

STUDY

VINCENTIANA 1957-2009

by Julio Suescun Olcoz, C.M.

At the request of the Superior General, in a letter dated March 12, 2009, Julio Suescun Olcoz, C.M., presented at Tempo Forte of the 22-26 June 2009 the following study, prepared from a review of the extant material in the VINCENTIANA storeroom in the General Curia in Rome.

The Council has asked Julio to include this documented report in one of the issues of VINCENTIANA because of its interest and historical value (cf. Circular Letter of the Superior General, 9 July 2009).

I. EVOLUTION OF VINCENTIANA

VINCENTIANA was born with the purpose of being a means of transmitting news of the Congregation to all the provinces. It responds to a desire of the 1955 General Assembly in the Decree: *“Conficiatur Commentarium Congregationis latine exaratum, in quo edantur documenta et articuli de disciplina nostra, de historia et de ministeriis Congregationis nostrae, de vita spirituali et his similibus”* (Sessio VII, *Conventus Generalis XXXII*, 30 Junii - 14 Julii, 1955).

**1st Stage: 1957-1958 - Rome, Leonine College
Fr. Annibale Bugnini**

In January of 1957, Fr. A. Bugnini, from the Leonine College, begins the publication of *VINCENTIANA* which was subtitled simply "Nuntia Congregationis Missionis." In the following issue, February 1957, a letter from Fr. Slattery to Fr. Bugnini is included affirming that the publication responds to the wish of the last General Assembly; in the letter he wishes *VINCENTIANA* success and asks for collaborators for the new undertaking.

From the year 1957 we have 9 volumes¹ distributed thusly: 1 volume for every month from January to June (6 volumes); 1 volume from August marked as no. 7, and which continues the numeration from vol. 6 (which means there was no publication in July). There is a volume corresponding to October, marked as numbers 9-10, but following the numeration of vol. 7 (which means no. 8 does not exist), and a volume from December marked as vols. 11-12. Thus a total of 9 volumes containing 12 issues or their equivalents.

The magazine is arranged in three more or less defined sections. There is an Official part, which appeared with that name only in the volume of May 1957 and which contains communications from the Holy See; a second part which contains news of the General Curia, and another third part which contains news of the provinces, generally grouped by continents.

It seems that the wish of the General Assembly of 1955 was to have a means of communication less voluminous than *Annales* of the Mother House in Paris, with a crisper style, which would reach the confreres with greater frequency than the traditional annual communication of news attached as a second part to the Superior General's letter at the beginning of the year.

The volumes appeared without binding in the same format as today's *VINCENTIANA*, and contained about 10 pages each without regard to the issues included.

Three volumes with these same characteristics appeared in 1958 corresponding to the months of January, February and March, and marked as issues 1, 2 and 3 corresponding to volumes 10, 11, and 12.

It is worth noting that at the end of 1957 a four page index appeared referring to the 156 pages published that year — a sure sign that *VINCENTIANA* was considered as an archive easily accessible to all the houses.

¹We give the name "volume" to a group of pages stapled together, even without a binding, in which one or several issues of the new publication are included.

2nd Stage: 1958-1963 - Paris, Mother House - Fr. Jean Gonthier

Volume 13 of VINCENTIANA appears with numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7 and has 16 pages. Without doubt it was printed in June of 1958 with the intention of covering the period up to August because it announces as upcoming the anniversaries to be celebrated in July and August. This volume marks the beginning of a new stage of VINCENTIANA and has some noteworthy characteristics:

