

The 350th Anniversary in the Rest of the World

Vincentiana Editorial Board

As noted in the previous article, the Commissions that were created to prepare for the 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac and for the purpose of involving the whole family in a process of reflection and celebration on these extraordinary events, considered for our celebrations, two places significant places for the whole Vincentian Family: Paris, the cradle of our Founders and their works and the place where the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity is located and Rome, the capital of the Catholic world and the place where the General Curia of the Congregation of the Mission is located. The same Commissions, however, encouraged celebrations and reflections in other places where the Vincentian Family works and ministers on behalf of the poor.

It is impossible to report on all the celebrations that took place in the different parts of the world on the occasion of the 350th anniversary. In NUNTIA, the news bulletin of the Curia of the Congregation of the Mission (see NUNTIA, August-September, 2010), it was reported that VINCENTIANA would gather together the different activities that were realized in commemorating these events and asked that reports on these activities be sent to the General Curia of the Congregation of the Mission. But Vincentians, quicker in doing things than reporting things, have sent in very few reports. What appears here is nothing more than a sampling of the many celebrations that the Vincentian Family offered the world for the glory of God and the benefit of the those people who are poor.

SPAIN

A news article, published in the principal newspapers of the country, announced the celebration of the Jubilee Year and spoke about the Vincentian Family. The article stated:

Madrid, September 22, 2009. On September 27th (the feast of Saint Vincent de Paul), the Vincentian Family will commemorate the

350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac (the precursors of organized social assistance).

The Vincentian Family is present in more than 140 countries and helps, in a direct manner, more than 50 million people throughout the world.

In Spain the Vincentian Family is composed of more than 20,000 members organized in more than 900 centers and dedicated to serving the disadvantaged of our country: homeless people, the unemployed, the sick, prisoners, the aged, children, immigrants and dysfunctional families.

The Vincentian Family in Spain is present in every neighborhood and assists over 200,000 people, upholding their dignity and advocating for social justice on their behalf as they provide services through soup kitchens, educational centers, formation centers, centers for social assistance, centers that distribute food and clothing, home visits, visiting those in hospitals and prisons. Besides being attentive to the situations of poverty in this country, the Vincentian Family of Spain, through the formation of networks with others, collaborates in many other impoverished countries.

Leaving aside all that has been done in the nine provinces of the Daughters of Charity and the four provinces of the Congregation of the Mission, we highlight here three events which were national in their orientation:

The Vincentian Charism Proclaimed to the World

TVE, Spanish National Television, on their program, People of God, transmitted twelve videos (professional and excellent in quality) on the Vincentian charism, present and alive in the midst of the world today in the person of the Vincentian Missionaries and the Daughters of Charity. A list of the titles of these videos will provide some hint as to their content. We list the videos in the order in which they were broadcast:

- 12-17-09 – On the roads of Androy (Madagascar)
- 02-07-10 – Southern Madagascar
- 02-14-10 – Akamasoa: a feast in the garbage dump (Madagascar)
- 03-14-10 – 100 years of cooking dreams (the soup kitchen in Santander, Spain)
- 04-18-10 – Pedro Opeka, the apostle of the garbage dump (Madagascar)
- 05-09-10 – The other Granada (a poor neighborhood in a tourist area)

- 05-23-10 – Another heroine of Cochabamba (solidarity project)
- 06-20-10 – Bolivia, a threatened infancy (project amanecer [project wake up])
- 06-27-10 – Like a great fire (the Daughters of Charity)
- 07-18-10 – In the Andes jungle (El Beni)
- 08-01-10 – The Mission in Madagascar
- 08-08-10 – Traveling in Santa Louisa by the Mamore River (Bolivia)

These can be viewed at: <http://famvin.org/es/archive/350-anniversario-el-carisma-viceciano-en-accion>

The Vincentian Family Congress

The publication, *Anales of the Congregación de la Misión y de las Hijas de la Caridad*, dedicated its issue of May-June 2010 to this Congress which took place in Madrid. We extract the following text from the editorial of said publication:

From March 5-10, 2010 the Congress of the Vincentian Family brought together in Madrid about 600 members of the family.

Its importance is seen not only in the quality of the presenters and the fact that these presenters represent all the branches of the Family but also in the presence of Father Gregory Gay, CM, Superior General and Sister Rosa María Miro, Assistant General representing Mother General. The four Visitors and the nine Visitatrices, all the presidents and directors of the various Associations as well as some civil authorities were present during the Congress. The Congress was concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist that was presided by the Cardinal of Madrid, Don Antonio María Rouco Varela, president of the Episcopal Conference of Spain.

Since all the different branches were present much attention was given to reviving the charism rather than discovering the charism. This process unfolded first through knowledge which engaged the participants in a process of reviewing the sources and the attitudes of the Founders in order to understand their process of discernment and their manner of acting in different situations. Then in light of the present situation the attitudes of the Founders were reinterpreted.

The following conferences were given: Rev. Luis González Carvajal Santabárbara, *The faith of Vincent de Paul in the midst of an unbelieving world*; Patricia Paredes de Nava (AIC), *The spiritual and charitable experience of Vincent de Paul*; Benito Martínez, CM, *The faith of Saint*

Louise in the midst of an individualistic society; Celestino Fernández, CM, Pastoral urgencies and criteria for charitable action and the mission in today's world; Sister María Angeles Infante, DC; The ecclesial and charitable experience of Saint Louise de Marillac.

The following papers were presented: **I. Charity and Mission in the Experience of the AIC**, Flory Navarro, AIC; **II. Charity and Mission in the Experience of the Congregation of the Mission**: 1. In Saint Vincent de Paul, *Corpus Juan Delgado, CM*; 2. Faith and experience in the Congregation of the Mission in Spain today, *Antonio Ruíz García, CM*; 3. Faith and experience in the Congregation of the Mission as lived by the Daughters of Charity and the Missionaries in the present and in the future, *José María Villar, CM*; **III. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society in Spain**, *Carmina Buitrón*; **IV. Charity and Mission in the Daughters of Charity, Present, Past, and Future**, *Sister Magdalena Herrera, DC*; **V. Charity and Mission in the Experience of the Miraculous Medal Association**: 1. Past, present and future; *María Angeles Esteban*; 2. The present state of the exercise of charity in the Association, *María Antonia Egea*; 3. The future of the exercise of charity and mission in the Association, *Jesús Juan Borroy*; **VI. Charity and Mission in the Experience of MISEVI**, *Israel Peralta Pérez – Francisco Berbegal Vázquez, CM*; **VII. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow in the Vincentian Marian Youth**, *Irene Fernández López*.

The Congress came to a close with the formulation of some concrete conclusions that were spelled out in short-term and long-term lines of action. These lines of action were inspired *by the conviction that the Church is and always will be the servant of the poor or else it runs the risk of becoming something that no longer looks like the church of Jesus Christ. As Vincentians, we commit ourselves today, here and now, to respond with greater solidarity and commitment, thus imitating Saint Vincent, Saint Louise and Blessed Ozanam.* The conclusion and lines and action can be found in the edition of *Anales* that was previously cited.

