

# Introduction

## Editor's Note

Time continues to move forward and so we are now able to place in your hands the second number of *Vincentiana* which corresponds to April, May and June 2017. The theme of this edition is: *the sense of belonging to the Vincentian Family and the Vincentian Charism*. During this Jubilee Year there has been much reflection on this theme and it is only right that the official publication of the Congregation of the Mission should also include such reflections on this most important theme.

In the first section, *from the general curia*, we include the letter of Father Tomaž with regard to confreres in difficulty. A second document, entitled *Some clarification on the most frequent cases*, is intended to assist the Visitors as they confront specific situations in which confreres find themselves outside the Congregation. There is also an outline that summarizes different situations from the perspective of the Canon Law, the Constitutions and the Practical Guide for Visitors and this outline is also intended to help the Visitors in their decision making process. This first section concludes with a report of the June *tempo forte*, reflections and decisions of the General Council affecting the life of the Congregation and the confreres.

The second section, *from the superior general*, includes four letters addressed to the members of the Congregation, letters related to formation programs, the international Vincentian network, the beatification of the new martyrs in Spain and an invitation to participate in the symposium which will be held in October.

The outstanding *person of the Congregation of the Mission* is Bishop Ferdinando Taddei, CM (1867-1940). This reflection was written by Professor Lucio Meglio, a professor at the University of Casino and Lazio. Bishop Taddei, an Italian confrere, was formed in France and as a young missionary went to Brazil, where he was ordained a bishop in 1927. He distinguished himself as both an intellectual and a missionary bishop.

The section, *of current interest*, includes two reflections. The first refers to the status of the Congregation with regard to the Economic and Social Council, an organism of the United Nations. The second refers to

an icon entitled *divided throughout history, united by charity* ... an icon made by the Polish artist, Mariola Zajgezowska Bicho. This icon can be seen at the General Curia where it was presented as a remembrance of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the Vincentian charism.

The development of the theme of this edition (*the sense of belonging to the Vincentian Family and the Vincentian Charism*) is enriched by the contribution of six confreres. Guillermo Campuzano entitles his reflection, *our journey to the heart of humanity and the earth* and speaks about the importance of our identity and our sense of belonging especially during times of crisis. Luigi Mezzadri writes a reflection, *identity and sense of Vincentian belonging*, in which he refers to Vincent's experiences in Folleville and Châtillon and asks the same question that Vincent often posed: *and you, why are you in the mission?* In this article, the author makes it clear that our identity is found in the process of clothing ourselves in the spirit of Jesus Christ and thus, our identity is constituted by Jesus Christ and by the poor. Vincent Teixeira writes, *mission and charity: an identity in relationship*. The author states that the mission and charity express the richness of our charism, its mysticism and its prophetic dimension. In fact mission and charity provide a structure for our identity and all of this is analyzed from the perspective of Latin America and the Church's magisterium, especially as expressed in the Aparecida Document. Néilo Pita Pereira focuses his reflection on *mission and charity in "desert situations" and the challenges to the Congregation of the Mission*, a reflection on the search for God which gives meaning to the life of missionaries. Antonio Orcajo, in his article, *the Vincentian charism: fidelity to the charism of the Founder*, develops his reflection around the question, are we dealing with the charism of the Founder or the charism of evangelization? Father Robert Maloney, concludes this section with his article, *welcoming the stranger: Saint Vincent de Paul and the homeless*.

I express my gratitude to the confreres who make the publication of this edition of *Vincentiana* possible. The reflections of our confreres enable us to grow as members of the Congregation and in our sense of belonging and our identity. I hope you enjoy reading this issue...

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