

INTRODUCTION

Editor's Note

John T. Maher, C.M.

This final issue of *Vincentiana* for 2012 draws upon themes familiar to all who embrace the Vincentian charism: solidarity, union, and the “New Evangelization”. These themes were living realities in the lives of Saints Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac. The authors of the articles draw upon the rich heritage of our Catholic faith and community history to demonstrate their relevance – indeed the indispensable need today – for a renewed appreciation of the need for solidarity, union, and the “new evangelization”.

In “*Economic Solidarity: An Ongoing Challenge for the Congregation of the Mission*” the title might tempt one to presume the article’s focus is solely on the difficult and contentious topic of finance and budget. However, the authors, Frs. Robert Maloney and G. Gregory Gay make it clear from the outset that true solidarity in the Congregation involves a genuine sharing of mission, personnel, community life, prayer and spirituality, and resources. Tracing the call to solidarity from the early Church through the life of St. Vincent, to modern papal encyclicals, the article challenges all who follow the Vincentian way to be in solidarity with the poor. They note this can be done in projects that promote active creative collaboration with those who are poor.

This article is also unique for a reason other than content or style: to my knowledge, it is the first time an article co-authored by a recent and current Superior General has graced the pages of *Vincentiana*. As the slogan in American news said: “You saw it here first!”.

Fr. Eli Chaves, Assistant General, used “Union and Collaboration in St. Vincent: Insights for Today” as the basis for a conference he delivered to the AIC last March at their annual world-wide meeting in Brazil. Fr. Eli notes that St. Vincent’s union with Jesus led him into relationship with the poor. From the plaintive cry of the poor “I need you”; St. Vincent was led to be one of heart and mind with them, and strove his whole life to enlist others to do the same. The first “networks of charity” left his followers – down to the present day – to see that union and collaboration occur when one moves from the “I” to the “we”. Fr. Eli concludes with a rich, full exploration of collaboration: personal, communal, ecclesial, and within our charism of charity.

The remaining four articles are based on the “New Evangelization”, each with a unique perspective, on the as seem in the gathering of the recent Synod of Bishops and *Lineamenta* prepared as the “working document” for the Synod. Fr. Nicola Albanesi, Visitor of the Province of Rome, offers a short but direct meditation on the meaning of the New Evangelization and the year of faith in light of the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council.

Fr. Jean Landousies, a former missionary to Algeria, superior at the Maison-Mere, and now on staff at the Vatican Secretariat of State, offers his perspective on the *Lineamenta*, the so-called “working paper” that was used as a basis for Synod discussions and figured prominently into the formulation of the final document. Fr. Javier Alvarez, Vicar General, reflected on the “newness” of the new evangelization, and discovered some startling parallels with the great challenges that faced the first-generation Vincentians.

Finally, the following confreres served as members of the Synod: G. Gregory Gay, C.M.; Most Rev. Markos Ghebremedhin, C.M., Titular Bishop of Gummi and Apostolic Vicar of Jimma-Bonga (ETHIOPIA); Most Rev. Berhaneyesus Demerew Souraphiel, C.M., Metropolitan Archbishop of Addis Ababa; Most Rev. Cristoforo Palmieri, C.M., Bishop of Rrëshen (ALBANIA); and Rev. Emmanuel Typamm, C.M., General Secretary, “Confédération des Conférences des Supérieurs Majeurs d’Afrique et de Madagascar”. As part of their duties, each was required to make a presentation (or ‘intervention’) which was recorded and then placed into the official record of the Synod. All were required to present short statements, but in their ‘compacted thoughts’ one will find a wealth of knowledge, insight, and experience.

As this edition of Vincentian comes to you, a new year is well underway. The coming editions of *Vincentiana* in 2013 will focus on themes, including “The Vincentian Parish of Today and Tomorrow”, “Reflecting on Frederic Ozanam’s Life and Works”, “Highlights of the International Visitor’s Meeting” in New York City, and “Reconfiguration: Opportunity and Challenge”. It is my hope that these topics along with many other interesting features will be informative and assist in our better coming to know and live the charism of charity given us by our Holy Founders, Saints Vincent and Louise.

May your year be a blessed, happy, healthy, and fruitful one for all you meet and serve!

About Our Authors



Fr. NICOLA ALBANESI, C.M. is Visitor of the Province of Rome, where he has served since 2005. He entered the Congregation in 1988 and was ordained in 1992. He resides at the Provincial headquarters at the Leonine College in Rome.



Fr. FRANCISCO JAVIER ÁLVAREZ MUNGUÍA, C.M. is the Vicar General of the Congregation. He is from the Province of Madrid where he served in formation work and as a Provincial Director of the Daughters of Charity. His most recent post was Director General of the Daughters of Charity.



Fr. ELI CHAVES DOS SANTOS, C.M. is an Assistant General of the Congregation. Originally from Brazil, he served in the Province of Mozambique on the provincial council and as Provincial Director of the Daughters of Charity. He entered the Congregation in 1972 and was ordained in 1979.



Fr. G. GREGORY GAY, C.M. is Superior General. Ordained in 1980, he served on missions in the Republic of Panama and Central America, where he was elected Visitor of the Province of Central America. He was elected Superior General in 2004 and reelected in 2010.



Fr. JEAN LANDOUSIES, C.M. is a member of the Province of Paris. He has served as a missionary in Algeria and superior of the Maison-Mère. He has served as staff of the Vatican Secretariat of State since 2004. He entered the Congregation in 1965 and was ordained in 1972.



Fr. ROBERT P. MALONEY, C.M. served as Superior General from 1992-2004, and was an Assistant General from 1986-1992. He is a member of the Eastern Province, and has served as a seminary formator and missionary in the Republic of Panama. He was ordained in 1966.