

FEATURE:

Vincentian Ongoing Formation

Presentation

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Ongoing formation is a priority in every human, business, religious, and ecclesial organization. Our Congregation is not exempt from this requirement. In this feature on Vincentian Ongoing Formation, we offer a series of reflections on this fundamental theme.

Hugh F. O'Donnell, C.M., in his article, "What Is Ongoing Formation?," recalls the necessity for updating in all human fields. Although our vocation "is a vocation rooted in the divine mystery of the love of God," we have to show ourselves "capable and competent in guiding and serving the people of God." Vatican II invited us to revive and renew our Vincentian charism in light of the demands of the present time. Ongoing formation falls in this dynamic. It leads to change and to personal, communal and congregational conversion.

In the article, "The Dimensions of Ongoing Vincentian Formation," **Álvaro Panqueva Abella, C.M.**, describes the praxis of St. Vincent in the formation of the young men who arrived in the Company. "The very work of St. Vincent was that of the formation of his missionaries for everyday life." It presents some characteristics of the formative work of St. Vincent in various dimensions: human, Christian, communal and priestly.

Corpus J. Delgado Rubio, C.M., in his article, "The Time of Ongoing Formation," describes for us the different phases in the life of the Vincentian missionary: the first years of the missionary, the

“crisis” stage, the mature age, the phase of old age and infirmity, and ongoing formation in relation to the seasonal rhythms of life. We keep in mind that “ongoing formation is a difficult journey throughout one’s entire life and has a relationship with time in its diverse rhythms.”

In his article, “The Duties and the Ongoing Formation of the Formators,” **Stanisław Wypych, C.M.**, presents to us the tasks of formators, the fundamental elements of the personality of the formator, the importance of the preparation of formators, and the aspects and modalities of the ongoing formation of formators.

Alfredo Becerra Vázquez, C.M., in his article, “Ongoing Formation as Creative Fidelity,” invites us to reflect on ongoing formation as an element that favors Vincentian fidelity and thus can respond with inventiveness and boldness to the new poverties of our time.

(ALFREDO BECERRA VÁZQUEZ, C.M., translator)