1. A letter from Fr. Slattery explains the lateness in the publication of VINCENTIANA due to the change of its director. Fr. Jean Gonthier, who resides in the Mother House in Paris, will take the place of Fr. Bugnini who, because of his many commitments, has offered his resignation to Fr. Slattery.
2. VINCENTIANA will no longer come from the Leonine in Rome, but rather from the Mother House in Paris.
3. The sub-title of VINCENTIANA will no longer be "Nuntia Congregationis Missionis," but "Commentarium Congregationis Missionis", more in conformity with the aforementioned Decree of the General Assembly.
4. The magazine has two parts: the Official Part which takes in the Documents of the Holy See referring to the C.M. and the decisions of the Curia of the Congregation; and an Unofficial Part, so named for the first time in this volume 13, which contains news of the provinces, of some books written by the missionaries, and asks that books written in the future be sent to the Mother House so as to form a Library of Our Own Confreres. It is the first step taken by VINCENTIANA towards having a section on Studies.
5. The number of pages is increased to 16. Some pages have photographs of houses and some distinguished missionaries, but the number of pages remains at 16.
6. Starting with volume 14 of 1958, the titles of all the news articles published in the previous stage (vols. 1-12) are printed on the backs of the covers which are now in a different color paper from the interior pages.
7. The year 1958 ends with one more volume, no. 15. It is the third volume published from Paris which, with the three already published by Fr. Bugnini from Rome, makes a total of 6 volumes for 1958.
8. In volume 17, the second of 1959, a Section called Vincentian Studies is inaugurated. It is a very brief section with, at the most, one or two two-page articles on topics such as the place which

the Missionaries and the Daughters of Charity occupy in the church or whether we should be called Vincentians or Vincencians. But starting with this vol. 17 the magazine will now have three sections: Acta Vincentiana which includes documents of the Holy See and the General Curia, Vincentian Studies and Nuntia Vincentiana. In this volume the name of the Director: J. GONTHIER appears for the first time on the back cover.

9. Starting with vol. 16 the Commentarium, which is VINCEN-TIANA, begins to call itself a "monthly." But it is difficult to understand what the Director means by that designation. In 1959, 7 volumes are published, from 16 to 22, which does not correspond to monthly issues. More or less the same thing happens in the following years.
10. For the Tercentenary Year of the death of St. Vincent and St. Louise, VINCEN-TIANA gets much fancier. Volumes 21 and 22, still in 1959, and volumes 23-28 in 1960 have full color covers and images related to the founders. The number of pages of each volume increases slightly, due more to the included photographs than to the text, even though the Studies section, reduced to one article, is sometimes a little longer. In the course of 1960, 6 volumes are published which, with the two from the previous year, with full color covers, make a total of 8 volumes which recall the Tercentenary Year.
11. With identical characteristics, but without the full color covers and with a slightly thicker cover, volumes 29-39 are issued — a total of 11 covering the years 1961-1962. With no. 36 from the year 1962, Commentarium stops calling itself a monthly. And so ends the period of Fr. Gonthier who in six years filled 560 pages.

3rd Stage: 1964-1973 - Rome, General Curia in the Leonine Fr. Angelo Coppo

It is now Fr. A. Coppo's time and it includes from the first number of 1964 to numbers 4 and 5 of 1973 when Fr. Emilio Cid takes over. This period is distinguished as follows:

1. VINCEN-TIANA is once again published in Rome, in the General Curia, located at that time in the Leonine College, 21 Via Pompeo Magno.
2. VINCEN-TIANA is issued bi-monthly on a regular basis, as its cover indicates. The covers are now made of heavier white cardboard as will continue to be the case until 1994 when the

color of the cover is changed. It is only from 1998 onward that a full color photograph will grace the cover. Each volume will normally contain some 30 pages, making a total of 170 to 180 pages a year.

3. The first number, January-February 1964, is dedicated to the 33rd General Assembly. The only novelty is the greater number of photographs due, no doubt, to the audience Pope Paul VI granted to the members of the Assembly, and which raises the number of pages to 44.
4. Up until 1967 the Annual Letter of the Superior General was included as an issue, with the two traditional parts: the first, doctrinal-exhortative and the second with news about the situation of the Congregation in the different provinces.
5. It should be pointed out that the news section is notably expanded, written by correspondents from the same place as the news and almost always in their own language, leaving Latin, the language in which VINCENTIANA was born, for official communications.
6. The growth of the news section has a price — the suppression of the small section on studies that appeared in earlier times. It is certainly true that at this time important official communications were issued, as much from the church as from the Congregation, which generally found their way into VINCENTIANA. It was the time of the final session of the Council and of the General Assembly of 1968-1969. VINCENTIANA takes shape at this time, above all as an archive of official documents and as a news bulletin about the Congregation in the different provinces, usually written in the language of the correspondent who sent the news.
7. Fr. Angelo Coppo dies in Rome on August 9, 1973.

