

# FEATURE:

## *Some “Lesser-Known” Confreres (II)*

### Presentation

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The work of Saint Vincent continues to be alive and active in the world. We are presenting some articles about confreres from various dioceses who, in their faithfulness to God, bring our Vincentian charism to life. Our charism is still a provocation: a proposal to the Church and to the poor. Will today’s Vincentians still be able to bring this charism to life today? We hope that these articles will be an invitation to keep our charism alive. Let us be genuine sons of Saint Vincent. Let us live intensely our vocation as Vincentian missionaries for our age.

**Giuseppe Guerra, C.M.**, summarizes the life of **Fr. Giovanni Boccardi, C.M.**, who lived his priestly and Vincentian vocation intensely while specializing in scientific studies as an astronomer. His purpose was to sanctify his scientific activity. He faced various issues in his life but was able to combine in his pastoral ministry an expressly Vincentian way of being a missionary and a sense of community.

The life of a missionary is full of adventures. **José Francisco Ramos Cárcamo, C.M.**, offers us the life of **Fr. Julio Pineda Portillo, C.M.** He founded the Vincentian missions in El Salvador. A man of simple origins, but with a great missionary heart, he found his motivation for engaging in the missions in the situation of poverty and religious ignorance. While still a diocesan priest, he dedicated himself to the evangelization of the people. He then decided to become a Vincentian to continue this undertaking in El Salvador. His apostolic zeal brought him to work both inside and outside his homeland.

“I do not want anything; I do not need anything; all this is for the poor.” These words reflect the extraordinary sensibility of **Fr. Ildefonso Moral, C.M.**, presented by **Juan José Muñoz Martínez, C.M.** Father Moral was a confrere who promoted and accompanied the Vincentian laity in Mexico. He was able to motivate others and share his love for the Vincentian laity of his time. He insisted that the base of charity was an encounter with God. He was a tireless, but quiet and visionary Vincentian.

**Pierre Vigne, C.M.**, was a priest, first as a Vincentian and later as a diocesan priest, with a deep love for the Eucharist. His profound experience brought him to be an extraordinary missionary. **Alfredo Becerra Vázquez, C.M.**, offers us a brief resumé of his life. He shows how his experience sustained him and brought him to found the Religious of the Most Blessed Sacrament. His spirituality was centered on three aspects: the Word of God, the Cross, and especially the Eucharist. His example remains an invitation to every Vincentian to center his life on these crucial moments, and to be effective in charity.

**Yves Danjou, C.M.**, offers us a short biography of **Fr. Eugène Boré, C.M.**, a confrere who developed a missionary method well in tune with the Muslim countries of the Middle East. His commitment in the missions began with his work for the poor as a lay member of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. He devoted himself also to the world and culture of the Bulgarians, and he always kept alive his missionary spirit. As Superior General, he committed himself to remain faithful to the rules of the Congregation, despite the troubles of his time. He lived intensely the missionary ideal.

Knowing the story of the death of **Fr. Nicolas Van Kleef, C.M.**, as described for us by **Teodoro A. Ríos, C.M.**, helps us to know his deep conviction of working for peace, justice and the defense of human rights in Panama. Father Nico had an unconquerable spirit. His witness is an invitation to all confreres to commit themselves more seriously to defending human rights, through the building of peace and justice along with our communities. In today's world, the human rights of the poor, of women and of children are continually being violated. Fr. Nico urges us to take seriously the invitation to justice and the participation in the transformation of the world that is a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel. May Christ and the poor give new meaning to our commitment as missionaries.

The history of our Congregation has been formed out of the lives of many confreres spread around the world. They are the ones who have written the pages of the history of our provinces. It now belongs to us to build the present life of our provinces. May we be faithful to God in the poor just as Saint Vincent de Paul was.