

Fall 9-20-2016

## Newsnotes

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### Recommended Citation

(2016) "Newsnotes," *Vincentian Heritage Journal*: Vol. 33: Iss. 2, Article 7.  
Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/vhj/vol33/iss2/7>

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# Newsnotes

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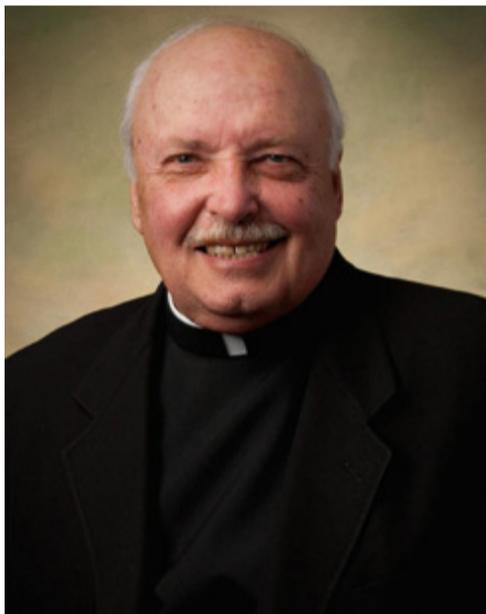
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# Newsnotes

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## NEWS



Rev. John S. Sledziona, C.M.

### *In Memoriam: Rev. John S. Sledziona, C.M., Former Long-Time Member of the Vincentian Studies Institute*

The Vincentian Studies Institute is deeply saddened by the news of the death of Rev. John Sledziona, C.M., the fourth Provincial of the New England Province, and the first President of the National Conference of Visitors of the USA. John died suddenly on 31 March 2016, at the age of 73, with 53 years of vocation and 45 years of priesthood. Fr. Sledziona served on the board of the Vincentian Studies Institute for many years and his many contributions to our publications and programs were invaluable. We will be forever grateful to him for helping to guide the Institute forward, and he will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to consider him a colleague and friend.

From the Diocese of Manchester, N.H.: "On March 31, 2016, the Rev. John S. Sledziona, C.M., was called to his rest and to the glory of the Resurrection promised by the Lord. He was 73 years old.

Fr. Sledziona was born on December 23, 1942, in Derby, Connecticut. He entered the Congregation of the Mission, better known as the Vincentian order, on June 12, 1962, at Saint Vincent Seminary in Germantown, Pennsylvania, later studying at Saint Joseph College in Princeton, New Jersey. After completing his Master of Theology degree (M.Th.) at Mary Immaculate Seminary in Northampton, Pennsylvania, he was ordained a priest on May 30, 1970, by the Most Rev. Joseph McShea, Bishop of Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Fr. Sledziona was assigned to Saint John Kanty Prep in Erie, Pennsylvania, as a teacher of religion and English. During that time, he completed his studies for his Master of English at Edinboro State University, Edinboro, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1973, and served in campus ministry at Alliance College, Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania.

In June, 1980, Fr. Sledziona was sent to teach at Bishop Brady High School in Concord, where he was named principal two years later. In 1987, Fr. Sledziona was named pastor of Saint Peter Parish in Concord and Dean of the Capital Deanery. He left those posts to serve the Vincentians as their Provincial Superior in 1996.

In 2006 he returned to the Diocese of Manchester as Director of Clergy Formation; he was reappointed to that position in 2010. Fr. Sledziona was appointed Cabinet

Secretary for Ordained Ministry and Liturgical Worship in January of 2013 and was appointed Director of the Office of Deacon Formation, Director of the Office of Seminary Formation, and Co-Director of Vocations in January of 2015, serving in those positions until his death.

Fr. Sledziona served as President of the Vincentians' National Conference of Visitors of the United States from 2002 to 2005, and as a Trustee of Niagara University in Lewiston, New York, from 2006 to 2013. He also served three terms on the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Manchester and was often found serving in parish ministry on weekends wherever the need arose. He most recently resided at St. Patrick Parish, Pelham.

On Monday, April 4, 2016, Fr. Sledziona lay in state from 9:30 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. at St. Patrick Parish, 12 Main Street, Pelham, NH 03076-3724. The Most Rev. Peter A. Libasci, Bishop of Manchester, then presided at a Memorial Mass at 11:00 a.m. The Funeral Mass took place Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at St. Michael Church, Derby, Connecticut. Committal was at St. Michael Cemetery in Derby, Connecticut."

