

From the Editor

John T. Maher, C.M.

This issue of *Vincentiana* focuses its theme on the life and ongoing influence of Blessed Frederic Ozanam as we commemorate the 200th anniversary of his birth. For over two centuries Frederic's life, words, and works have inspired and guided people to follow the Vincentian charism. Celebrations of the anniversary of his birth were held in Milan, where he was born on April 23, 1813, and Paris, where he lived, worked and is buried (after having died in Marseilles on September 8, 1853). We focus not only on the "who" of Frederic, but on the "how and why", to shed light on the marvelous effect Frederic Ozanam had on his family, the society and Church of his time, and the extent of his influence today.

Fr. Ron Ramson, C.M., whose work, *Praying with Frederic Ozanam* is well known in the English-speaking world, reflects on a little-known aspect: the effect Frederic's decision to serve Christ in the poor had on his immediate family and on future generations. Readers will see a "osmosis" of the Vincentian charism, extending two generations in the Ozanam lineage to his grandson, Fr. Francis LaPorte, whose sought to revive the Catholic Church in France after World War II.

Fr. Teodoro Barquin, C.M., of the Province of Madrid discusses the genius of Ozanam, not just in his development of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, but the extent his intellectual and philosophical prowess laid the foundation to "restore the society under the guidance of the Church". Fr. Barguin makes a strong case both the writing and teaching efforts of Frederic Ozanam should be regarded as "the precursor to the present theology of the laity".

Dr. Thomas O'Brien, DePaul University faculty, traces the writings and life of Frederic Ozanam to this era's development of Catholic Social Teaching. Dr. O'Brien develops his thesis not just through his foundation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, but by exploring his writing and teaching, both of which showed a willingness to engage a society and an academic community that was overtly hostile to the Church. Two key elements in Ozanam's outlook that O'Brien sees as 'markers' of Catholic Social Policy are: his preferential option for the poor (calling the Church to aid of those in need); and his development of a "historical hermeneutic" that acknowledged a need for a dialogue and positive interaction between Church and state.

Finally, this "Ozanam issue" presents an interview with Julien Spiewak, a young man who serves as Vice-President for Youth and Young Adults of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Paris. Julien is a busy man:

he is often “on the road” animating groups of the Society all over Europe. eHe also serves as Editor of the magazine *Missions Etrangers de Paris*, a monthly publication of “MEP”; a group of French Missionary Priests who minister exclusively in Asia, and whose home is near the Daughters of Charity on rue de Bac. Julien’s interview demonstrates that the work of Frederic Ozanam is carried on today in wonderful and amazing ways.

Several other noteworthy features to this issue include reflections on recently elected Pope Francis by several confreres who are either from or have worked in Latin America. A Jesuit who served as Archbishop of Buenos Aires before his election as Pope Francis, the Holy Father has demonstrated by his life, actions, and words that he truly possesses a ‘Vincentian heart’. That’s not just wishful thinking: in fact, his auxiliary bishop is our confrere, Vicente Boralic, who once served as Visitor of the Province of Argentina.

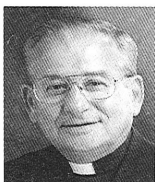
Fr. Robert Maloney’s article “The Call to a New Evangelization” is a conference he gave to the Curia for a recent retreat day. It is published with the hope that it will stimulate as much dialogue and discussion within houses and provinces as it did with the confreres here in Rome. It is featured to help us reflect on our role as Vincentian evangelizers in this “Year of Faith”.

Finally, the annual report of the “vital statistics” of the Congregation of the Mission in 2012 is presented for your review. This is the annual report the Secretary General makes to the Holy See; as always, it provides a sketch of the scope of the Congregation throughout the world. This, along with the “Tempo Forte” reports will serve to provide us with the highlights of what is happening in the Congregation of the Mission across the continents.

Special Note

I want to thank Fr. Ed Udovic of DePaul University, and Editor of Vincentian Heritage Nathaniel Michaud for permission to use Dr. Thomas O’Brien’s article. It first appeared in 2012 (*Vincentian Heritage*, Volume 31, Number 1). I also want to belatedly and sincerely thank the Editors of “Anales”, Fr. Paulino Saez Lopez, C.M., and Sr. Maria del Carmen Hernandez, D.C. “Anales” is a bi-monthly publication of the Vincentians and Daughters of Charity of Madrid. They gave permission to use two articles in the last issue of *Vincentiana*: “Vincentian Parishes and the New Evangelization” by Fr. Pablo Dominguez of the Province of Saragossa, and “Can there be a Vincentian Missionary Parish?” by Fr. Antonio Ruiz Garcia of the Madrid Province. I thank Fr. Paulino and Sr. Maria del Carmen for their kindness in allowing us to use these fine pieces of writing to help advance discussion on Vincentian parishes and the New Evangelization.

About Our Authors



Fr. THEODOR BARQUÍN is a member of the Province of Spain, and entered the Congregation in 1948. He was ordained to the priesthood in May, 1956. He has written extensively on Vincentian spirituality and has given retreats.



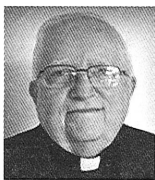
Fr. ELI CHAVES DOS SANTOS, was elected as Assistant to the Superior General in 2010. Prior to that time, he served in Mozambique as a missionary and Director of the Daughters of Charity. His home is Brazil.



Fr. ROBERT P. MALONEY, a member of the Eastern Province USA, served as Superior General from 1992-2004. He has written several books and numerous articles on Vincentian Spirituality. He currently serves as founding chair of the Commission for the Promotion of Systemic Change and is President of the Franz Foundation, which has been very generous in funding projects for the Congregation.



Dr. THOMAS O'BRIEN is an associate professor of Religious Studies at DePaul University and teaches ethics and Catholic social thought. He received his Ph.D in moral theology from the University of Toronto. His areas of expertise include Catholic social theory, liberation theology, and applied ethics. He is in the final stages of publishing a book about applying Catholic social thought in the contemporary business setting.



Fr. RONALD W. RAMSON is a member of the Western Province, USA currently engaged in seminary formation work in Dallas, Texas. He entered the Congregation in 1952, and was ordained in June, 1959. He is written *Praying with Frederic Ozanam* and has given retreats, talks, and workshops on the Vincentian charism as seen in the life of Blessed Frederic Ozanam. He has served as spiritual advisor to the National Office of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.