

IN MEMORY OF

Fr. Julio Suescun Olcoz, C.M.



Born: 7 May 1935

Ordained: 20 September 1959

Died: 10 June 2012

Editor of Vincentiana 2007-2011

Editor's Note

This issue of Vincentiana is devoted to coverage of the 2011 SIEV Symposium on Christian-Muslim Interreligious Dialogue. Held in Indonesia, a country with the world's largest Muslim population, this conference brought together Vincentians, Daughters of Charity, lay colleagues, and specialists in this field to offer Christian and Muslim perspectives on this issue.

Their theme was “Duc ad Altum” – *put out into the deep* – from Luke's Gospel (*Lk.* 5:2-6). Using the image Jesus gave the disciples to cast off their fear and apprehension and to get into a boat to go fishing, this symposium sought to move participants beyond popular stereotypes and sycophantic responses of Islam and Christianity. Judging from the program and presentations, it was a deeply enriching experience, both in the exchange of information, and the final outcome: formulating a statement of solidarity, with strategies that will promote interreligious dialogue.

To be sure, this is not a casual topic to explore or interact with in today's world. News stories often remind us of the complexity of the relationship between Christians and Muslims. The coming of the “Arab Spring” in largely Muslim countries has presented great challenges to find new ways of interpreting and enacting governance, religious freedom, and human rights.

The Vincentian Family has been involved in this issue for some time. In 1999, a ground-breaking symposium on the topic of Christian-Muslim dialogue was held in Fatqa, Lebanon. Vincentians, Daughters of Charity, and lay colleagues who ministered in countries with large Muslim populations, sought to share their experiences. They also looked for ways to witness to their faith and to live out the Vincentian charism in collaboration with the Muslim community.

In this issue, confreres Abdo Eid, Christian Mauvais, and Armada Riyanto, all who live and minister in Muslim countries, share their experiences, providing a grasp of the challenges one faces in living out Christian discipleship and the Vincentian charism. Jesuit Felix Korner, who has written and lectured extensively on Christian-Muslim dialogue, presents a framework for understanding its ecclesial development and how to proceed. Academicians and authors Mudjia Rahardjo and Siti Musdah Mulia, adherents to Islam, share their observations on the growth of their faith in Indonesia and around the world and possibilities for collaboration.

To end on a hopeful note, confreres Armada Riyalto, and Claudio Santangelo each present faith-filled, stirring sentiments on ways to move forward in this difficult, but very important task. Drawing from their own experiences, they present essays replete with their rich homiletic and pedagogical prowess. Finally, many of us, I am sure, have had the experience of taking part in a long, complicated conference or meeting, and felt the sting of someone smugly saying at its end, “Well, where do we go from here?”.

Except in this case, the 2011 SIEV symposium participants not only asked but answered the question. The “Synthesis and Lines of Action” proves their time was well-spent. It challenges each of us to understand and act upon these convictions. The lasting contribution of the 2011 SIEV symposium is that it has given all of us practical ways to truly “*put out into the deep*”.

Sincerely in St. Vincent,

John T. Maher, C.M.

Editor, *Vincentiana*

About Our Authors



Abba Zeracristos Yosief, C.M. is Assistant General and resides with the Superior General at General Curia in Rome. Ordained in 1991, he has served as Visitor of the Province of St. Justin de Jacobis (Eritrea).



Abdo Eid, C.M. is a member of the Province of the Orient was ordained in 1994. He is stationed in Beirut, Lebanon and was present in 1999 at the first Vincentian-sponsored Inter-religious Dialogue with Christians and Muslims in Fatqa, Lebanon.



Christian Mauvais, C.M., a member of the Province of Toulouse, was ordained in 1978. He has served in Algeria since 1998 and is currently Director of the Daughters of Charity.



Claudio Santangelo, C.M. is a member of the Province of Rome who was ordained in 1997. He served as Secretary General of the Curia for several years and currently lives and supervises the Leonine College in Rome. He has also served at the Vincentian apostolate in Istanbul, and has a promoted Interreligious Dialogue between Christians and Muslims.



Dr. H. Mudjia Rahardjo is Vice Rector for Academic Affairs at the Islamic University in Malang, Indonesia. He has written and lectured extensively on the impact of Islam in Indonesia. He has also done research and teaching on the cross disciplines of sociology and linguistics.



Dr. Siti Musdah Mulia, a well-known scholar in Indonesia has written and lectured extensively on many facets of Islam. She is President of the Indonesian Conference for Religion and Peace.



Eko Armada Riyanto, C.M. is a member of the Province of Indonesia, which hosted the 2011 conference on Interreligious Dialogue. He was ordained in 1993, teaches in the seminary, and has contributed articles to publications in Indonesia as well as to *Vincentiana*.



Felix Körner, S.J. is a German Jesuit priest ordained in 1995, who serves on the faculty of the School of Missiology at Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He has completed masters and doctoral degrees in Islamic Studies, and has lectured at universities in Ankara and Frankfurt.



Varghese Thottamkara, C.M. is Assistant General and resides with the Superior General at General Curia in Rome. Ordained in 1987, he has served as Visitor of the Province of India (South).