

FEATURE



Saint Paul



Saint Vincent

Presentation

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When this issue of *VINCENTIANA* reaches the readers, the Pauline Year will have ended already, one that was proclaimed by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI for the period from 29 June 2008 to 29 June 2009, on the occasion of the bimillennium of the Apostle's birth. Yet it is always opportune to reflect on Paul and Vincent, two saints whom we missionaries of the CM consider as masters and promoters of our own missionary vocation. Without intending to make comparisons, this issue purports to view from the Vincentian

spirit the great figure of the Apostle as follower of Christ evangelizer of the poor.

VINCENTIANA has set up the present issue thus: the director asked the collaborators to reflect on these two figures, but they were given no other instruction. Even as some titles were offered as possible themes, the collaborators were given on purpose the freedom to focus on the theme as they wish. Receiving repetitions on the same theme was a risk but this did not matter. These would simply be considered as distinct readings on these two figures, made by persons who are animated by the same Vincentian spirit.

Of the eight suggested we received five responses, each with its own focus. The titles and subtitles chosen by the authors themselves give us an idea of the similarities as well as the differences between the articles, all of them being readings on the same theme and from the same starting point: the Vincentian spirit being lived by each author. A commentary on 2 Cor. 5:14a would seem unrelated to the focus of VINCENTIANA, but precisely this idea comes from one Daughter of Charity who knows that this text forms the basis of the Company's motto, one she undoubtedly has made the core of her spirituality. Placed before these two personalities who contemplate the love of Christ crucified and are moved by him towards the mission, one understands what the Company's motto really means: "The love of Christ fills us, possesses us, because we have become new creatures, radically changed by Christ's death." "It is the love of Christ that makes us fools for God."

The readers will surely thank the authors for the help they offer in this Pauline-Vincentian reflection, precisely towards the end of this Pauline Year.

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