4th Stage: 1973-1979 - Fr. Emilio Cid († February 14, 1980)

From the 6th issue of 1973 Fr. Giuseppe Tamagnone acts as interim director; and only in the final issue of 1974 is it stated that *everything referring to the edition and administration of VINCENTIANA should be directed to Emilio Cid who has the job of editor-in-chief.*

Already in issues 4 and 5 of 1973 Fr. Emilio Cid introduced himself, saying that *as yet he has no formal plan, but rather a few very rudimentary ideas to orient myself in my new job.* These “rudimentary” ideas can be classified as follows:

1. Fr. Cid begins by asking that Provincial newsletters be sent to him, saying he is willing to publicize the news items that seem to have the greatest interest for the whole Vincentian family. Once again, the informative character of VINCENTIANA is emphasized.
2. He seeks to place the official information in a minimum of space. The magazine may contain official documents of the Curia, documents of the Holy See of special interest to us, assignments, the necrology with notes on the missionaries who die. Other documents of the Holy See can better be found in publications specializing in that information.
3. The major part will be dedicated to information and internal dialogue as well as Vincentian studies. The Superior General, says Fr. Cid, wants the magazine to be, besides being an organ for official information, an instrument for dialogue and reflection for the whole Congregation. *I hope that any confrere from any part of the world and any mentality may feel free to express his points of view in the pages of VINCENTIANA.*
4. The issues which Fr. Cid directed follow this route. Already in the first volume, nos. 4-5 of 1973, the whole thing revolves around the problem of vocations and the formation of our own. It can be considered a foretaste of the later practice of grouping the major part of the collaborations into dossiers. But equally important, Fr. Cid remains faithful to his concern about dialogue and about everyone's participation in the news that VINCENTIANA circulates. Thus, in this volume we find information about how the formation is going in many of our provinces.
5. Continuing his concern for dialogue and the interchange of opinions, in the second issue Fr. Cid poses a challenging question to the ten members of the Preparatory Commission for the 1980 General Assembly: In your opinion, what are the five most important problems that the Congregation faces today? Eight of the ten Commission members responded and their responses appeared in an organized form. Fr. Cid closes with this reflection: *Our problem is not one of principles, which we all know; we all need a personal conversion. We can all contribute to the creation of a new Vincentian spirit. We urgently need to resolve the problem of vocations so as not to break our continuity. We need programs of action and the means to carry them out.*
6. In the following issues this method is applied to different topics: communication in the C.M. (no. 3, 1974), the evaluation of the Declarations of the General Assembly, the revision of the Provinces (which covers several issues), popular missions

- (no. 5, 1975 and nos. 1-2, 1976). Translations are not a problem. Each one writes in the language he knows. A few times, short summaries are included in other languages, including Latin. At other times the titles are in Latin or one of the vernacular languages and the body of the article in another language.
7. The archival function of the magazine obliged Fr. Cid to dedicate the final issues of 1974 to the General Assembly and its documents: no. 4 to the labors of the Preparatory Commission; no. 5 to the Declarations of the 1974 General Assembly; the text of the Constitutions and Statutes approved by the 1968 Assembly and revised by the 1974 Assembly; the Common Rules of the C.M.; no. 6 to the Chronicle and commentaries of the 1974 Assembly. As an interesting note, the back cover of no. 5 (Declarations, Constitutions and Common Rules) states: *2,000 copies of this issue were printed, of which 1,000 remain in the VINCENTIANA storeroom for those missionaries who wish to buy them at 1,500 lira each.*
 8. In general terms we can say that in this stage the concern for reflection and dialogue grew. The participation did not always respond to the Director's scheduling. I cannot resist copying this commentary of Fr. José Oriol Baylac, Fr. Cid's successor. A few days before Fr. Cid's death, the two were talking about a notebook Fr. Cid had written for his successor. Fr. Baylac assures us he was listening intently: *Get in into your head that VINCENTIANA is not a bulletin for supplying recent news, but rather one for leaving a record of the official news of the Congregation and of those news items of a general character that might stimulate the confreres. There are other channels for finding out things quickly: circular letters, provincial newsletter of different kinds....* But how about the correspondents, I asked. *God help you. When I first got here, I asked around. According to the answers I received from the provinces, everything would be just fine. The reality was quite different. You will have to get other resources. And the lead articles? Be very careful about those. It will take a lot of work to get the ones you want, if you get them. And there will no shortage of unpublishable articles. You are going to find yourself in some uncomfortable situations.*
 9. The magazine has now reached 100 pages in length for ordinary issues and the number will not become shorter.

