



## 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 Dee Mansi, UK President - [deemansi@hotmail.com](mailto:deemansi@hotmail.com)**

***May you have a wonderful Advent – that special preparation time leading up to Christmas. In our Vincentian and AIC world, there is lots to celebrate! We've also got lots to look forward to in 2017!***

**FEAST OF THE ST CATHERINE LABOURE – 28<sup>th</sup> November.**



**AIC GLASGOW** have a particular devotion to the Miraculous Medal. They go into Barlinnie Prison and lead sessions, using the DVD of St Catherine's life and all that came from it. The DVD also shows the wonderful Chapel of the Miraculous Medal in Rue de Bac, the Mother House of the Daughters of Charity in Paris. There is also an International Association of the Miraculous Medal – see FAMVIN.org. If you would like the medal for yourself, or to give to someone, or maybe lead a group, contact Sr Barbara Sandy, Provincial House, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill,

Nun and visionary. Founder of the devotion of the Miraculous Medal. St Catherine came from a large farming family near Dijon in France. Born in 1806, she looked after her widowed father and later worked as a waitress in her uncle's cafe in Paris, before joining the Sisters of Charity at the age of 14.

She lived in the community in Reuilly (suburb of Paris), caring for the elderly in a rest home and tending chickens. Her superiors wrote that she was a 'quiet and dull' person. Until her last years, few people realised that she led an extraordinary inner life.

Through a series of dreams and visions, she accurately foresaw many historical events in France. In one dream she saw a picture of Mary standing on a globe with shafts of light coming from her hands with the inscription underneath reading: 'Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee.' On the reverse side was a capital M with the cross above and two hearts below.

Catherine believed she was ordered to have this produced as a medal. She spoke with her superiors and, in 1832, the archbishop allowed 1,500 to be minted. Later an account of the medal's origins was published. A canonical review in 1836 declared them authentic.

In 1842 a Jewish man from Alsace, Alphonsus Ratisbone, inspired by the devotion to the medal, became a Christian and founded the Fathers and Sisters of Sion. From that time onwards, the devotion to the Miraculous Medal spread around the world.

Catherine died on 31 December 1876. Her body remains incorrupt in the convent chapel at Rue de Bac, Paris. She was canonised in 1947.

### GETTING READY TO CELEBRATE 400 years of our foundation!

It's great that we have not one but two AIC UK Banners to process behind, and we have some great, creative members to thank for this! The picture shows Teresa Gilby who made this lovely banner some years ago and is working with other members of **AIC Bexley** to have it ready with new carrying poles for our very special Mass on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017. This special Mass in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, London is the first of our national gatherings of the UK Vincentian Family in 2017.



The second banner is being created by Liz-Anne O'Hare, AIC Glasgow and will be transported to Liverpool Cathedral for the second gathering Mass on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Liz-Anne will then have it to hand for the final gathering Mass in Carfin, near Glasgow on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Now, we need to be thinking of gathering as many of us as possible to process behind these banners on all three of these momentous occasions. We won't be around to celebrate our 500<sup>th</sup> – so let's make the most of it! Have you got your AIC scarf to wear? If not you can order one from Dee Masci