



## Short presentation on the evaluation of the Inter-Assemblies Document of 2015

The Provincial Assemblies of 2020 identified the points of the Inter-Assemblies Document of 2015 that should be kept and developed in the Company as a whole. In preparing the synthesis of these points, the responses have been presented in the form of a conference that St. Vincent could have given to the Daughters of Charity of the 21st century. The synthesis commission liked to symbolize the unfinished commitment of the last Assembly with the image of a familiar sculpture in Chartres Cathedral depicting the creation of Adam, called by some “the unfinished creation”.

### **What has been done already**

We have eagerly taken up the challenge to be bold and to dare to become more authentic servants at the peripheries of society, in particular with migrants, with people who are being trafficked, and with those who are homeless and we have consistently sought to do this in collaboration with others. However, there is always more and this morning we are reflecting on the ‘not enough’, to identify which actions and attitudes we still need to pursue and develop, ensuring a seamless transition from ‘Boldness’ to ‘Ephata’.

### **‘What should be kept and developed?’**

We can look at the answers to the 3 questions

**Q 1. The local communities' spiritual, missionary and community life. What needs to be energized?**

You highlighted the convictions that a personal relationship with Christ is the foundation of our entire life; that faith is the foundation of local community relationships and that open and welcoming communities will enhance the service of the poor and attract and draw others. From these convictions you underlined the desire *to continue to develop loving local communities, with greater commitment to praying and sharing together.*

**Q 2. 'What do we need to do in order to be even closer to those who are truly poor?'**

Your responses made it clear that you wish to continue *to abandon a life style that can be an obstacle* to being closer to those who are truly poor, by revising budgets and spending in line with 'poor', 'modest', or 'simple' realities. You also desire *to deepen inner strengths* such as a servant attitude, a sense of belonging, availability and authentic fraternity. This could lead to reorganizing local communities or creating new experiences to keep the charism fresh and relevant. You recognise that *more effort in on-going formation* is needed, to revitalize the heritage and spirit of the Company.

**Q 3. Coordinate efforts: modern forms of slavery/multiple types of poverty?**

There is a powerful desire and determination *to increase networking at all levels and to collaborate in 'common projects' alongside others and particularly within the Vincentian Family*, which will include using modern techniques and technology. This might mean establishing more inter-provincial initiatives, projects and local communities, particularly at 'crucial points of immigration'. There is energy *to create new places, and to welcome new challenges, new directions and new paths* - including paying attention to the latest poverties emerging from Covid19.

There is also a commitment to develop further *the service of advocacy* – to improve discernment so as to be able to denounce, 'defend rights', 'speak out against' injustices. One way you wish to do this is by deepening the Company's involvement at the United Nations.

Again, you underline the importance of *formation* – to welcome and form new servants of the poor, and to create effective continuing formation opportunities, leading from mere utilization of others' resources or efforts to the formation of faith-based bonds with lay people.

The Company's continuing commitment to collaboration, will find clearer expression in the ways we will live 'Ephata'.