5th Stage: 1980-1989 - Fr. José Oriol Baylac

Fr. Cid died on February 14, 1980. Fr. José Oriol Baylac, a Catalan from the Province of Peru, succeeds him in the first issue of that year. Fr. Baylac will bear the responsibility for *VINCENTIANA* for nine years, a period characterized by:

1. Greater attention to and extension of news items coming from the provinces, written in the language of their author
2. A large number of tables and statistical studies, usually the work of Fr. Baylac himself, on the different duties of the General Curia, on the Visitors, on the C.M., on ministries, etc.
3. In 1982 only three volumes of two issues each are published. One of these volumes is the index of volumes XVIII to XXIV. The total number of pages published that year was 288. In the following years, the events of the C.M. will provide sufficient material.
4. In the face of an apparent lack of studious articles in the ordinary issues, special issues dedicated to official documents, study months and important events in the Congregation stand out. The Colloquium on the Christ of St. Vincent organized by SIEV in 1986 and two of the Vincentian months prepared by SIEV belong to this period. In the same way the *Ratio Formationis* for the Internal Seminary was published. The General Assembly of 1986, with its Work Documents, realization and documents, as well as the 350th anniversary of the Foundation of the Daughters of Charity provided material for other valuable issues.
5. In the Studies section of the first issue of *VINCENTIANA* for 1988, its director Fr. José Oriol Baylac, C.M., publishes an article titled "VINCENTIANA celebrates 31 years at the service of the C.M." The article relates in minute detail the situation prior to the birth of *VINCENTIANA*. It meticulously describes the changes there have been in its history up until 1988 and recognizes the work of the five directors up until that time, with special attention to his own time in that office and that of Fr. Cid whom he knew personally. This can be read to confirm and complement what is written here.
6. The index of *VINCENTIANA* published by Fr. John de los Rios in 1993 covering the years 1981 to 1990, almost coincidental with Fr. Baylac's term as Director, offers a good systematization of the studies and documents published at that time, and constitutes a considerable corpus of Vincentian doctrine. No less than 300 articles from the Studies section are listed in the above cited index.

7. In this period comes the birth of NUNTIA as a newsletter. In a letter to the Visitors dated February 11, 1982, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Superior General, Fr. McCullen presents NUNTIA as an informal newsletter he hopes to be able to send to the Visitors a few times a year, asking each Visitor to make copies for all the communities of his Province. It is a way of distributing news that Fr. McCullen says he takes from St. Vincent himself. In his letters to some missionaries Vincent used to include news he had received from others, and so tried to get the whole Congregation interested in everyone's work.
8. Today, NUNTIA, *The Newsletter of the General Curia of the C.M.*, is sent out every month, and since 2006 only by e-mail, to all the provinces and vice-provinces, as well as to all the members of the General Curia and to interested parties who ask for it personally. It is published by the Curia, from its inception, in the three official languages. But we know that today, in some provinces, NUNTIA is translated into the language of the missionaries of the province, such as Italian, Polish, Slovak.... Since May of 2007 it can also be found in the three languages at <http://cmglobal.org>

6th Stage: 1989-1994 - Fr. John de los Ríos

Fr. John de los Rios begins his term on August 11, 1989 and finishes in 1994 with the publication of the indexes for the years 1981-1990. In the presentation of these indexes, the *raison d'être* for the magazine that informed Fr. De los Rios' period as Director becomes clear.