### *In Memoriam: Ellin M. Kelly, Ph.D.*

With great sadness we learned of the death in late February of Dr. Ellin Kelly, a former Daughter of Charity, Affiliate, Seton scholar, author, and Professor Emerita in the English Department of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences of DePaul University (1969-1992). In retirement, Ellin was a faithful volunteer in the DePaul University Archives and Special Collections department bringing the precision of a scholar to her accessioning work. She most generously endowed a British Literature Award for students.



Ellin M. Kelly, Ph.D.

Originally, from Grand Forks, North Dakota, Ellin's life illustrates her remarkable strength of spirit, generosity towards others, and deep religious faith permeated with Vincentian Heritage and devotion to Elizabeth Seton. A zealous promotor of the Seton legacy, Ellin had a life-long passion for learning and teaching.

Recognized for her scholarship on Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Dr. Kelly received the Seton Legacy Award in 2009. Ellin's work was widely published; among her many contributions she served as a manuscript editor for the Seton Writings Project, and was the author of numerous articles and books including: *Elizabeth Seton's Two Bibles* (1977); *Numerous Choirs: A Chronicle of Elizabeth Bayley Seton and Her Spiritual Daughters*, Vols. 1 & 2 (1981;1996); and "Elizabeth Bayley Seton's Commonplace Book of Poetry: Archives, St. Joseph Provincial House, Rare Book 31" (*Vincentian Heritage*: 2009, see: *Commonplace Book*).

The Vincentian Family owes Ellin Kelly a debt of gratitude for her many good works, her fine scholarship, her words, and her friendship. May she rest in peace.

### *Lost Letter of Vincent de Paul Found*

Edward R. Uodvic, C.M., writes: "A previously lost autographed letter of Saint Vincent de Paul has surfaced. The letter is dated Paris, 12 January 1642, and was addressed to Michel Dupuis, in Saint Mihiel. The letter is #563 in Coste. According to Coste the original autograph letter was at the house of the Daughters of Charity, 12 rue des Greffes in Nimes. When Volume 2 of the English translation was in preparation the editors could no longer identify the location of the letter. Recently, as the provinces of the Daughters of Charity in France underwent a consolidation, the Visitatrix of France South delivered the re-discovered letter to Sr. Kathleen Appler, the superioress general of the Daughters. It is now safely housed in the archives at rue du Bac."

### *New Date for the Feast of Louise de Marillac: May 9th*

Sr. Kathleen Appler, D.C., announced: "Some time ago, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments asked the Congregation of the Mission to review the Vincentian liturgical calendar in order to bring it in line with new norms. ...We were asked to reconsider the date of the feast of Saint Louise de Marillac because we celebrate it on March 15, therefore during Lent, and it is preferable not to celebrate solemnities during that liturgical season.

Together, Fr. Gregory, Superior General, and his Council, the General Council of the Company, and I sought a more appropriate date. We chose May 9, the anniversary of the beatification of Saint Louise, as the date of her canonization also falls during Lent.

On December 14, 2015, Fr. Shijo [Kanjirathamkunnel, C.M.], presented the request for this change to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, which approved it by decree on January 4, 2016. The celebration of the feast of Saint Louise de Marillac remains a solemnity and from now on will be celebrated each year on May 9."

### *"Frédéric Ozanam: A Life in Letters" now digitized*

*Via Sapientiae*, the institutional online repository for DePaul University's John T. Richardson Library, has completed the digitization of Joseph Dirvin's *Frédéric Ozanam: A Life in Letters*. This volume, originally published in 1986, was digitized at the request of the National Council of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in the U.S. which is the copyright holder. Click here to access: [http://via.library.depaul.edu/ozanam\\_law/](http://via.library.depaul.edu/ozanam_law/)

## *Upcoming Conference on the 150th Anniversary of the Death of Bishop John Timon, C.M., First Bishop of Buffalo, New York*

The year 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of the death of John Timon, C.M., the founding bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo. Among the various ways the diocese wishes to mark the occasion is to have a panel dedicated to Timon's legacy at the 2017 meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association. Several speakers have agreed to participate, including John E. Rybolt, C.M., who will present "Timon the Vincentian," and a local scholar who will present on Timon in Texas. The conference is being held in Denver, from January 5-8, 2017. For further information contact: Dennis A. Castillo, Ph.D., Professor of Church History, Christ the King Seminary, 711 Knox Road, East Aurora, NY 14052-0607. Phone: 716-652-8900. Email: dcastillo@cks.edu

## *Online Exhibition on the Lazarists at the Irish College Paris*

Sean Alexander Smith's 2014 exhibition, now online, contains interesting digitized documents regarding the Lazarists' lengthy administration of the college during a war-torn era. See: Lazarists at the Irish College

