charity to meet local needs. It was the first special association by the name Ladies of Charity, and was directed by Vincent de Paul.² Their

¹DIP, s.v. "S. Vincenzo de' Paoli" 8: 953-54; Rapley, *Dévotés*, 84-90; Jean-Pierre Renouard, C.M., "Châtillon: les Charités," *Vincentina*, nos. 4, 5, 6 (1987): 629. See also Coste, *LW*, 95-114, and *La Tradition Vivante*, 24-25. Rybolt, "From Life to Rules" 174-75.

²Rapley, *Dévotés*, 84-90.

mission is to imitate the Divine Savior in visiting the poor, particularly the sick poor, and in bringing them corporal and spiritual nourishment. Since 1971, as a result of Vatican II, a movement to renew this lay organization began in order to align Vincent's spirit of service with contemporary needs. Approximately 250,000 members are organized in forty-two national associations.³ (Headquarters: rue Joseph Brand, 188; 1030 Brussels, Belgium)

1.2 Institutes which adopted the Common Rules of Vincent de Paul or substantially incorporated major principles into their rule.

SPAIN

L-1.2-SPA.911.0

Instituto Teresianas

(Institute of Saint Theresa or Teresians)

Founded 1911 at Oviedo in Spain by Saint Pedro Poveda Castroverde (1874-1936, canonized 1993). The mission of the institute is Christian education and teaching at all age levels, regardless of class or nationality. The aim is to blend action with contemplation under the patronage of Theresa of Avila. This lay secular institute follows the *Common Rules* of Saint Vincent de Paul, makes vows on 25 March and wears a large Miraculous Medal. The founder quotes Vincent de Paul regarding the secularity of his group, emphasizing that they are not religious. The founder had collaborated with a Reverend Tarín and a Reverend Manjón. This secular institute came to the United States in 1961.⁴ (Generalate: Via Monte Pramaggiore 8; 00141 Rome, Italy.)

³DIP, s.v. "San Vincenzo de' Paoli" 8: 953-54; "Luisa de Marillac, santa" 5: 764-68; Christine Crump, Vincentian Association of England, 27 September 1993, Survey S-89, VSI Family Tree Project; *La Tradition Vivante*, 5: 22-25; Michel Lloret, C.M., "The Vincentian Laity," *Echo*, no. 7 (July-August 1988), 306-16; Dodin, *Vincent de Paul and Charity*, 70-71; "Life of the Company, Official Action," *Echo*, no. 10 (October 1991): 375; Cándida Quiñones, D.C., to Betty Ann McNeil, D.C., 29 August 1993, Santurce, Puerto Rico; "Purpose and Spirit," *Manual of the Ladies of Charity of the United States* (Saint Louis: ALCUIS, 1985), 5.

⁴Gueisa Dorado, Teresian Institute, 10 December 1993, Survey S-96, VSI Family Tree Project; DIP, s.v. "Poveda Castroverde, Pedro" 7: 196-98; "Istituzione teresiana" 5: 152-56.