1. As a magazine more for archival purposes than for general reading, *because it has some internal conditions, he says, that do not permit it to be issued when other newsletters or magazines have come out first with the news, it needs very complete indexes of its contents.*
2. In the indexes, he goes on, *perhaps what least interests are the assignments and confirmations, which, in any case, can be found in the catalogues and other archives of the Curia. For this reason I have not acceded to Fr. Baylac's suggestion of working above all on the names of the confreres, working from the conviction that these data are incomplete and needless besides.*
3. And so, according to his testimony, he organized the indexes according to the Sections already familiar to readers of the magazine: *Acta Sancta Sedis, Studia, Spiritualitas, Vitae Congregationis, In Memoriam, Bibliographica*, with the modifications that the task of indexing require.

7th Stage: 1994 - Transition - Fr. Emeric Amyot D'Inville

The first volume of 1994, a double issue of 104 pages, opens with a thank you note to Fr. John de los Rios, signed by the Editorial Staff, the same one that had assisted him in his work, and now, presided over by Fr. Emeric Amyot D'Inville, the Secretary General. He commits himself to *“following the invitation of the Superior General and his council, continue the Section of VINCENTIANA, in the official part of Documents and that of Studies and News items of the greatest international interest.”*

1. VINCENTIANA, he goes on to say, is published in alternate months. This year only four volumes are published, two of them double issues, with a total of 480 pages. The color of the cardboard covering written pages changes; it will no longer be white.
2. The classification of the work follows the already well established pattern used by Fr. John de los Rios in the 1981-1990 index: Curia, Statistics, Studies, Spirituality, Life of the Congregation, In Memoriam, Bibliography.
3. The articles appear in the language in which they were originally written.
4. Starting with no. 2 of this year, 1994, VINCENTIANA, which was formerly printed in Arti Grafiche Filli Palombi, Roma, Via dei Gracchi 183, begins to be printed in Tipografia Ugo Detti, Roma, Via Girolamo Savonarola 1. The magazine is still printed there today.
5. From 1990, when Fr. John de los Rios' index ends, up to the moment in which VINCENTIANA is published in three languages, 59 articles are published on topics referring to the history, life and mission of the Congregation. The following special issues also date from this period:
 - 5.1. XXXVIII General Assembly 1992 (4-5/1992).
 - 5.2. Vincentian Month 1993: “Nouvelle Evangelisation, Hommes Nouveaux, Communautés Renouvelles” (4-5/1993).
 - 5.3. The Document from the General Council “Brothers for the Mission” (2/1991).

8th Stage: 1995-2009 - VINCENTIANA, Bi-monthly in three languages

1. In the first issue of VINCENTIANA in 1995 a Prologue appears signed by the Director, Fr. Amyot D'Inville, in which we can highlight the following:

