

# INTRODUCTION

## Editor's Note

John T. Maher, C.M.

The theme of this issue is a follow-up to the *Ratio Formationis*, published in December 2014. This is an important document, treating all aspects of initial and ongoing formation. With the General Council, the Vincentiana Editorial Board believed it would be helpful to have confreres with experience in formation offer commentary on each of the eight sections of the *Ratio*.

What you read in this issue is the result of their efforts. I express my gratitude for their contributions, into which they have woven their own ideas, insights, and experiences as formators, thus giving us a rich and rewarding explication of the meaning of the *Ratio Formationis*. While the reflections on the Ratio are important, so too are insights of confreres who have spent much of their lives involved in formation ministry. Fr. Barry Moriarty is such a person. He has served as the Director of the Internal Seminary for many years, with the unique experience of doing so in two provinces and on two continents! His article on "Good Purposes" is an overview of the historical and theological rationale for this uniquely Vincentian phenomenon.

An emerging reality in providing proper formation for both confreres and laity is that of mentoring. Good mentors can instruct, inspire, admonish, and assist those they serve to develop competencies in ministry and for life. In his article, Fr. Robert Maloney reviews the subject of mentoring from the era of the classics, in the Gospels as Jesus mentors his disciples, through the life of St. Vincent, and over nearly four centuries since his followers have mentored his charism of charity to evangelize and serve the poor. Fr. Maloney concludes by offering core values and practical actions to promote a method of mentoring reflecting the way of Jesus and St. Vincent.

Earlier this year, the Congregation of the Mission was buzzing with news of the naming of a new cardinal from our ranks. Our confrere from Ethiopia, Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel, C.M., the Archbishop of Addis Ababa, was notified via Vatican Radio that he was to be created cardinal at the February 2014 consistory. This honor bestowed on him by Pope Francis was not given to him for his own benefit, but as a gesture of respect for the Catholic people of Ethiopia. Thus, our newest Vincentian Cardinal is the subject of this issue's "Spotlight Interview." The life story of Cardinal Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel, C.M. is an illuminating and moving one.

Finally, on a personal note, I write to inform you that this is my final issue as the Editor of *Vincentiana* and Director of Communication and Publications at the General Curia. After laboring four years, I am returning to my home province in Philadelphia, the Eastern Province USA, for a new assignment. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity, and a rare opportunity to view the Congregation from both international and historical perspectives. This has been challenging and enriching experience, one for which I will always be grateful.

I wish to offer my thanks to Fr. G. Gregory Gay, Superior General and the General Council for this opportunity, along with the Editorial Board of *Vincentiana* for their ideas and support. I also wish to pay tribute to our previous editor, Fr. Julio Suescun, C.M., who was a wise mentor as I learned the many details of producing *Vincentiana*. One last group I want to pay particular tribute to is our translators, who have been so incredibly generous in their service to *Vincentiana*. There have been times when the prospect of getting out a given issue on time seemed doubtful, but the translators always came through, due to their skills and generous service. A translator's work is often tedious and exhausting. Yet, the selfless example of confreres, Daughters of Charity, and laity in the Vincentian Family who generously gave of their time and talent to translate is the real success story behind *Vincentiana*.

I leave the editorship grateful for this opportunity (although slightly exhausted!), and I thank you, our faithful readers and subscribers for your interest and patronage of *Vincentiana*. As for my own words of farewell, Lacordaire, a French priest and contemporary of Frederic Ozanam, said it best: "All I know about tomorrow is that God's Providence will rise before the sun."

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