

## Editor's Note

This year, 2016, has been designated as a Year of Mercy and it would be impossible to allow this event to pass us by without making some mention of it in the official publication of the Congregation of the Mission. Therefore, the reflections that are presented here in this first edition of 2016 revolve around the theme that has been proposed to us by Pope Francis, namely, mercy. During the Penitential Service that was celebrated in Saint Peter's Basilica (8 December 2015), the Pope referred to the Church as a house that welcomes everyone and rejects no one. Paraphrasing the Holy Father, we could say the same about the Congregation of the Mission: this is the house that welcomes every confrere and rejects no one.

With regard to information from the Curia, we include in these pages the decrees of the Superior General concerning the reconfiguration of the Provinces of France and Italy and the decree erecting the Vice-Province of Cameroon. In order to make you aware of our exact number, we include here the statistics that correspond to the year 2015. We also publish other information relative to the Congregation, for example a report on the last "*Tempo Forte*."

The section that refers to the Superior General includes his message and his homily on the occasion of the erection of the Province of the Vincentian Missionaries of Italy, his letter inviting the Visitors of the Congregation and the Daughters of Charity to suggest an Advisor for the Vincentian Marian Youth, his letter of 3 February, announcing a change of the date for the celebration of the feast of Saint Louise de Marillac, and his Lenten Letter (which emphasizes prayer and fasting).

In the section "of current interest," there appears an article written by the Procurator General on the Privileges of the Congregation of the Mission. There is also an article written by Father Joseph Agostino entitled "Appreciative Discernment," another tool that we should be mindful of during the 2016 General Assembly.

There are five articles that develop the theme of mercy from the perspective of Vincentian spirituality. The first is by Father Bernard Koch, *Monsieur Vincent, the Apostle of Mercy*; followed by an article by Father Paulino Sáez, *The Value of Mercy in Saint Vincent de Paul*. There is also an article by Father Andrés Motto, *Mercy as Part of our Being as Vincentians*, an article by Father Benito Martínez, *Vincentian Mercy*, and finally, an article written by Father Mario Di Carlo, *God's Mercy and the Vincentian Charism*.

We hope that this material will be useful to you and enhance your reflections during this Year of Mercy. We also hope that all the confreres and all our readers will find this material helpful for your own formation.

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