

INTRODUCTION

Editor's Note

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This issue of *Vincentiana* has as its theme “*Pathways in our Congregation and charism*”. We all follow various types of pathways, be they our daily routines or times we explore and reach out for adventure. Familiar pathways help us get where we need to go. New, unfamiliar pathways can open up fresh ways of seeing and experiencing life, adding richness to our journey.

In this issue, we find some articles akin to familiar pathways in the first part of *Vincentiana*. *Meditation Moment* is a reflection from the General Curia on what our Constitutions tell us about community life. *Tempo Forte* helps confreres know present and future pathways being planned for the Congregation. A new section, *The Preparatory Commission of the 2016 General Assembly*, will help confreres understand the meaning of this major gathering, so essential to the life of the Congregation. Finally, the census on the Congregation, statistics prepared annually as a report to the Holy See, will help us trace and better understand our pathways worldwide.

As for “new” pathways, we focus here on the specific Vincentian aspects of evangelization, reconfiguration, charity, and service to the poor, but in new directions. The articles demonstrate how it is possible to take new pathways in these familiar topics. Fr. Celestino Fernández, C.M., of the Province of Madrid, reflects on how the Vincentian charism and mission can inform and transform our ways of evangelizing in light of calls for a new evangelization.

Fr. Enrique Alagarda, C.M. the Visitor of Barcelona, discusses both the positive aspects and ongoing challenges that reconfiguration presents. He shows that consultation and commitment to a process can go a long way in promoting good will among confreres. Fr. Pat Griffin, former Director General of the Daughters of Charity, takes a familiar topic- charity- and skillfully explores it from a biblical viewpoint, which can serve to enrich our prayer, reflection, and service to the poor. Finally, “Spotlight Interview” with Austrian confrere Fr. Wolfgang Pucher inspires us with the personal journey of one man whose almost accidental start in serving the poor became a life-long passion, which led to the start of “Vinzi-Werke”, a multi-purpose agency which houses, feeds, clothes, provides medical care, job training, and other types of innovative assistance for the poor in Graz, Vienna, and Salzburg Austria.

Finally, there have been some “new” pathways for Vincentiana here at the General Curia. Fr. Juventino Castellero, our confrere from the Region of Panama, has returned to his “home” after years of generous service to the Office of Communications and the Vincentian Family Office. Juventino helped produce Vincentiana, was completely in charge of Nuntia, and did extensive work with the Vincentian Family Office, providing programs and workshops for members of the Vincentian Family in various countries. I am grateful for Juventino’s hard work, generous help, good cheer, and I thank him for all he did to help improve the Office of Communications.

With Juventino going, another “pathway” opens, as Fr. Jorge Rodriguez of the Province of Colombia has arrived to pick up where Juventino left off. I am grateful to have Jorge with us, and both in his media studies at the Salesian Pontifical University, and work for the Latin American Bishops Conference, Jorge has gained experience and expertise in the field of media. He is a welcome addition to our work and life together here at the Curia, and I welcome him, while thanking Fr. Juventino and wishing him well (now, as a member of my own Province!).

As I write this, we are in the midst of the Easter Season, which shows us the greatest of pathways: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Lord of life. May the Risen Christ inspire us to continue to seek and find new pathways of holiness of heart, presence to one another as brothers in St. Vincent, and grow in awareness of our role as servants to God’s poor.