The Vincentian Week in Salamanca

On August 23, 2010, the XXXV Week of Vincentian Studies was initiated in the provincial house of the Congregation of the Mission, Salamanca. The focus of this week was Saint Vincent and as pointed out by the presenters who had been invited to participate in this event: *we are not dealing with an exposition of Vincent's doctrine and teaching but rather we will attempt to refer to Vincent's lived experience, that is, his personal experience as well as his spiritual experience.* According to

the director of this event, Rev. José Manuel Sánchez Mallo, CM, the presenters remained faithful to this objective (*Anales*, #6, November-December 2010).

We highlight the international dimension of this event. Together with the Spanish presenters (Frs. Antonino Orcajo, José Manuel Villar, José María López Maside, Santiago Barquín, Corpus Juan Delgado, Celestino Fernández, José Ignacio Fernández H. de Mendoza, José Vicente Martínez and Benito Martínez, all of them members of the Congregation of the Mission, and Sister Cristina Calero and Sister María Ángeles Infante, Daughters of Charity), there were two Italian Missionaries: Rev. Luigi Mezzadri and Rev. Mario di Carlo and a French Missionary: Rev. Alain Pérez. Among the three hundred participants there was a group of French Vincentians, a group from the Vincentian Marian Youth and participants from Brazil and Vietnam.

A Daughter of Charity who participated in this seminar wrote the following on Famvin: *The XXXV week of Vincentian Studies coordinated its sessions around the spirituality of Vincent de Paul. The presenters shared their gifts as they helped us unravel the spiritual richness of the great Saint of Charity. I would say with great conviction that there is no Vincent in action without a contemplative Vincent, contemplation which involved looking at Jesus Christ, Vincent's model and source, in order to contemplate him later as the suffering man whom he encountered in countless poor women and men.*

Compiled by: JULIO SUESCUN OLCOZ, C.M.

POLAND

We began preparation for the jubilee to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac during the January 12, 2008 session of the provincial council. In another session of the council, that of June 12, 2008, we began preparation of the program for the Jubilee Year. Little by little we settled on the program and began to carry it out. Today, after the closing of the Vincentian Year, we can say that we accomplished our plan.

The celebration of the Jubilee was developed on three levels: provincial, local and personal and was composed of three dimensions: spiritual, vocational and material. Here I will describe what took place on the provincial level.

The inauguration of the Jubilee Year was held on September 25-27 in Bydgoszcz in Saint Vincent's parish. The solemn Mass, celebrated on Sunday, September 27th, was presided by Bishop Tadeusz Gocłowski, CM, archbishop-emeritus of Gdansk. Many members of the Vincentian

Family participated in this celebration. The closing ceremony of the Jubilee Year was celebrated on September 10-12 in Varsovia in Holy Cross parish. The principal Mass on Sunday was celebrated by Bishop Tadasz Gocłowski. After this event the celebration of the Jubilee Year was extended to the feast of the conversion of the Saint Paul, the titular feast of the church of our seminary in Cracow, also the location of the provincial house. The solemn Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, archbishop of Cracow.

The motive for prolonging the celebration was the following: a year before, that is, January 25th, 2010, during the solemn celebration of the feast of the conversion of Saint Paul, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz blessed three large reliquaries that contained the relics of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise. Thus began the pilgrimage of the relics of our Founders. The relics were received by all of our houses and by the parishes where the Vincentians are ministering. Many houses of the Daughters of the Charity and some diocesan parishes also received the relics. The parishioners prepared for this event with either a spiritual retreat or a popular mission that was directed by our confreres.

A very important event, on the spiritual level, was the visit of the Superior General to Poland, October 31 - November 11, 2009. During this time Father General visited many houses of the Vincentians, the three provincial houses of the Daughters of Charity and some houses of the Daughters of Charity (houses where the Daughters are engaged in special ministries).

During 2010, as has occurred in previous years, time was set aside for nine different occasions during which the confreres were able to make their spiritual retreat. The theme of these retreats was: the message of the Founders and our mission.

During the month of August, 2010, we organized for our seminarians (theologians, philosophers and novices) a pilgrimage to France which allowed them to walk in the footsteps of Saint Vincent. Some young laymen, who are active in our vocational discernment program, also participated in this pilgrimage.

With regard to the spiritual dimension

1. We have translated and published a bi-lingual edition (French-Polish) of Saint Vincent's letters to the confreres who were in Poland. This is our treasure.
2. In front of our parish church in Cracow, dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, we built a monument to Saint Vincent which was blessed by Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, the archbishop of Cracow.

Civil authorities from the city and the surrounding areas participated in the blessing ceremony.

3. In the parish church in Zakopane, which is also the Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, we built and dedicated an altar to Saint Vincent.
4. In each one of our houses and churches we have placed a commemorative plaque as a visible reminder of the Vincentian Jubilee.
5. Another visible reminder is the stoles and chasubles which were especially made for this occasion.
6. Commemorative medals were made and given to each confrere.
7. Commemorative pens were also made and distributed to the confreres.

Reported by: ADAM BOROWSKI, C.M.

CENTRAL AMERICA

For the Vincentian Family in Central America the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise provided us with the opportunity to deepen ourselves in our commitment and in living a Vincentian spirituality. At the same time this celebration enabled us to become involved in a process of personal and community renewal and thus strengthened us to carry out on a daily basis our mission and our charitable service on behalf of those people who are poor.

On a general level the material that was prepared by the Heritage Commission was made available as well as holy cards, prayers and prayer services. Later each country celebrated this event in a creative way.

Honduras joined to the celebration of the 350th anniversary the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Vincentians from Barcelona to the Northern Coast and also honored the four bishops of the Congregation of the Mission who led the Diocese of San Pedro Sula. In a special way we highlight here the celebration that was organized by the missionary team in Moskitia whose members, despite the adversity of the time, carried out the programmed activities with much enthusiasm and did this in the midst of their daily ministry with the poor. The Vincentian Missionary Team in Moskitia is composed of four Missionaries, six Daughters of Charity and three lay missionaries who are members of MISEVI. They organized a gathering in the parish of Santa Cruz de Barra Patuka which took place during September 13-16 and which coincided with the patronal feast of the parish. The Visitor of the Province of Barcelona participated in this celebration. After the

celebration of the Eucharist there was a procession (by boat) along the coast; there were six boats and in each boat there was a Missionary and a Daughter of Charity; this was an extraordinary experience. In the evening there was a presentation of the Miskita culture which consisted of a special rite to remember those who had died.

