

GREETINGS TO THE CONFERENCES OF IRELAND

It is an honour for me to be here in Dublin to celebrate 180 years since the establishment of the Conferences in Ireland. Thank you very much for this invitation and my warmest congratulations on this anniversary.

Ireland is a strong country in the Confederation, and for this reason and in agreement with Rose, I wanted to hold a meeting of the Board of Directors here, so that we can get to know the social activities of our Irish brothers and sisters and learn many lessons from them.

One of the main aims is to eradicate poverty by working for social justice. This is how Ozanam interpreted the teachings of St Vincent de Paul 191 years ago.

Before the pandemic, I had the honour of visiting Ireland with Isabel, the Director General of SSVF Spain. We were invited by our brother Kieran, who is now Territorial Vice-President for Europe¹, and I was impressed by the social work that is done here and especially by the social concept of the more than 230 solidarity shops present in this country. In this respect I would like to invite you to read on our international website a recent and very interesting article sent by Dermot McGilloway.

Nothing more dear brothers, I thank again the National Council of Ireland for this invitation, especially its president Rose, our Irish partners for their contribution and their constant support to the General Council, thanks to the members of the Board for their assistance, thanks to the staff, and thanks to all the benefactors and friends of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Ireland, thanks to all of them for their excellent work, which is also recognised in the eyes of God.

From the General Council, I reiterate my most sincere congratulations and all my support so that this Vincentian work continues for many years to come being a reference of quality for the rest of the countries of the Confederation.

In Saint Vincent de Paul and in Blessed Ozanam receive a warm and fraternal embrace.

Juan Manuel B. Gómez

XII President General.