

Echoes of the
350th
Anniversary

Introduction

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The 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise has been highly publicized and as a result it will remain engraved in our memory for a long time to come. VINCENTIANA wants to help keep the memory of all that we experienced during the Jubilee Year alive so that its fruits of grace, creative fidelity and effective commitment might become more deeply rooted in us as we continue to serve the poor *our lords and masters*.

As we could not do this in any other way, this number of VINCENTIANA contains the words of Pope Benedict XVI addressed to us on the occasion of the 350th Anniversary, given at the Angelus Sunday, September 26, 2010, as well as the letter of the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and that of the Superioress General of the Daughters of Charity.

As we do in each edition, so now in this present edition we bring together the letters of the Superior General that were addressed to the Congregation of the Mission or the whole Vincentian Family, letters that draw attention to specific areas of our life or that point out aspects of the Christian journey that we have undertaken in communion with the whole Church. Thus VINCENTIANA highlights two events that occurred during 2010: the XLI General Assembly of the Congregation of the Mission and the worldwide celebration that enabled us to express our gratitude for the gifts that the Lord has given to us through the creative collaboration of our Founders.

VINCENTIANA published in 2010 an extraordinarily large edition that made the various presentations of the General Assembly available to our readers. We return once again to this event in order not to add something new but rekindle the fire that was ignited at the time of the Assembly. At that gathering the Congregation recognized the fact that God continues to call us through the voice of the poor and therefore the delegates made a decision to lay out paths of creative fidelity to

the mission in lines of actions that have to be continually renewed. The lived experience of a General Assembly, especially one like our previous assembly that was focused on listening and silent reflection on the reality, can never be adequately transcribed on paper. We can only hope that we can hear the echoes of what occurred during those days.

This edition of *VINCENTIANA* also focuses on a second event: the family celebration, which was more universal than ever before and went beyond our most optimistic expectations in uniting the whole family throughout the world in an incredible collaborative effort which united us to our Founders. The idea of involving everyone in the celebration and in various commitments was greatly appreciated by all the members of the Vincentian Family. Again the words that we write here as we gather together the various communications that were sent to the Secretary General of the Congregation of the Mission are not simply commemorative words that echo the many activities that occurred during the past year. Indeed, our celebration was much more than that for it touched the Vincentian world in a profound manner and hopefully, we will continue to reap fruit.

Translation: CHARLES T. PLOCK, C.M.