

FEATURE

First Companions in the Mission

Presentation

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The Superior General, in his circular of May 13, 2009 (*Vincentiana*, 2009, n. 3) officially announced the celebration of a Jubilee Year, the 350th anniversary of the departure of St. Vincent and St. Louise for their heavenly mission. Since then, we thought VINCENTIANA should highlight the collaborators who have grown and developed the mission of our founders on earth.

In 2009, VINCENTIANA #5 was devoted to the fruitful collaboration between Saint Vincent and Saint Louise. We then referenced those events which providentially coincided with the 350th anniversary such as the centenary of the Pontifical Approval of the AMM and the Year of the Priest. These filled two separate issues of VINCENTIANA (*Vincentiana*, 2009, n. 6; *Vincentiana*, 2010, n. 1). Issue #2, 2010, entitled “350 Years and the Mission Continues”. VINCENTIANA took up the valorous example of Vincentian cooperation given by two members of the C.M., a priest, Fr. Antonio Portail, and a brother, Bertrand Ducourneau. The continuing mission became more visible in *Vincentiana*, #3, 2010, dedicated to the 41st General Assembly which convened the C.M. precisely under the theme of “Creative Fidelity to the Mission”. Along the same lines, Issue #4, 2010 with the publication in a single issue of 12 articles to provide further reflection on fidelity to the Vincentian Mission today.

Now in 2011, VINCENTIANA reflects on what the Jubilee year has meant worldwide. This issue, returns to the theme of those first collaborators who helped St. Vincent to introduce the idea of mission, whether in France or in the places that Saint Vincent sent missionaries. Certainly not all people, nor perhaps the most important, but these

are certainly significant and worth including in our memory and our thanks.

Finally, with this issue, *VINCENTIANA* will finish another chapter in its own history. Beginning with the next issue for the third quarter of 2011, the new editor for *VINCENTIANA* will be Fr. John Maher C.M. from the Eastern Province of the USA. We wish him success in his new service to the C.M. As I leave, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the many good collaborators I have found. And as our holy tradition teaches us, I humbly apologize for any mistakes made in my performance of this office entrusted to me four years ago.

Translation: JOSEPH C. GEDERS, C.M.