The Vincentian Family organized a triduum (September 24, 25, 26) in Panama to bring to a close the Jubilee Year. On Friday, September 24 there was a procession with the images of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise which began at the park that surrounds the Metropolitan Cathedral and concluded at the parish of Santa Ana where the Eucharist was celebrated and presided by the Apostolic Nuncio, Bishop Carrascosa Coso. Missionaries, the Daughters of Charity, students, members of the various branches of the Vincentian Family from throughout Panama as well as other lay people who in some way are living out the Vincentian charism participated in the procession and the Eucharist. During the celebration of the Eucharist the Nuncio highlighted Vincentian spirituality and the good that the Vincentian Family has been able to accomplish in the world and in the Church. The Nuncio invited the Vincentian Family to make their mission credible in the world of today, a world that is in much need of said mission.

On September 25 there was a gathering in the afternoon of the whole Vincentian Family in Saint Mary's parish in Balboa. During the afternoon there were numerous exhortations and also a cultural presentation. The day concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist and a dinner. On Sunday, September 26, the celebrations were local with each branch of the Family highlighting their own proper perspective.

El Salvador celebrated the 350th anniversary with national competitions that involved the students in all the schools of the Daughters of Charity (poems and essays about Saint Vincent and Saint Louise). Throughout the year a weekly formation program, *The Vincentian Family in Action*, was developed and transmitted by Radio María (Radio Mary) in El Salvador. There were also meetings of the Vincentian Family and the celebration of the Eucharist for the members of the branches of the Family. It should be pointed out that Bishop Escobar Alas presided at two of the Eucharistic celebrations. The first of these celebrations was celebrated on Sunday, March 14. This involved a procession with the image of Saint Louise de Marillac from the Church of San Jacinto to the Cathedral. The procession was accompanied by the band from Santa Catalina School. In his homily the Bishop congratulated the Vincentian Family, especially the Daughters of Charity. This celebration was broadcast throughout the country by Channel 8, Ágape, a Catholic channel that also transmits through the internet.

The second Eucharist was celebrated on September 19 which included a procession with the image of Saint Vincent de Paul. In the afternoon there was a sharing that involved all the branches of the Vincentian Family and as a sign of solidarity, the sharing of a light meal with the poor. Both celebrations can be viewed at www.youtube.com/com/fevisal

There were also various activities in Guatemala. Among the many events we highlight: opportunities for study and reflection on the twelve themes that were developed for the Jubilee Year, gatherings of the Vincentian Family, design and distribution of holy cards and an art competition.

Perhaps the largest celebration was that which was held at the close of the Jubilee Year. The National Council of the Vincentian Family in Guatemala had initiated preparations for this celebration with much anticipation. All the branches of the Family and other groups related to the Family, for example, former students of the Casa Central, (Motherhouse), Friends of Sister Cecilia Charrin, the Catholic Association of Love and Action, and students from the schools of the Daughters of Charity were involved in developing the various activities. The closing of the Jubilee Year was celebrated with a Triduum, September 24-25-26. This provided each branch with an opportunity to celebrate the 27th on a local level and to do this in a creative manner.

On September 24 the Triduum began with the celebration of the Eucharist in the Motherhouse and was presided by Bishop Mario Enrique Rios Montt, CM, Auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Guatemala and the Vicar-General.

Saturday, September 25 began with fireworks and mariachis singing the *mañanitas* to Saint Vincent and Saint Louise. This festive and emotional event took place in the Miraculous Medal Chapel of the historical Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity

After the celebration of community prayer, a procession with the images of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise began its pilgrimage to the Metropolitan Cathedral. Despite the inclement weather many people, singing with great joy, accompanied the images of the Saints in procession. People, very emotional and with tears in their eyes, applauded as the images were brought into the Cathedral where many in the congregation shouted out the names of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise.

The Eucharistic celebration began at 10:00am and was presided by the Cardinal-Archbishop Rodolfo Quezada Toruño, who was accompanied by Bishop Rodolfo Bobadilla Mata, CM, Missionaries who minister in the capital and the Vincentian seminarians. The celebration was graced by the Choir from the Normal School of

the Motherhouse, young men and women whose songs and praise and harmony provided added beauty to the liturgy.

In his homily the Cardinal referred to the manner in which Vincent and Louise joined together in their efforts to create a strong lay movement within the Catholic Church, one that began during the XVII century and has continued to the present day, a movement that was initiated long before the Church, at the time of the Second Vatican Council, opened the way for greater participation of the laity. He pointed out that their communities are the only ones that can say that their presence in the country has been uninterrupted. He also expressed his hope that his ministry as Archbishop would not be concluded before the Sister of the poor, Sister Cecelia Charrin (a woman whom the Cardinal knew and admired) was canonized. Finally, he invited the lay branches of the Vincentian Family to remain faithful to their charism, faithful to the Vincentian principles and doctrine which can be summarized as giving life to the gospel of Christ in service to the poor.

The third day, September 26, a cultural act was presented in the Auditorium of the Normal School of the Motherhouse. During this presentation the president of the National Council of the Vincentian Family in Guatemala welcomed the people who had gathered together with words that described the historical events that were being celebrated. The Visitatrix of the Daughters of Charity in Central America, Sister Rosa Elvira Gómez, spoke about the significance of this Jubilee Year *in a globalized world where the globalization of charity is most urgent and demands of us, who follow in the path of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise, union, creativity, boldness, and organization*. This reflection was made at the beginning of the celebration, before signing hymns in honor of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise and other cultural acts that were presented as meditations and reflections on Vincentian spirituality.

The closing Eucharist was celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio, Bishop Paul Richard Gallagher.

The celebrations of Sunday, September 26 focused on the words of the Archbishop who in his Sunday homily emphasized the manner in which the cardinal referred to the celebration of the Vincentian Family on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise and said: *Thanks to God they continue to live through their sons and daughters, men and women religious, laymen and laywomen who serve the people of Guatemala and the people of the world.*

PHILIPPINES

Three hundred fifty years ago, Vincent de Paul lay dying in bed, in France, without knowing anybody in the Philippines who would care to pray for him. After 350 years, St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac had one of their greatest celebrations in the Philippines, more than half way around the globe. The Congregation of the Mission, the Daughters of Charity, the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the Ladies of Charity, Vincentian Marian Youth and other members of the Vincentian Lay Organizations poured their enthusiasm in memory of their Founder.

One year in advance, in 2009, the Vincentians and the Daughters of Charity spearheaded the preparations by appointing a committee to prepare for the 350th anniversary. There were many meetings which discussed the various proposals and a year long program of activities was set up. There were monthly conferences on St. Vincent and St. Louise with as many as two hundred persons in attendance, there were novenas of Masses, film showing; banners were posted in strategic places in Vincentians schools, houses and churches; there were holy pictures (stampitas) bearing the pictures of St. Vincent and St. Louise with the schedule of activities and invitations sent for the big celebration on September 27. Some members of the Vincentian Family initiated a “meal with the poor” where dozens of poor street persons were invited. Adamson University instituted the “First St. Vincent de Paul Awards” on September 26, 2010.

