

VINCENTIAN

BIBLIOGRAPHY

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF JMV

Procesos formativos y desembocadura en JMV

Published by La Milagrosa, Madrid, 2005, 32 pages

“This is a well-written document, easily understandable, which reflects the basic human, Christian, Marian and Vincentian orientations of the Association. I am certain that it will be a great help for formation teams. In the countries who have recently joined the Association, it will be an ample source of information about the dynamics and stages of JMV, while for those that are already on the way, they can use it for their renewal and to find new challenges in their advancement in the formation process” (Fr. Gregory Gay, Director General of JMV, in the presentation). The Second General Assembly of JMV (Paris, August 2005) recognized the importance of this document for the working of the Association in the next five years and committed it to all its members. Reading it will be useful for every member of the Vincentian Family interested in the formation of youth.

JOSÉ MARÍA ROMÁN, C.M.

Saint Vincent de Paul. Biographie

Published by Alzani, Pinerolo (Italy), 2005, 822 pages

Why was this life of St. Vincent by Fr. José María Román not translated into French sooner? It was translated into other languages long ago. Why this long French wait? The fact is that it was necessary to wait almost a quarter century to discover this life of St. Vincent. This book is the French translation of *San Vicente de Paúl: Volume I, Biographia* by José María Román, C.M., published in September 1981, by the BAT, “Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos,” of Madrid. The second volume was devoted to the spirituality of St. Vincent and

proposed a choice of writings. The Visitor of the CM Province of Madrid authorized the publication of this translation. We know José María Román well. He was a great expert and lover of St. Vincent. In 1981, he was one of the best experts of the Founder of the Mission and his time. He gives us here the fruit of his research on St. Vincent and the 17th century. As the Spanish editor says: *"The author endeavoured to let the saint speak, whenever possible. Most of the time it is Vincent himself who tells us his story. It is he especially who transmits his message to us: make charity the mission of your life."* This life — the nth of the lives of Vincent — is a historical and critical study. It is the fruit of a long association with the Founder of the Mission; all the assertions and quotations are supported by documents and scientific research. This biography was written 23 years ago. Since then, researchers have continued their investigations and new documents have been found, in particular by Fr. Bernard Koch, C.M. Here or there corrections or additions would be called for; for example, on the captivity in Tunis, the state of the city and parish of Châtillon, the St-Léonard-de-Chaume priory. Fr. Román, without any doubt, would have subscribed to these precise details, his historical rigour was so much in the vanguard of the scientific discoveries. However, by choice and respect for the major work of its life, we wanted to preserve the text of Fr. Román in its integrity and thus to enhance the memory of the priest who left us in February 2002. The translation of this important work, whose quality and smoothness the reader will appreciate, was carried out by French confreres: André Sylvestre and the late Jules Vilbas, with the whole harmonized by Jean-Marie Lesbats. Let thanks be given for their work and their perseverance for our greater happiness. It can be purchased from: Procure de la Mission, 95 rue de Sèvres, 75006 Paris, France and Economat, 140 rue du Bac, 75340 Paris Cedex 07, France.

PEDRO OPEKA, C.M.

Combattant de l'espérance: Autobiographie d'un insurgé

Published by J.C. Lattès, Paris, 2005, 350 pages

This autobiography of our confrere Pedro Opeka, C.M., missionary in Madagascar, has just appeared. "Enough of ambitious plans, of abstract considerations, now is the time to act!" The man who pronounced these words, knew about what he spoke. In 1989, he settled in the immense garbage dump of Tananarive. He does not have a penny, but he promises the poorest, "Together, we are going to get out of this." The result, 15 years later: 250,000 people are cared for, helped and welcomed; 8500 children are sent to school. Fr. Pedro

has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and, at the time of the disorders in Madagascar in 2002, his position in favor of democracy was very largely heard. Confronted with such success, some will speak of a miracle. Others, on the contrary, could cast a critical glance. That is not the essential. He shows us concretely why life is lived in relationship with others. The difference is not the fact that he went to see beings rejected on a heap of refuse, but rather that he remained there. The other message of Fr. Pedro is that of a rebel. From a word on a garbage dump was born a movement of international dimensions. It is worth it to listen to this exceptional voice and yet one only concerned about everyday life ” (taken from the book’s presentation).

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