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### *Notable Books*

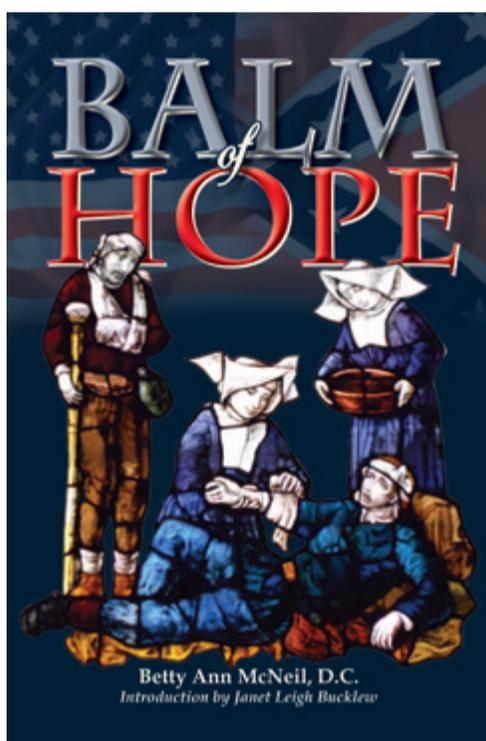
Silvia Marina Arrom, *Volunteering for a Cause: Gender, Faith, and Charity in Mexico from the Reform to the Revolution* (New Mexico: University of New Mexico Press, 2016), 296 pp. ISBN: 978-0826341884. Paperback available at: Amazon.com; Kindle edition at: Amazon Kindle edition

From Amazon: "This thoughtful study challenges a number of widespread assumptions about the role of Catholicism in Mexican history by examining two related Catholic charities: the male Society of St. Vincent de Paul and the Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. With thousands of volunteers, these lay groups not only survived the liberal reforms of the mid-nineteenth century but thrived, offering educational, medical, and other services to hundreds of thousands of poor people.

Arrom stresses the prominence of women among the volunteers, showing the many ways that Catholicism promoted Mexican modernization rather than being an obstacle to it. Moreover, by reinserting religion into public life, these organizations defied the secularizing policies of the Mexican government. By comparing the male and female organizations collectively, the work shows that the relationship between gender, faith, and charity was much more complicated than is usually believed, with devout men and women supporting the Catholic project in complementary ways."

Françoise Hildesheimer and Dénes Harai, *Dictionnaire Richelieu* (Paris: Honore Champion, 2015), 400 pp. ISBN: 978-2745328663. Available: Amazon.fr

From the publisher: “Premier ministre de Louis XIII’ et “fondateur de l’Académie française”: tels sont les titres associés à la figure d’Armand Jean du Plessis (1585-1642), cardinal-duc de Richelieu, sur les plaques de rue qui affichent son nom au coeur de Paris. Ce ne sont que les plus connus d’un grand nombre de titres acquis ou attribués à ce célèbre homme d’État et d’Église dont la vie, l’histoire et la légende se composent de mille et une facettes. Ce Dictionnaire invite le lecteur à les découvrir ou à les redécouvrir autrement à travers cent vingt notices rédigées par cinquante-sept spécialistes du Cardinal et de son époque. Replacé dans son contexte français, européen et, parfois même, mondial, chaque sujet abordé renvoie à plusieurs autres dont la lecture – complémentaire ou indépendante de celle d’une biographie de Richelieu – permettra à tout un chacun d’aborder, selon ses besoins et envies, la réflexion et l’action de celui qui avait largement contribué à l’avènement du Grand Siècle.”



Betty Ann McNeil, D.C., ed., *Balm of Hope: Charity Afire Impels Daughters of Charity Civil War Nurses*, Mary Denis Maher, C.S.A., Foreword; Janet Leigh Bucklew, Introduction (Chicago: DePaul University Vincentian Studies Institute, 2015), 558 pp., annotated, 50 historic images, 6 maps and tables, appendix, glossary, and index. ISBN: 978-1-936696-08-6. Available at: Seton Shrine Gift Shop

From promotional flyer: “Sister McNeil’s discovery of 500 pages of handwritten memoirs by Daughters of Charity Civil War nurses led her into a multi-year project to transcribe, annotate, index, and publish *Balm of Hope: Charity Afire Impels Daughters of Charity Civil War Nurses*. This compendium includes: 1. Notes of the Sisters’ Services in Military Hospitals; 2. Civil War Recollections and Accounts; and 3. Correspondence. The texts invite readers to listen to courageous women reminisce in their own words about nursing amid the ravages of war.”