The logo of the 350th Anniversary, sent from the Curia Generalizia, was displayed in hundreds of locations throughout the country and was reproduced electronically, in print and verbally discussed in the dozens of conferences. “Charity and Mission” summarized most of the conferences, though some were really scholarly talks on the life, spirituality, and works of St. Vincent and St. Louise. Thousands of persons attended the conferences, masses, novenas, and appreciated the spiritual and charitable legacy of St. Vincent and St. Louise.

Worth highlighting because of its long term effects is the heritage program: “Deepening the Spirituality of our Vincentian Charism.” It was composed of bi-monthly lectures, zarzuela (drama presentations), Vincentian photo exhibits, and Vincentian Youth Congress. The “San Vicente: A Zarzuela”, produced by Adamson University was one of the most significant plays presented during the year. Other CM-DC schools also had plays presenting the lives of St. Louise and St. Vincent. Many of the lectures were quite good and some of the contents were published in the Vincentian News, the monthly newsletter of the Philippine Province.

The Eucharistic Celebration on September 27, 2010 was held at the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral with His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales as main celebrant in the presence of Bishop Edward Joseph Adams, the papal nuncio, several Bishops, hundreds of Vincentians (headed by Fr. Rolando Santos, the Provincial Visitor and his Provincial Council), Diocesan priests and other members of various religious congregations, the Daughters of Charity and the Vincentian Lay Organizations and thousand of lay people. On the same day, other Vincentian houses celebrated the end of the year-long celebration with solemn Mass generally presided by the Ordinary of the place.

Project. The Vincentian Family Coordination Council of the Philippines (VFCC-Philippines) decided to set up several projects in memory of the 350th Anniversary of St. Vincent and St. Louise:

1. Assistance to the youth who are enrolled in the Alternative Learning System with a component on skills development;
2. Insertion in any existing project of any branch of the Vincentian family employing systemic change principles;
3. On the regional level, the VFCC of the region could make their choice as to where they can work and serve together, i.e. in housing, scholarship, income generating micro loans, etc.

The 350th Anniversary Celebrations was a year of grace, renewal, and formation for the Vincentian Family in the Philippines. Through the various programs, many people got to know more of the legacy of St. Vincent and St. Louise and, hopefully, will help in transforming their lives into a more socially pro-poor mode. Needless to say, the Vincentians and the Daughters of Charity, in so many intangible and down- to- earth ways, were the prime beneficiaries of the 350th Anniversary. May God bless the Philippine Province and their collaborators for showing such love and devotion to the Patrons of the Poor.

Reported by: ROLANDO DELAGOZA SOLLEZA, C.M.

BRAZIL

The Vincentian Family in Brazil, with 22 branches active throughout the country, celebrated the 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac. It was a very significant time which began with the XI National Encounter in Brasilia where under the theme, *systemic change*, preparations were begun for the Jubilee Year. This was a pivotal moment because the greater majority of the branches were present in this encounter which accepted with great enthusiasm the proposal to encourage Vincentian ministry

with and for the poor, assisting them to overcome their situation of vulnerability.

We highlight the following activities there were carried out during this Jubilee Year:

- a) Reflections on the theme *Charity-Mission*: twelve reflection that were prepared by members of the Vincentian Family were very helpful. Besides being distributed broadly through the internet (e-mail and different links), a book was published (20,000 copies) which contained this material. The majority of the conferences of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society used this book as spiritual reading for their members. The other branches throughout the country utilized this book to deepen their understanding of the Vincentian charism and Vincentian spirituality.
- b) Distribution of different materials: throughout the country the branches of the family used the logo *Charity-Mission* to make banners, folders, shirts and other materials that were then distributed. Books, articles and other papers were published in the media using radio, magazines, internet, blogs, etc.
- c) Pilgrimage of the relics of Saint Vincent: during the Jubilee Year this pilgrimage of the relics through various regions and cities of Brazil provided us with the opportunity to hold gatherings for prayer, reflection, Eucharistic celebrations and also established closer bonds between the branches of the Vincentian Family. This was a time of great community and spiritual enrichment.
- d) Celebrations and gatherings for prayer and formation: on a regional level (Curitiba, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Recife, Fortaleza, Belém) and in other areas celebrations and encounters were organized. At the time of the opening of the Jubilee Year and on the feasts of Saint Louise de Marillac and Saint Vincent de Paul, there were large celebrations which showed incredible creativity and involved participation of the poor and the members of the Vincentian Family.
- e) Joint action on behalf of the mission and service: during the Jubilee Year we encouraged and strengthened collaboration among the branches of the Vincentian Family, collaboration that was made concrete through action on behalf of the poor. There were many such initiatives and here we highlight the following: the professors and the students in the schools of the Daughters of Charity in the Province of Curitiba organized groups in order to reflect on the Vincentian mission and at the same time, were able to gather together resources to assist the socio-educational project of Manjangué in Mozambique. The National Directors of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society used the theme *Charity-Mission* to evaluate and plan their future work under the

slogan *change in order to transform*. With the counsel of individuals from the other branches the Saint Vincent de Paul Society is involved in missions in several regions and is also encouraging reflection and action in order to provide a dynamic dimension to the spirituality and ministry of the more than 200,000 Brazilian Vincentians.

The fruits of the Jubilee Year: the various activities that were organized during the Jubilee Year provided spiritual growth to the Vincentian Family. These activities awakened a desire for greater enthusiasm for ministry, greater reflection and knowledge about the realities and the challenges of the poor, formulation of joint projects among the different branches of the Vincentian Family, better knowledge about the daily work of the other branches of the family as they minister for the benefit of the poor and above all these activities awakened great interest and renewed strength to continue the ministry with the poor, *our lords and masters*.

In recent years in Brazil conditions have become better and poverty has decreased but still 11.2 million people are hungry or at risk of going hungry because they lack social and economic resources. The Jubilee Year points out the need for the Vincentian Family to continue to strengthen themselves so that they can continue their work with new enthusiasm, new methods and new expressions, joining forces among themselves and with the poor and with all those who seek to combat social injustice in order to build a just society in which people live in solidarity with one another.

Reported by: MIZAÉL DONIZETTI POGGIOLI, C.M.

CHILE

Closing of the Vincentian Jubilee Year in Santiago, Chile

On September 25th, 2010, with the massive participation of the faithful, members of the distinct branches of the Vincentian Family, especially people from Santiago and Valparaíso, a Mass was celebrated in Chile to conclude the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac.

The Mass was celebrated in Cerro San Cristobal in the capital, beneath the image of the Immaculate Conception. The Visitor of the Province, Father Fernando Macías, CM, presided at the Eucharist that was concelebrated by several Missionaries of the Province who work in Santiago and Valparaíso. This place receives many pilgrims from numerous Church groups, especially young people. As Father Fernando pointed out in his homily, Chile, even before the arrival of the Spanish,

was consider a place of encounter with the divine and thus its original name in Mapudungun was *Tupahue*, which means *the place of God*. In 1987, during his visit to Chile, Pope John Paul II came to this place and blessed the city of Santiago.

