

INTRODUCTION

Editor's Note

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This issue of *Vincentiana* is devoted to the proceedings of the International Visitor's Meeting held from July 1-13, 2013 at St. John's University in New York City. This event, which occurs midway between General Assemblies of the Congregation, is important. It brings together Visitors and the General Council for a time of dialogue, instruction, and mutual sharing. It also provides an opportunity to see how the work of the 2010 General Assembly is being implemented, and to assess what must be done to fulfill these tasks before the next Assembly.

The articles herein are representative of the main proceedings, but not all-inclusive. For those wishing to view the entire proceedings of the International Visitors Meeting, please go to our web site www.cmglobal.org. Happily, (and for the first time!) you will find them accessible in English, Spanish, and French all at the same time. Fr. Giuseppe Turati, Secretary General and the "team of translators" made this possible. I thank the tireless efforts of Fr. John Freund, web master for "Fam-Vin" and "CM-Global". By his use of digital media, we captured the meeting in "real time", with many added features that enriched our experience of community and charisma.

I hope these articles in *Vincentiana* will not just be a chronicle of this meeting, but a gauge to measure our progress in implementing the work of our General Assembly: "***Creative Fidelity to the Mission***". Its key constructs: ***dialogue with the poor, systemic change, re-configuration, formation, and engagement with the Vincentian Family*** are not only words on paper, or duties of Visitors and Councils, but the responsibility of every confrere. By re-reading and reflecting on this *Vincentiana*, may we renew our commitment to embrace these goals ***now***.

Although not overtly visible in these pages, any participant at the International Meeting of Visitors will agree that the event was flawless in its planning and execution. The Preparatory Commission, headed by Fr. Joe Agostino, did a wonderful job in its planning. The hospital-

ity provided by St. John's University was outstanding in every aspect, as the confreres present will readily attest. Bernadette Lavin and her staff at SJU were attentive to every detail and readily and generously responded to the needs of every confrere. Fr. Michael Carroll, Visitor of the Eastern Province, USA who graciously hosted the event, and Fr. Donald J. Harrington, President of St. John's who not only hosted but underwrote the massive cost of this meeting, deserve our thanks.