

Dossier

The Association of the Miraculous Medal

Closing of the Centenary of its Pontifical Approbation

Presentation

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It seemed only right that as we began the Jubilee Year to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise, the Miraculous Medal Association should solemnly bring to a close the 100th anniversary of its Pontifical approval. *Vincentiana* wishes to preserve the memory of this event because of the uniqueness of the Miraculous Medal Association.

The Virgin Mary who wanted to entrust the Miraculous Medal to a Daughter of Charity also desired that a missionary should be the Director of the Association that had been established to spread the message of the medal. From that time the Congregation of the Mission has assumed the honorable duty of encouraging this Association in the fulfillment of the end for which it was established. *Vincentiana* wishes to remind all people, but especially the

missionaries, that here we not only have an area of evangelization but also a powerful impulse for our apostolate and a wonderful aid in our evangelization of the poor. With reason we are able to consider this among the Vincentian works which ought to grow and be developed during this 350th anniversary.

Vincentiana had hoped to present the current state of the Miraculous Medal Association throughout the world but has to be content with reflecting the enthusiastic renewal that the representatives manifested in Paris. The works that had been solicited did not allow for anything more or else they did not arrive in time.

In order to be faithful to its character as a journal of Vincentian studies, *Vincentiana* includes in this number a long and profound study on the Miraculous Medal. The new proposal for a way of explaining the message of the Virgin with the globe beneath her feet will help us to involve ourselves in the Association and work for the accomplishment of its ends.

Lastly, *Vincentiana* is happy to be able to print the unpublished letter of Saint Vincent to Father Portail. This is a small homage that *Vincentiana* is able to render to this faithful collaborator with our Founders who went to his mission in heaven during the same year as they did, and consequently, also 350 years ago.