

FEATURE:

International Meeting of Visitors of the Congregation of the Mission:

The Ongoing Formation of the Missionary Today

Presentation

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In this edition of *Vincentiana* we wish to present one of the important events in the recent history of the Congregation of the Mission: the International Meeting of the Visitors of the Congregation of the Mission in Mexico. It can easily be understood that it would be impossible to put into words the total experience of the coming together of a group of brothers, united by one common vocation who experience the joy of gathering as friends who dearly love one another and who have opted to live together a common life in the Congregation of the Mission. Therefore, what was lived during the days of this meeting goes beyond the words of these pages. Those who did not live this experience can perhaps come to some remote understanding of what occurred there through the pages that follow.

The Preparatory Commission had been given four tasks: to enter more deeply into the theme of ongoing formation and to find a set of tools for specific programs in this area; to work with the agenda of the Superior General so that, in an open dialogue with him and his council, ideas concerning the good governing of the Congregation

might come to the surface; gather together as Conferences; and interrelate with one another during times of celebration, prayer, work and rest. The four tasks were accomplished. At this time we wish to share with you this information and *Vincentiana* has distinguished two great lines in the development of the meeting: reflection on the theme of ongoing formation and the presentation of the agenda of the Superior General.

With regard to the theme of ongoing formation, *Vincentiana* has gathered together the presentations that provided a foundation for reflection, the process that marked the path for the reflection groups and the results of this journey as seen in the summaries that were presented by those who synthesized the thoughts of the different groups.

The agenda of the Superior General includes all that he does directly or through his delegates or officials at the Curia to serve the Congregation. Many activities were presented but because of space we are obliged to limit ourselves to simply listing these as they appear in the chronicle of this gathering. Only one of those activities, the concern for the Vincentian Family, appears in a developed manner and was presented by Father Manuel Ginete, C.M., delegate of the Superior General to the Vincentian Family. Among the other activities presented we highlight, because of interest and the broad scope of the presentation, the intervention of Father John Gouldrick, C.M., the Treasurer General, "A Plan of Vincentian Solidarity Moves Forward." *Vincentiana* is preparing an edition dedicated to this theme.

In this edition there is not enough space to speak about the profound and joyful living together which highlighted our interrelationships and which, without a doubt, was a factor in uniting minds and hearts. I refer here to our time of retreat, to the daily celebrations, to the spontaneous dialogues at table or during our social hour, to the excursion and to an infinite number of details that speak about the closeness and fraternity of missionaries who live geographically distant from one another but very close to one another in their concerns, interests and sentiments.

(CHARLES T. PLOCK, C.M., translator)