The members of the Vincentian Family had to walk approximately three kilometers in order to arrive at Cerro San Cristobal, the place of the celebrations (the authorities had prohibited access to buses). No one remained below where the buses had to park and people exerted much effort to arrive at the place of celebration, children, teenagers, adults and many elderly people.

Before the celebration of the Eucharist, a band from one of the schools of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, created an environment with their music as the pilgrims arrived. The celebration was very festive and colorful and the assembly fully participated. There was dance, an offering of very meaningful gifts, powerful and encouraging hymns, a dynamic and profound homily.

In this way the Vincentian Family in Chile, on the occasion of celebration of the passover of our Founders from this life to a new birth in heaven, honored these two great individuals who committed their lives to the Church and the world. This celebration was marked by giving thanks to God for these two saints, for their charism which has been passed on to us and asking for the strength to commit ourselves to the continuation of the mission (in our present situation), a mission which they began in Frances three and half centuries ago.

On Monday, the feast of Saint Vincent de Paul, celebrations were held in different places.

Reported by: CARLOS DE LA RIVERA C.M.

MEXICO

Vincentians: passion and action moving the world

*Three and a half centuries
Have not been able to silence
The majestic movement
Of his holy charity...*

José Luis Rodríguez (a former Vincentian Seminarian from San Luis Potosi) used these words when referring to our saints: Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, founders and inspirers of many groups of the Vincentian Family whose ministry is one of evangelization and service to those persons who are most poor.

One year ago, during the gathering of the Vincentian Family in the Federal District, the State of Mexico and Morelos, three of our brothers

from REVIVO (reencounter of Vincentians with their vocation... a group of former Vincentian seminarians): Telésforo Ruano, Francisco Ireta and Guillermo Vergara asked Father Luis Lusarreta CM (the person responsible for organizing this event) if they could organize said event for the following year. Father Luis agreed and gave us a vote of confidence and we are very grateful that he believed in us.

Six months before the event, we began to bring together representatives of the groups who organized such an event: the Vincentian Volunteers, the Miraculous Medal Association, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, the Daughters of Charity, the Vincentian Marian Youth and the Congregation of the Mission. Our group, REVIVO, was always supported by Sister María de Jesús Camacho, DC and Father Servando Sánchez Ayala, CM.

We decided to put together an outline of the plan which we then shared with the representatives from the branches of the Vincentian Family. During this first meeting we agreed that said gathering would take place on Saturday, September 18th, 2010.

Little by little we began to understand the fact that we had taken on a great commitment when we accepted responsibility for organizing the closing event of the Jubilee Year which commemorated the 350 anniversary of the death and the fullness of life of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac. This gave us greater motivation to involve ourselves in this matter and to utilize all the gifts and talents that God had given us and that we wanted to share by becoming involved with the Vincentian Family.

We soon saw the need to have more frequent meetings at the Vincentian Mission Center and to bring together the representatives of the Vincentian Family in order to continue to plan this event. At different times another group of REVIVO met in the house of Rogelio Ruano (Colonia La Impulsora, State of Mexico) to practice the music for the celebration.

We also decided that by way of immediate preparation the team would arrive at the seminary on Friday, September 17th in order to prepare everything that would be needed for our Vincentian Jubilee celebration: organizing chairs, final music practice under the direction of Rogelio Ruano, preparing sound system and instruments with the assistance of Ramón Isol, arranging computer connection for possible simultaneous transmission with the Father-General, the successor of Saint Vincent and for registration purposes (Pascual Torres).

Some of us did not sleep that night and therefore were wide awake to receive a group of young people who arrived at 5:00am from Acuitzio, Michoacan, a place where a Vincentian Popular Mission had recently been given. This mission appears to have motivated many young people to become involved in the work that we were doing.

During the rainy morning of this long awaited day the Vincentian Family began to arrive. They were welcomed by Rubén Aguilar, Carlos Sánchez and Abraham Ramos who also accompanied the participants to the auditorium where they were able to register (480 people registered). The participants were given name tags and folders which contained an outline of the primary theme, the program and music.

After registration the participants were divided into groups of 15-20 people and brought to Sister María de Jesús Camacho, DC who welcomed them and led them in a group dynamic. Then the participants went to different rooms where they would view a video that had been prepared for the different groups:

- a) Groups already known: Vincentian Volunteers, Miraculous Medal Association, the Daughters of Charity Vincentian Missionaries and Vincentian Marian Youth introduced themselves (through video) to the new groups that are coming into existence, Vincentian Special Catechists, REVIVO and those working at the Vincentian Mission Center.
- b) Groups that represent the newest members of the Vincentian Family introduced themselves (through video) to the more known and recognized groups of the Vincentian Family (mentioned above).

After these introductions the participants were invited to take their respective places on the soccer field, the most adequate place for our general meeting. We attempted to begin on time and so at 10:00am the master of ceremonies, Ricardo Ponce, extended a welcome to the whole Vincentian Family and exhorted everyone to enjoy the day and take advantage of this festive occasion. Then the presence of the different groups was recognized: the Vincentian Volunteers, the Daughters of Charity, the Miraculous Medal Association, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and two new groups that have become integrated into the family, the Vincentian Special Catechists and REVIVO (a group of former Vincentian seminarians). Different groups of religious women were also present (the Missionaries of Mary Immaculate, the Missionary Daughters), friends and family.

Previously the Visitors had been introduced, Sister Braciela Rubio Moncada, DC and Father Silviano Calderón Soltero, CM who in turn engaged in a creative and delightful dialogue between themselves, speaking as though the saints were alive today and in our midst and thus exhorting us to be faithful to the heritage that has been entrusted to us as members of the Vincentian Family.

The next time was led by Sister Maria de Jesús Camacho, who with her characteristic creativity in its dynamics, got everyone moving to live together, fit into the group and be in keeping with the main

reason of our meeting: to deepen the knowledge of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise.

A powerful time of formation was created by Telésforo Ruano Lira (REVIVO) who in a very profound way and supported by a specialist in Saint Louise de Marillac, Father Benito Martinez, CM, led us by the hand to know in a new way this great saint who ALWAYS WALKED, EVEN AT NIGHT.

After sharing in groups and then putting forth the more interesting conclusions in a plenary session we had a time for some coffee, tea, and cookies that were offered to us by the Miraculous Medal Association.

Immediately after this short break we were invited to participate in and enjoy some group dynamics that were led by the Vincentian Marian Youth. Then in a short period of time the Daughters of Charity offered us a very delightful meal.

After the meal there was a presentation given by our good friend, Pascual Torres (priest coordinator of REVIVO) who in a simple way exhorted and motivated us to continue to work in the way that we are: as a Vincentian Family that has received a great heritage and that desires, through its passion and action, to continue to influence the world.

