

Presentation

At the initiative and invitation of Fr. Maloney and Mother Elizondo, the Provincial Directors of the Daughters of Charity participated in a Vincentian Month which took place in Paris from 2-27 July 2001.

It was a time of intense formation in order to better carry out the ministry confided to the Congregation of the Mission in service to the Daughters of Charity.

The Session was organized by the International Secretariat of Vincentian Studies (SIEV). The Planning and Coordinating Commission for the month was composed of Frs.: José María Nieto (Secretary General), Roberto Lovera (Executive Secretary of SIEV), Fernando Quintano (Director General of the Daughters of Charity), Agustín Martínez (Provincial Director, Southern France) and Sr. Therezhina Remonatto (Assistant General).

This Commission chose the themes to discuss and the methods to follow in accordance with the information given by the Visitatrixes and Directors from the previously completed survey.

During the four weeks, four major topics were taken up: *1. Knowledge of the Company; 2. The Role of the Director; 3. The Service of the Director in the Framework of Formation; 4. The Road of Preparing for the Next General Assembly of the Company on the Revision of the Constitutions.*

Each of these themes consisted of several topics that were treated by experts in conferences, by the exchange of experiences of some Directors and sisters, by personal study, sharing in group work and plenary sessions. Three pilgrimages (Folleville-Amiens; Berceau of Vincent – Dax – Lourdes; and Châtillon-Ars) created links between the different weeks. Fr. Maloney, Superior General, directed a day of Spiritual Retreat at the Berceau. The month drew to a close with a Plenary Session with Sr. Juana Elizondo, Superioress General, and her Council, the revision of the Directory and an evaluation of the meeting.

At the time of the evaluation, all of the Directors expressed a very positive opinion regarding this time of formation, particularly those recently named.

In addition to the 75 Provincial Directors, a little more than half the members of the Congregation of the Mission exercise a ministry close to the Daughters of Charity. It is this reality that prompted the Editor and the Editorial Staff of *Vincentiana* to compile *all of the conferences of the Vincentian Month for Provincial Directors* in this issue. Due to the size of this issue, it is not possible to include the different *sharing of experiences* that also merit being known. Some will appear in the Echoes of the Company. We are certain that the collection of these conferences will be a very useful work tool for the missionaries who are in a ministry close to the Daughters of Charity.

Fernando Quintano, C.M.
Director General of the Daughters of Charity