- 1.1. By being tri-lingual the magazine aims at directly reaching 70% of the missionaries. Practical difficulties which were deemed impossible to overcome, especially rising costs, have prevented increasing the number of languages. It is noted that if an article arrives written in a language different from the three official ones, a copy of it will be included in the issues of the magazine sent to the countries that speak that language. It is not clear whether this was actually done. It does seem strange that an author, an Italian for example, has to read his article in VINCENTIANA, translated into a language that is not his own.
 - 1.2. There is an expressed aim to produce content *“closer to the life of the Congregation,” “an intellectual and spiritual nourishment that may be really useful to the confreres.”* But the only novelty we find in the sections, which are almost identical to the ones the readers already know, is the one referring to the “dossier” (notebook) — *“that is, an important matter for our life and mission which will be approached under different aspects in various articles.”*
 - 1.3. The editorial board of the magazine continues to be made up of three missionaries from the Curia: the Director, P. Amyot D’Inville; the Secretary General, Fr. Ignacio Fernandez H. de Mendoza and Fr. Thomas Davitt, the Curial Archivist. About Fr. Davitt it is said that *“he gives the magazine its orientation, decides which articles should be asked for, or the publication of those which arrive to the Curia directly and those which are to be translated.”* He is the de facto executive director.
2. During the fourteen years of tri-lingualism five directors have passed in review: Amyot D’Inville (Thomas Davitt) (1995-1999); José Ma. Nieto Varas (1999-2000); Orlando Escobar (2001-2004); Alfredo Becerra (2005-2006); Julio Suescum (2007-2009). Bearing in mind that in the 38 previous years there had been only six directors, it turns out that in the tri-lingual era, the directors last for less than half the time, an average of 3 years as opposed to the 6.3 years of the previous era.
 3. The titles of the “dossiers” reflect a wide range of the history, life and action of the Congregation of the Mission.

1995-1999:

- 01. The C.M. in the hour of the African Synod (1/1995)
- 02. The C.M. in the formerly Communist European countries (2/1995)

- 03. The C.M. and Islam (3/1995)
- 04. Vincentian Laity (4-5/1995)
- 05. Serving the Poor Spiritually and Corporally (6/1995)
- 06. John Gabriel Perboyre (2/1996)
- 07. The Mission "Ad Gentes" (3/1996)
- 08. The Canonization of John Gabriel Perboyre (6/1996)
- 09. Formators of the Clergy (1/1997)
- 10. The Formation of our Own (2/1997)
- 11. Frederick Ozanam (3/1997)
- 12. The Beatification of Frederick Ozanam (6/1997)
- 13. Echoes of the Vincentian Family (1/1998)
- 14. Six Common Projects of the Vincentian Family (1/1998)
- 15. Mission in Latin America (3/1998)
- 16. Vincentian Perspectives in Asia (6/1998)
- 17. The Martyrs of the Vincentian Family in the 20th Century (1/1999)

1999-2000:

- 18. Associating Groups and Persons with the Congregation (1/1999)
- 19. The Challenges issued by the 1998 General Assembly (2/1999)
- 20. The Great Jubilee of 2000 (3/1999)
- 21. Evangelizing Europe (1/2000)
- 22. The Challenge of Formation (2/2000)
- 23. St. Vincent, Priest (3/2000)
- 24. St. Justin de Jacobis (4/2000)

2001-2004:

- 25. St. Francis Regis Clet (1/2001)
- 26. The C.M. in the United States (3/2001)
- 27. The Bishop, Servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the Hope of the World (6/2001)
- 28. Experiences of Charism of the C.M. Today (2/2002)
- 29. Visitors' Meeting: Animation of Local Communities (3/2002)
- 30. John Gabriel Perboyre (5/2002)
- 31. Meeting of Provincial Treasurers (1/2003)
- 32. Blessed Marco Antonio Durando (2/2003)
- 33. The Visitors' Conferences of the C.M. (3/2003)
- 34. Vincentian Shrines and Mission (4/2003)

- 35. Guillaume Pouget (1/2004)
- 36. Experiences of the Apostolate among the Poor (2/2004)
- 37. “New Missions” of the C.M. (3/2004)
- 38. Some “lesser known” confreres (I) (6/2004)

2005-2006:

- 39. A Vincentian Reflection on the Eucharist (1/2005)
- 40. Ongoing Vincentian Formation (2/2005)
- 41. Echoes of the General Assembly of 2004 (3/2005)
- 42. The Five Vincentian Virtues (4-6/2005)
- 43. The Encyclical Letter “Deus Caritas Est” and the Vincentian Charism (1-2/2006)
- 44. Directory for the Provincial Director of the Daughters of Charity (3/2006)
- 45. The Vincentian Family (II) (4/2004)
- 46. Some less known Confreres (II) (5/2006)

2007-2008:

- 47. Supporting the Fidelity of the Missionaries on every Occasion (1-2/2007)
- 48. The Ongoing Formation of the Missionary Today (Mexico 2007) (3/2007)
- 49. Inculturation of the Vincentian Charism in the World (4/2007)
- 50. The Vincentian Missions (5/2007)
- 51. The Great Vincentian Family (6/2007)
- 52. Vincentian Solidarity (1-2/2008)
- 53. The Persistence of the Common Rules (3/2008)
- 54. Political Charity (4/2008)
- 55. Social Doctrine (5/2009)
- 56. The Fruits of the Mission (6/2008)

2009:

- 57. SIEV Colloquium (For Young Vincentian Researchers) (1-2/2009)
- 58. Paul of Tarsus-Vincent de Paul in the 2000th Anniversary of the Birth of St. Paul (3/2009)
- 59. Authority and Obedience (4/2009)
- 60. Vincent de Paul – Louise de Marillac, 350th Anniversary of their Deaths (5/2009)
- 61. The Association of the Miraculous Medal, Centenary of its Pontifical Approbation (6/2009)

4. In this period (1995-2009), more than 50 studies referring to the life, spirituality and mission of the C.M. have been published apart from the dossier of the corresponding issue. Fr. Amyor D'Inville published in a supplement to no. 6 of 1998 the General Index of the years 1991-1998. Beginning in 1999 the General Index of the year is published in the final issue of each year.
5. Also in this period thirteen special issues have been published. Normally these take up two issues of the magazine and so have a greater number of pages:
 - 01. The Vincentian Family, Supplement to no. 6/1995
 - 02. Instruction on Stability, Chastity, Poverty and Obedience in the C.M. (1/1996)
 - 03. Meeting of Visitors, Salamanca (4-5/1996)
 - 04. Vincentian Month: The Popular Mission (4-5/1997)
 - 05. XXXIX General Assembly (4-5/1998)
 - 06. The Martyrs of the Vincentian Family in the 20th Century (1/1999)
 - 07. Our Apostolate in the Islamic World (4-5/1999)
 - 08. The New Constitutions: 20 Years Later (4-5/2000)
 - 09. Vincentian Month: Directors of the Daughters of Charity (4-5/2001)
 - 10. Ratio Missionum (1/2001)
 - 11. Vincentian Month: Advisors of the Vincentian Family (4-5/2002)
 - 12. Guide for the Local Superior (4/2003)
 - 13. XL General Assembly (4-5/2004)

II. SOME NOTES REGARDING THIS EXPOSITION

1. Without doubt, VINCENTIANA has been the most serious and orderly collective instrument for reflection and study in the Congregation of the Mission throughout its history.
2. Its archival function has been maintained up to the present time, even though we can see that many things which at one time received meticulous attention, little by little have been dropped in favor of more efficient and quicker archival procedures. For example, the assignments, necrologies and biographies of individuals are now kept in a data base in the Secretariat of the C.M. or in the Bulletins of the respective provinces.
3. The mission of being a news bulletin, to the same degree other means of communication have been developed, has also lost

ground. The appearance of NUNTIA in 1982 shows that VINCEN-
TIANA did not have enough agility to be a timely vehicle
for the transmission of news of general interest to the whole
Congregation.