Then, as a family, we practiced the music for the Mass and after, went to three different rooms where a series of interviews were held with some Daughters of Charity and Vincentian Missionaries who shared with us their vocation story, their view of the present state of the Vincentian Family and what they felt was needed in order that we be more faithful to our vocation.

As the close of our celebration was drawing near REVIVO recognized the former Visitors and Visitatrices for their ministry and for their work as those primarily responsible for the Vincentian Family in Mexico. The Daughters of Charity who were recognized: Sister Adela Orea, DC, Sister Mercedes León, DC, Sister Nidelvia, DC, Sister Mercedes Días, DC, and Sister Graciela Rubio Moncada, DC (the present Visitatrix). The Missionaries who were recognized were: Father Ramón Belmonte, CM, Father Vicente de Dios, CM, Father Benjamín Romo, CM, Father Manuel González, CM, Father Luis Arreola, CM, and Father Silviano Calderón, CM (the present Visitor).

At 5:00 pm we gathered to celebrate the Eucharist that was presided by Father Silvano Calderón, CM. It was obvious that the participants were grateful and happy to be able share in ministerial experiences that have unfolded during these past 350 years both here in Mexico and throughout the world. It is with joy that we now have the presence of two new groups of the Vincentian Family in Mexico. Father Calderón emphasized some of the difficult work that is now before us.

In closing we hope that everyone will do their part as Vincentians so that we might continue to influence the world with our passion and action as we engage in the mission of evangelization and service of the poor.

Reported by: ALFONSO SÁNCHEZ BARRETO
(del grupo REVIVO)

INDIA

The Indian provinces of the Congregation of the Mission and of the Daughters of Charity had organized several programs in connection of the 350th heavenly birth anniversary of St. Vincent and St. Louis.

In the Southern Indian Provinces of the C.M. and D.C., the jubilee programs were organized towards three-fold goals:

1. *For deepening Vincentian identity*

Five days of Vincentian retreat followed by 3 days of Vincentian seminar were organized in 4 batches together with the Daughters of Charity of Southern India. Two Vincentian priests from the Vincentian Congregation — Rev. Fr. Antony Plackal V.C. and Rev. Fr. James Chelapurath V.C., preached the retreats while some of our confreres and Daughters were the resource persons for the seminar.

Two weeks of intensive study-seminar on Vincentian matters were organized at Mysore for the entire Vincentian Family of India. Selected persons from various branches of the family participated in it, who would in turn be resource persons within their own branches or to one another in future.

Vincentian heritage, Vincentian Spirituality, Vincentian understanding of the poor and social work with systemic change in view, Vincentian leadership, and Vincentian Missiology were some of the topics studied in detail.

2. *For making St. Vincent and his charism known to others*

- a) A souvenir has been published highlighting the Vincentian charism heritage and apostolate in India.
- b) An all India level essay completion for seminarians and religious was conducted and prizes were awarded with the aim of motivating seminarians and religious to do studies on St. Vincent.
- c) A quiz completion book on the Vincentian Saints and Vincentian Family was published by our major seminarians with the aim of

deepening the quest for knowledge about the Vincentian saints and Vincentian Family.

- d) Mementos like jubilee prayer, jubilee card, key chains, pocket calendar, annual calendar were prepared and distributed.
- e) CD on the activities of the Province together with the D.C. is being brought out.
- f) Solemn Eucharistic celebrations were organized in the province level and in the local level with the participation of the Vincentian family, diocesan clergy, other religious, laity and the poor.

3. For closer communion with the poor

- a) The province decided to strengthen its assistance and service to the poor in a concrete way. For this a social work Organization (NGO) "PRATHEEKSHA" (which literally means hope) was registered in the state of Karnataka. Under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Davis Kachappilly C.M. the organization is helping poor children with education, medical needs and job oriented trainings. The organization is assisting mainly children, women and elderly in need at present and hopes to expand its service to the needy of other areas in the future.
- b) As a jubilee memorial, the social work coordinator of the province, Rev. Fr. Sebastian Anthikad C.M. has set up a dispensary and staff quarters at Bapulapad (Andhra Pradesh) and a mobile clinic with an ambulance and staff nurses mainly to identify and assist the AIDS victims. The SABS (Sisters Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament) are collaborating with him in this work. He dreams of a big centre having a HOSPICE for AIDS patients and two separate hostels for boys and girls orphaned by AIDS (but negative). If God inspires generous souls to assist the project, this would become a reality soon giving solace to hundreds of hapless poor patients and victims.
- c) A scholarship fund was set up for enabling some catholic students from our parishes to complete their university studies (specifically job oriented trainings). Some special requests for financial help, from domestic servants of our communities who have worked with us at least for five continuous years, for construction of houses or for marriage expenses or for treatment were respected.
- d) Besides theses, local level help to the poor were organized by each community.

4. *A grand Concluding ceremony*

Was organized at DPIRS Mysore on 27th of September. Rt. Rev. Thomas Antony Vazhappilly, the Bishop of Mysore was the presiding celebrant while Rt. Rev. Thomas Thiruthalil C.M. Bishop of Balasore broke the word of God. Several confreres, Daughters of Charity, priests, religious, dignitaries and lay faithful were present for the occasion. It has certainly inspired many to follow the saints of charity by being champions of the poor.

The North Indian

The Province of the Congregation of the Mission together with the North Indian Province of Daughters of Charity, in connection with the 350th Death anniversary of St. Vincent and St. Louise De Marillac, arranged programs in four levels:

1. *Programs for the laity in the parishes and institutional communities*

Most of the Vincentian Parish priests and institutional heads have arranged seminar sessions and study classes for various groups like hostel children, youth, mothers, school children etc. A commission consisting of two CM fathers and one DC sister was formed to prepare study materials and power point presentation of the history, life and works of St. Vincent and St. Louise De Marillac which were used in the seminar and study sessions in the parishes and institutions. Dramas on Vincentian themes and various competitions were conducted in the parishes and institutions in connection with the 350th death anniversary of St. Vincent and St. Louis De Marillac.

2. *Programs for Personal renewal for the members of Vincentian Family*

A three-day seminar was conducted for the Vincentian confreres and Daughters. The seminar was conducted by Fr. Hugh O'Donnell former director of the CIF Program in Paris. The seminar was conducted in two batches from 3-6 and 7-10 September 2010. Participants were taken through the life journey St. Vincent and St. Louis and participants were asked to reflect on the life journey of the Vincentians in the present day situations. The seminar was intended for personal renewal and the strengthening the Vincentian spirit.

3. Programs in solidarity with the poor

In connection with the 350th death anniversary of St. Vincent and St. Louise De Marillac the Vincentians of the North Indian province decided to make 20 new houses and repair 100 partially damaged houses of victims of Khandhamal violence to express our solidarity with the victims of communal violence. Besides this, we have decided to give free education to 30 poor children in our English medium schools to mark the 350th death anniversary of St. Vincent and St. Louis. They will be given free lodging and boarding and their other educational expenses will be met by the province.

