

FEATURE:

Inculturation of the Vincentian Charism in the World

Presentation

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This issue of *Vincentiana* hopes to give witness to the inculturated survival of the missionary charism in the world. We wanted the presence of the five continents in this issue, because there are confreres on all five who strive to live it out. Only those who were invited to say something and responded speak. Without doubt, there are many others who might say other things that would confirm the survival of the Vincentian charism in the world. *Vincentiana*, because it also wants to be an expression of the life of the Congregation of the Mission, is always open to the communication of confreres' experiences. We certainly need reflections and studies that help us maintain our fidelity to the charism, but no less necessary are the life experiences which show the creative vigor of the charism in our world today. The missionaries of heaven are also present in this issue in the short bibliographical reviews of two books written in 2007 about them.

Vincentian fidelity in the old Europe confronts new challenges to which CEVIM (Conference of Visitors of Europe and the Middle East) hopes to respond. This requires of us a deep knowledge of the charism in order to know how to live out an adequate accommo-

dition that is neither an abandonment of one's principles, nor a forgetting of the Vincentian charism's essential values. Africa-Madagascar, as seen by a Malagasy, the Bishop of Farafangana, discovers the values of traditional religions in those who seek to inculturate themselves in the charism. USA presents the story of incarnating the culture in a particular society that, as it evolves internally, is opening out to new needs in new worlds. From Latin America, through the pen of a Spaniard, who has lived and worked for 48 years in Latin America, we are called to appreciate with serenity the effort of the missionaries who preceded us by presenting us, in conclusion, with a promising presence of the charism in Latin America.

In the "Study" section is an extensive article by Daniel Franklin Pilario, a Filipino confrere, on textual hermeneutics that can serve as a base for an inculturated rereading of the charism in the broad Asia-Pacific context. We are happy about the appearance of this concern in the wide Asia-Pacific world, which, up to the present, has not had much reception in our western media. The study of the charism in the Philippines is a first attempt and an invitation to continue reading and deepening the Vincentian charism from these scientific and cultural bases.

(Translation: ANN MARY, D.C.)