

Editor's Note

In this first issue of 2012, our theme is *Systemic Change*, a major theme that emerged from the 2010 General Assembly. However, systemic change has been on the horizon in the Congregation of the Mission as well as throughout the Vincentian Family for number of years. In 2006, Fr. G. Gregory Gay, C.M. established a Commission for Systemic Change with the desire to promote an awareness of and participation in this developing direction in society, one quite consonant with the social doctrine of the Church. In fact, at the General Assembly in 2010, systemic change became one of the five main themes for implementation in the "Lines of Action" for the worldwide Vincentian community.

However, as this issue will show, systemic change is more than a commission, concept, or promulgation. In this issue, you will learn about some of its core concepts. The book "Seeds of Hope", written by various members of the Commission for Systemic Change, is discussed in detail in the first article. Called a primer, it gives an overview of the most salient strategies of systemic change, as well as a rationale for systemic change in Constitutions of the Congregation of the Mission, the Daughters of Charity, the rule of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the 2005 organizational statement at a meeting of the AIC (International Association of Charity).

Fr. Robert Maloney, C.M., former Superior General and a tireless advocate for systemic change, makes a point by that the title of his article "Evangelization and Systemic Change", these two values are complimentary, not contradictory. He suggests specific strategies, giving a treasure trove of resources to help one to understand and adapt systemic change to our charism.

In her article, Mrs. Patricia Nava, former president of the AIC, discusses how to take an existing project and transform it, using the principles of systemic change. Mrs. Nava writes from experience and not from theory. As the former president of AIC and a founding member of the Commission for Systemic Change, she has travelled the world, actively advocating for the poor and teaching others ways to do so. She writes with an admirable wisdom borne from experience.

Blessed Frederick Ozanam is one of the great examples in the Church and the Vincentian Family of a man not only converted unto Christ and the poor, but who came to see the necessity of systemic change in 19th century France. Mentored by Daughter of Charity Rosalie Rendu,

he allowed himself to move beyond the safe circles of the Sorbonne and actively entered the world of the poor. Renowned British scholar Dr. Austin Fagan discusses the life and activities of Blessed Frederick Ozanam, giving us much to reflect upon as we consider the impact the founder of the St. Vincent de Paul Society had in his day, and that the Society continues to hold today. He is among the first modern progenitors of systemic change in the Vincentian family.

Although this issue will reach you well into the 'New Year' of 2012, this issue also contains the annual statistical report of the Congregation of the Mission for the year 2011 for your review. This report is compiled through the participation of all provinces, vice provinces, and regions throughout the world, giving all readers a thumb nail sketch of the Congregation of the Mission in 2011. Compiling such a report is one of the more difficult tasks of the Secretariat of the General Curia, but such work is indispensable and serves as a valuable frame of reference.

One other matter albeit, a delicate one. Our readers have noticed a substantial increase in the subscription price for *Vincentiana*. This is due to the costs of paper, printing, and especially mailing which have risen substantially in the last few years. The subscription rate has remained quite stable for the past five years, veered between € 40 and under. However, in reaffirming the importance of this journal for not only the confreres and the Vincentian family, the General Curia believed that this increase was necessary to counter the growing deficit spending of the cost of producing this journal, and to ensure its continuance is a quality publication. Your patronage and readership is most appreciated, and every effort will be made, to contain costs in the future, and to provide you with the quality journal that reflects high standards of research and scholarship, with information on the charism of St. Vincent de Paul. We can do no less than strive to be the best for all members of the Vincentian family.

Sincerely in St. Vincent,

John T. Maher, C.M.

Editor, *Vincentiana*