4. Programs for promoting Vincentian literary materials

In connection with the 350th death anniversary of St. Vincent and St. Louise De Marillac we have initiated to promote Vincentian literary materials. We have produced the following:

- Five year planner (book), from 2010 to 2015, with quotes from Vincent de Paul,
- A Vincentian Missal (in English and Oriya),
- A music CD containing songs related to St. Vincent and St. Louis de Marillac.

5. We had a grand concluding ceremony on 11th September 2010

On 11th September 2010 at Aquinas College, Gopalpur-on-Sea, the Solemn Jubilee Eucharistic celebration was officiated by Rt. Rev. Thomas Thiruthalil, C.M (Bishop of Balasore). The presence of Rt. Rev. Sarat Chandra Nayak (Bishop of Berhampur), Very. Rev. Fr. Varghese Thottamkara, C.M (Assistant General of the Congregation of the Mission) and many priests (both diocesan and religious), other consecrated women and men and eminent well wishers added grandeur to the joyful celebration. After the Holy Eucharist, a special cultural event was arranged in the auditorium of Aquinas College. During the programme a short power point presentation was done by DC Sisters and CM Confreres, on St. Vincent's and St. Louise's life history, background of both Congregations' beginning and important activities. Talks were given by both Bishops and Provincials on the importance of this special occasion.

Reported by: VARGHESE THOTTAMKARA, C.M.
and MATHEW KALLAMACKAL, C.M.

COLOMBIA

Jubilee Gathering of the Province

On September 1-2, 2010 we celebrated the Jubilee Encounter of the Province. The idea for this gathering was presented during the Provincial Assembly, 2009 and happily, this idea became a reality.

In accord with the plan, this encounter was developed in four “moments.” The first “moment” took place on Wednesday morning and provided the confreres, involved in different areas of ministry, with an opportunity to speak about the ways in which the Vincentians in Colombia are attempting to serve the Church and the poor and at the same time are also attempting to give new life to the charism, mission, parishes, houses of formation, diocesan seminaries while accompanying the branches of the Vincentian Family. There are also other areas where the Vincentians are ministering. The second “moment,” which occurred during the afternoon, responded to the desire of the confreres to know in further detail the development and the work of the recent General Assembly.

The Eucharistic celebration, presided by Father Noel Mojica, gathered together our prayers of thanksgiving and our prayers of supplication and these were placed before the Lord of the harvest. In the evening we participated in a Marian celebration which was organized and creatively planned by the local community of Chinauta. This celebration provided us with the opportunity to recall the many profound Vincentian reflection themes that had been presented to us during the course of the Jubilee Year. In the presence of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise, with the spirituality and the witness of their lives, the candles that we lighted on Mary’s altar allowed us to experience the commitment of creative fidelity to the mission.

The second session had the addition of a very significant element, namely, the presence of the theologians from Villa Paúl. The two morning sessions (one session in which we divided ourselves according to age and then a plenary session) were dedicated to sharing significant missionary experiences, anecdotes and events which everyone has had at some time and which for some reason are inscribed in an indelible manner in our memory. Indeed it is true that remembering is living.

Guided by Father Carlos Albeiro Velásquez we were led in praying a rosary of historical remembrance. During each decade of Mary’s prayer we were reminded of significant Provincial events that occurred from the time of the arrival of the first sons of Saint Vincent to our land.

Our Provincial gathering was closed with the celebration of the Eucharist that had been prepared by the theologians and presided by

the Visitor. We were reminded of the fact the we, as beneficiaries, have been entrusted with a demanding spiritual and charismatic heritage, Our giving of ourselves in service to those who are poor and our living out of the gospel values expressed in the vows have to be done in the context of radical and effective lifestyles in which we hand over our lives in an unambiguous manner.

Activities in other houses

La Apostólica, Santa Rosa de Cabal: September 4, celebration with the youngest members of the Vincentian Marian Youth; September 9-10, celebration with the members of the Vincentian Family and the professors at the San Vicente de Pereira School; September 23, 24, 25 and 26, celebration of the Jubilee Triduum and gathering with poor people in the Miraculous Medal Shrine.

Cali: September 23, 24, 25 Jubilee Triduum and sharing a meal with street people; September 26, closing of the Jubilee Year in the Cathedral of Cali; September 27, meeting with the missionaries of Santa Rosa de Cabal.

Cartago: During the Jubilee Year we reflected on the papers that were published for this occasion; September 17-19 provincial meeting of JUCOVIS; September 24, Vincent Family Banquet pro Hogar de Paso San José; September 27, each branch of the Vincentian Family had a luncheon with the poor.

Ibagué: September 18, Vincentian youth gathering, festive celebration; September 26, solemn closing in the Cathedral, food distributed to poor families.

Las Mercedes, Bogotá: September 25, celebration in Sibaté with the Daughters of Charity, young women and men and employees.

Medellin Sepavi: September 25, closing of the Jubilee Year in the Cathedral of Medellin with the whole Vincentian Family.

Popayán: September 23, 24, 25 the Vincentian Family celebrated a triduum in honor of Saint Vincent; September 26, closing of the Jubilee year with the celebration of the Eucharist in the Cathedral-Basilica of Our Lady of the Assumption; sharing with people living on the street.

Region Rwanda-Burundi: September 27, Solemn Eucharistic celebration with students, missionaries and the Vincentian Family.

Santa Maria: September 27, Eucharistic celebration in different places.

Tierradentro: September 27-28, Eucharistic celebration with the Bishop and the Vincentian Family; also the 105th anniversary of ministry in this place.

Villa Paúl, Funza: September 5, retreat with the members of the lay biblical school on being a Vincentian; September 11, meeting of the Vincentian Family; September 25, meeting with the beneficiaries of our social ministry; September 25, Vincentian cultural celebration with the municipal community; September 19-26, Biblical-Vincentian Week in the municipal neighborhoods; September 26, closing of the Jubilee Year in the Cathedral of Bogotá; September 27, celebration of the Solemnity of Saint Vincent with the presence of eight theologians who pronounced their vows during said celebration.

Reported by: Province Colombia

U.S.A.

Province of Albany, New York

- Daughters of Charity at St. John's University:
 - The 350th year began and ended with special liturgies for the University communities.
 - Every month during the year in the Residence Newsletter an article appeared focusing on some aspect of the Life of Vincent and/or Louise, and this letter goes out to all resident students (over 3,000 students).
- Sister Patricia Ann O'Brien gave talks during the year to the Women in Leadership Group on the life of Vincent and of Louise.
- The Daughters of Charity in Holbrook, MA involved St. Joseph Parish in several ways:
 - Throughout the year the Sisters wrote several articles in the Church Bulletin about the history of the Community and about our Community Saints.
- At DePaul Provincial House on September 12 the Affiliates of the Daughters of Charity of the Northeast Province gathered.
- At the Rourke Center in Troy, NY:
 - The Sisters and members focused on the impact of St. Vincent's and St. Louise's vision left to us, the heritage through which we continue to serve the poor. The members who participate

in the arts program, people who are living in poverty, participated in an exhibition sponsored by Niagara University during their week of celebration. The exhibition, *Creative to Infinity: The Vision Continues*, displayed 29 works of art, 24 of which represented the Rourke Center artists.

