

INTRODUCTION

Editor's Note: *Vincentiana* 2013

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Happy New Year! May God's blessings be with you in 2013! This first issue of *Vincentiana* for 2013 will reach you well after the start of this year, but it comes with my prayer for a graced "Year of Faith". Thank you for your readership and support.

The theme of this issue is on Vincentian parish life, particularly, how it applies to the missionary aspect of our charism. Two key questions frame our discussion are: *What are the main components that make up a Vincentian parish? How can our parishes develop a truly missionary spirit?* These are the concerns of confreres, Visitors, and a General Assembly. The letter published by Fr. G. Gregory Gay, C.M. in October 2011 asked Visitors and their councils to reflect on the role of our Vincentian charism in parishes in their care, using the questions above as a measure of evaluation.

The Superior General's October 2011 letter suggested that *Vincentiana* dedicate an issue dedicated to this topic, so here we are! We are fortunate to have an abundance of ideas and insights. "*The Vincentian Parish: Today and Tomorrow*" is divided into three sections:

- Two in-depth articles by confreres Anthony Ruiz and Pablo Dominguez, reflecting on Vincentian parishes in light of our missionary vocation and the "New Evangelization";
- Ten official responses from provinces, vice-provinces, and a mission to the questions posed by the 2011 letter of the Superior General;
- Several reflections from individual confreres engaged in parish ministry.

This above collection of articles, provincial statements, and reflections on Vincentian parish life forms a fine tableau of the diversity and richness of our charism. It also recalls the generosity of confreres across continents who faithfully serve the people of God in parishes. It is with regret that I note the absence of a number of provinces (and sadly, continents) from this discussion on Vincentian parish life. To be

clear, both provinces and confreres from across the world were invited to participate. Hopefully there will be future opportunities for sharing.

In this first issue of 2013, you'll notice a "new" item. *Spotlight Interview* is a new feature which will highlight a person who promotes Vincentian charism. The initial interviewee is Fr. John Rybolt, C.M., Province of the West, USA. John helped found the CIF program in Paris, and has pioneered considerable research and writing on Vincentian history and spirituality. If you would like to suggest a confrere or member of the Vincentian Family for a future *Spotlight Interview*, please feel free to contact me at: vincentiana@cmglobal.org

Once again, I am grateful for your interest and readership. New ideas, suggestions, and yes, even admonitions will be gratefully received by yours truly. Please feel free to offer your suggestions to me at the above e-mail. Enjoy this issue!