

Introduction

Editor's Note

It is with great joy that I place in your hands this second issue of *Vincentiana* for the year 2016. This edition is the fruit of communication with the Superior General, which took place during the past three months of April, May, and June. At the same time, this issue includes the reflections of some confreres who have shared their thoughts on the theme of **Vincentian Collaboration**. As a redaction team, we saw that a discussion of this theme is most relevant as we bring this Year of Collaboration to a close on the feast of Pentecost (15 May). We can all benefit from taking the time to reflect on this matter, which our Superior General addressed in his letter of 30 January 2015. In that letter, Father Gregory introduced the overall theme of the year: *Together in Christ, we Vincentians make a Difference* and then placed before us the objective of such an initiative: *During the course of the year, we ask that the local, regional, and international levels of the Vincentian Family explore ways to celebrate, connect and learn, and serve with one another ... especially, our lords and masters, the poor.*

Congratulations to our confrere from India, Father Aplinar Senapati, CM, who was ordained as bishop of the newly erected Diocese of Rayagada. At the present time, there are 34 bishops in the Congregation, 14 have completed their apostolic ministry and are therefore bishop-emeritus, while 18 others are currently responsible for an individual diocese.

In this issue, we publish a summary of the June 6-10 *Tempo Forte* and four letters of the Superior General: two addressed to the members of the Congregation of the Mission, another written to all the members of the Vincentian Family, and another addressed to the members of MISEVI. The 20 April letter was addressed to the Visitors and all the confreres inviting them to participate in the celebration of the 400th anniversary of our charism. He presented the theme of that celebration: **welcome the stranger**. In that letter, Father Gregory encouraged the Visitors to enter into dialog with the confreres of the province in order to search for affective and effective means to care for the stranger in their midst. The second letter outlined the various ways in which the confreres will be able to receive information about the happenings at the General Assembly. In the letter that was addressed to all the members of the Vincentian Family, Father Gregory

referred to the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the birth of our charism, announced to them the theme: **welcome the stranger**, and reflected on this theme by referring to Matthew 25:35 (*I was a stranger and you welcomed me*). Father asked the question: who are the strangers in our midst? The last letter was addressed to the members of MISEVI and, in it, Father expressed his gratitude to the members for the various ways in which they were able to minister together during these past 12 years.

In one of the sections of this issue we honor and give witness to the ministry of two confreres who served as Superior General: Father Richard McCullen and Father Gregory Gay. Father McCullen, Superior General from 1980 to 1992, died on 24 December 2015. A confrere from his province and another confrere who served as Assistant General share with us some reflections on this successor of Saint Vincent de Paul. In this section, one will also find an interview that Father Gregory offered to a confrere from CLAPVI, an interview in which he spoke about his ministry as Superior General, as well as his hopes for the future of the Congregation.

We also publish in this issue an article that as written by Father Robert Maloney, CM: *Freedom of the Children of God, the Fruit of Indifference*. Father presents some very timely reflections that can enable us to minister even more effectively as we begin to focus on the ways in which we can care for the strangers in our midst.

The central theme is this issue of *Vincentiana* is: Vincentian Collaboration. We present various perspectives on this theme: collaboration in general by John C. Darly (Depaul International), collaboration in the area of formation by Fenelón Castillo, CM (Colombia), collaboration and mission (experience in Tanzania) by George Joseph, CM, and another article written by Joseph Agostino, CM, from the perspective of his ministry with the worldwide Vincentian Family. Finally, we include an article that was written by our confrere, Guillermo Campuzano, who is ministering at the United Nations, an article in which he explains that collaboration is something that is proper to our charism.

I want to take a moment to thank all those who have contributed their time and effort in making this issue of *Vincentiana* possible. May all our readers find these articles both interesting and helpful for their prayer and reflection.

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Director de “*Vincentiana*”