- Currently, Sister Loretta Hoag, DC is working on a sculpture of St. Louise with St. Vincent Collaborators with a Vision that will be cast in bronze. It will be about 16-18 inches tall. It should be available to the public and Community by September 2011.

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

On September 27, 2010 the Daughters of Charity of the Montreal house (Albany Province) celebrated the 350 anniversary of the death of St. Vincent and of St. Louise de Marillac with all of the Vincentian Family, including several members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, some Religious of Saint Vincent de Paul, the deacons and their spouses of the Vincentian Association of Permanent Deacons, the Sisters of Providence (a Community that adopted the Constitutions of the Daughters of Charity).

The celebration was presided over by Monsignor André Gazaile, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdioceses of Montreal and took place at the Cathedral of Marie-Reine-du Monde in Montreal. It was interesting to note that Monsignor Gazaile motto is "The Charity of Christ urges us."

In his homily, Monsignor Gazaile expressed himself thus: "What is striking, is to discover the extraordinary richness of the heritage of Saint Vincent de Paul and of St. Louise de Marillac, Besides extraordinary richness of their own foundations, they also inspired quantities of other religious communities, movements, and associations who witness to the love and service of the poor and who took seriously this preference of Jesus for the poor and the little ones, by consecrating their lives and showing us the way."

Reported by: LOUISE GALLAHUE, D.C.

Emmitsburg Province

Main activities in the province to celebrate the 350th anniversary

During the March 2010 On-going Formation meeting for the Province, a special EVENSONG to mark this event was celebrated in the Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton followed by a reception.

Many Sisters in the local communities of the Province participated in the alternative gift giving for Haiti and ritualized the giving with a prayer service. Through the Vincentian Family Coordinator information on Zafen was distributed to Affiliates of the province, Women of Charity (former daughters), at Vincentian Family Gatherings and other local events.

Several local communities showed the DVD “Vincent DePaul; Charity’s Saint” to parishioners, affiliates, Women of Charity, occasionally along with a “Poor Man’s Supper” for participants.

Reported by: CLAIRE DEBES, D.C.

St. Louis Province

San Antonio, Texas: The Vincentian Family of San Antonio gathered for a 350th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving on September 11 at St. Vincent de Paul Church in San Antonio. The retired Bishop Flanagan and Rev. Kevin Fausz, CM, concelebrated. Over 220 members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Ladies of Charity, Affiliates, Daughters of Charity, Former DCs, co-workers and collaborators celebrated the Vincentian charism alive in San Antonio.

Waco, Texas: September 29, 2010, the Daughters of Charity and Providence Hospital in Waco provided a free meal of vegetable soup, bread, salad and fruit, for over 2,400 staff members, doctors, volunteers, Affiliates and family members to recognize the 350th Anniversary of St. Vincent and St. Louise. It is becoming a tradition to have a St. Vincent’s meal each year and celebrate the roots of our mission and ministries.

Austin, Texas: About 40 of our physicians, board members, associates, staff and some spouses just returned from a Seton Family of Hospitals Heritage Tour in France. When they visited our Chapel at the Mother House, they heard a presentation on the 350th anniversary.

September 26, 2010, the St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Austin Diocese hosted a celebration for the Ladies of Charity, the Daughters of Charity and other members of the Vincentian Family at St. Anthony

Marie Claret Church in Kyle, Texas. The Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Vasquez, Bishop of Austin, celebrated a mass at 10 a.m. followed by a catered lunch for over 200 people.

St. Louis, Missouri and East St. Louis, Illinois

On Saturday, August 21, over 150 members gathered for service projects to see the face of Christ in those persons who are poor and needy. The Day of Service was followed by an apostolic reflection at each of the 16 service sites. On Sunday, August 22, over 600 members of the Vincentian Family gathered at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis to thank God for his many blessings. The Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of Saint Louis, presided at the afternoon liturgy and the Reverend G. Gregory Gay, CM, Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission and the Daughters of Charity, delivered the homily. Fr. Gregory emphasized that the mission of charity calls all members of the Vincentian Family to practice charity that is personal, practical and political. The offertory collection of almost \$3,000 will benefit a Haiti Reforestation Project of ZAFEN — a joint micro-finance project of the worldwide Vincentian Family, Fonkoze, DePaul University and Haitian Hometown Association Resource Group.

Reported by: MARY WALZ, D.C.

THE REGION OF BELGIUM

On the occasion of the closing of the Jubilee Year for the Vincentian Family in Belgium, the Superior General, Father G. Gregory Gay and the Assistant General, Father Stanislav Zontak, visited Belgium. They participated in the celebration of the Eucharist which was followed by a reception and a dinner. After a program that was organized by Father Martelo they then visited the exhibition which was greatly appreciated by all those who had participated, more than 19 branches of the Vincentian Family.

OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING THE 350th ANNIVERSARY

Two Vincentian DVD's

With a text written by Father Edward Udovic, CM and with the collaboration of the Missionaries and the Daughters of Charity, DePaul University in Chicago, in order to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the death of Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, has made a

film about Saint Vincent entitled: *Charity's Saint*. At the present time the film is in English, but there is hope that this text will be translated into Spanish.

Father Luigi Mezzadri, CM, with a beautiful text that is narrated by two professional radio announcers, presents us with another DVD entitled: *The oak tree and the snowdrop*. *Galanthus Nivalis* is also called the snowdrop and so Louise's courage and decisiveness are reflected in the snowdrop and Vincent's vigor and security are reflected in the oak tree.

Another Vincentian Congress

Cahiers, the trimester bulletin of the Vincentians in France, in edition #209 refers to a gathering of the Daughters of Charity and the Missionaries from France, Belgium and Switzerland held in Paris, October 10-11, 2009. This was a time to reflect together on the source of our life and our commitment.

A Vincentian Seminar in Sardinia

In Cagliari and Sassari about 1,000 Vincentians participated in one of two sessions of the Vincentian Seminar which was held for the tenth time.

When referring to these gatherings we must mention the work of the whole Vincentian Family that was coordinated by Father Giovanni Burdese, CM. These sessions represent a particular moment of unity which has made visible our presence on the Island.

Materials to support prayer and reflection

The web page for the 350th anniversary displayed some material that might be useful for distinct celebrations and reflections.

During the course of the year the Spanish version of *famvin* offered twelve power point presentations that were prepared by Sister María Vicenta Díaz, DC from the province of Madrid-Saint Louise. These can be downloaded at <http://famvin.org/es/archive/preparando-la-clausura-350-aniversario>