4. The idea of including in every issue a dossier composed of various articles about one theme, without losing the section on varied studies, which was so clear in the first years in the stage when this idea was born, also faded out little by little. Even when this title (dossier) is maintained, there is a clear impression that the different directors grouped the articles together, nominally around one title, but without the clear distinction between what responds to a dossier, normally indicated in the title, and the other study articles. Thus in the first four years 17 dossiers and 26 studies outside of the dossiers are published, while in the following nine years, a period more than twice as long, 39 dossiers and only 24 studies outside of the dossiers are published.
5. The practice of having dossiers has the advantage of being able to program the issues well ahead of time; but it also has the disadvantage that, with almost all the pages filled with commissioned articles, there is no room for spontaneous collaborations. This can cause their publication to be delayed or even eliminated, unless some pages are left available which in the end may end up not being filled. This may have contributed to the idea and the practice that in VINCEN-
TIANA only those who have been asked write articles.
6. "Tri-lingualism" has certainly multiplied the work load. Has the number of readers multiplied to the same degree? We lack a scientific instrument which would show that we have approached the 70% of the missionaries which was the intended target. But we do know, as we have pointed out earlier, that the Directors do not last as long in their jobs.
7. It cannot be said that "tri-lingualism" has enriched the participation, neither in the number nor the quality of the writers. Perhaps one would have to place the highest level of participation in the post-Conciliar years of "aggiornamento" particularly in the special issues dedicated to the most salient events in the life of the Congregation or to the Vincentian study sessions.
8. Neither can it be lightly affirmed that the content (of VINCEN-
TIANA) is any more *close to the life of the Congregation* or an *intellectual and spiritual nourishment that is truly useful to the confreres* than in previous stages as was pointed out in the prologue to the first issue of this stage.

III. CURRENT SITUATION

1. VINCENTIANA publishes six issues a year, in five volumes, with a total of approximately 500 pages annually. It is printed in three languages: 430 copies in Spanish, 370 in English and 330 in French.
2. VINCENTIANA continues to maintain its archival function with regard to documents emanating from the Curia of the Congregation of the Mission. Since several years ago, the publication of material referring to assignments and necrology has been transferred to NUNTIA because this newsletter comes out more frequently than VINCENTIANA.
3. The section on Studies has been maintained as much in the bi-monthly dossiers as in the accompanying studies if there are any. Preference is given to events in the Congregation which have universal repercussion: Assemblies, Visitors' Meetings, study sessions, etc. At the end of the year a bibliographical list is published of all the studies done in the Congregation and which have come to the attention of the Curia.
4. The function of being a newsletter has practically disappeared. The time span between issues does not permit it to compete with more agile means of communication already in use in the Congregation. This was already evident, as has been said, in the time of Fr. Cid and more so in the time of Fr. John de los Rios.
5. Today VINCENTIANA no longer responds to the need which brought it into being, nor is it necessary that it do so. For information and the exchange of news today we have more efficient and rapid means. VINCENTIANA has come to be practically a magazine of Vincentian studies. It did not have this characteristic at its birth; it has evolved into it throughout its history.
6. The publication of VINCENTIANA has cost in the past year of 2008, according to its final accounting and including shipping costs, a total of \$ 54,587.74 (€ 37,294.87). Whether this is a lot or a little will depend on how one judges its utility.
7. The subscriptions to VINCENTIANA are distributed as follows:

Automatic Payment	=	726
Individual subscriptions	=	107 (Priests, Sisters, Lay persons)
Free	=	65
8. Although finding authors for the studies is hard enough, the real problem comes in the translations. They call for repeated messages and many times living with the uncertainty of what may have happened to messages that were sent or if one will have the translations on time.

9. Many of the Vincentian writers who contributed to VINCEN-
TIANA have disappeared. And we can say almost the same thing
about the translators who performed this service. Those who
remain have more good will than free time. We have not come to
understand, in practice, that this is a service, like many others,
by which in obedience one contributes to the end of the
Congregation.

IV. LOOKING AHEAD

The preceding report was accompanied by a series of suggestions by the Director and the Editorial Board. After receiving them and showing their gratitude for them, the Superior General and his Council have determined:

1. To continue VINCENTIANA as a way of stimulating and reflecting on the Vincentian charism
2. To prepare special issues which may affect the whole Congregation of the Mission or one of the Conferences of Visitors.
3. To change the frequency of VINCENTIANA from six to four times a year. The price of a subscription will have to be adjusted to the real costs of production.
4. VINCENTIANA will be published in the three official languages of the C.M. We encourage possible translators to volunteer for this work.
5. Besides the printed version, VINCENTIANA will continue to be published on the Internet.

(Cf. Circular Letter of the Superior General, 9 July 2009)