George Wunderlich, Executive Director, National Museum of Civil War Medicine, writes, “When the American Civil War broke out in April of 1861, no one could have predicted the staggering loss of life or the tidal wave of sick and wounded that would flood the newly organized hospitals. The armies turned to the civilian sector to help provide nurses to tend to the patients and Catholic religious congregations quickly answered the call with many of the only professionally trained nurses on the continent. The Daughters of Charity answered this call establishing nursing staffs in hospitals on both sides as well as tending the wounded directly on the battlefield!

Their contributions are little discussed today, yet their service saved countless lives and established a nursing tradition that continues to save lives in our current century. This work finally provides many unpublished accounts that will bring this important work to the public eye. A must read for anyone interested in the Civil War, nursing history and humanitarian relief.”

Mixtel Olabuénaga, C.M., *Historia Abierta de la Congregacion de la Mision en España (1704-2000)* [Salamanca: Editorial CEME, 2015), 690 pp. ISBN: 978-84-7349-154-9. Available: Editorial CEME

From the web site: “Este libro que se pone en manos de los lectores es la historia de unas personas, de unos sacerdotes y laicos, de unos misioneros, discípulos de Vicente de Paúl, que durante tres siglos, dieciocho, diecinueve y veinte, se entregaron con valentía, con generosidad, con enormes sacrificios, con derramamiento incluso de sangre, a la tarea de expandir el evangelio de Cristo. La congregación fue expulsada de la patria, fue excluida de la propiedad, fue negada su existencia, fue perseguida, como otras congregaciones, en los siglos diecinueve y veinte, pero siempre, después de esos avatares difíciles, vuelve a resurgir con nuevo brío y lozanía. Su rasgo más distintivo, al decir de un historiador, fue “la austeridad de vida, la observancia y el fervor espiritual.”

Una de las epopeyas más gloriosas de la Congregación de la Misión española fue su expansión misionera por el mundo. Se inició en 1844 en México, en 1847 en Cuba, en Filipinas en 1862, en Puerto Rico en 1873, Estados Unidos en 1909, Honduras en 1910, Perú en 1914, en la India en 1921, Venezuela en 1931, Madagascar en 1965, Mozambique en 1991. Indiscutiblemente que tenemos que estar orgullosos de nuestra historia, pero ese pasado glorioso debiera ayudar a la Congregación actual a resituarse en una sociedad distinta con valentía y creatividad, como lo hicieron nuestros antecesores.”

Seán Alexander Smith, Ph.D., *Fealty and Fidelity: The Lazarists of Bourbon France, 1660-1736* (Routledge, 2015), 240 pp. ISBN: 978-1472444783. Hardcover available at: Amazon.com ; Kindle edition at: Amazon Kindle edition

Promotional write-up: “The career of the French saint Vincent de Paul has attracted the attention of hundreds of authors since his death in 1660, but the fate of his legacy — entrusted to the body of priests called the Congregation of the Mission (Lazarists) — remains vastly neglected. De Paul spent a lifetime working for the reform of the clergy and the evangelization of the rural poor. After his death, his ethos was universally lauded as one of the most important elements in the regeneration of the French church, but what happened to this ethos after he died? This book provides a thorough examination of the major activities of de Paul’s immediate followers. It begins by analyzing the unique model of religious life designed by de Paul — a model created in contradistinction to more worldly clerical institutes, above all the Society of

Jesus. Before he died, de Paul made very clear that fidelity to this model demanded that his disciples avoid the corridors of power. However, this book follows the subsequent departures from this command to demonstrate that the Congregation became one of the most powerful orders in France. The book includes a study of the termination of the little-known Madagascar mission, which was closed in 1671. This mission, replete with colonial scandal and mismanagement, revealed the terrible pressures on de Paul's followers in the decade after his demise. The end of the mission occasioned the first major reassessment of the Congregation's goals as a missionary institute, and involved abandoning some of the goals the founder had nourished. The rest of the book reveals how the Lazarists recovered from the setbacks of Madagascar, famously becoming parish priests of Louis XIV at Versailles in 1672. From then on, fealty to Louis XIV gradually trumped fidelity to de Paul. The book also investigates the darker side of the Congregation's novel alliance with the monarch, by examining its treatment of Huguenot prisoners at Marseille later in the century, and its involvement with the slave trade in the Indian Ocean. This study is a wide-ranging investigation of the Lazarists' activities in the French Empire, ultimately concluding that they eclipsed the Society of Jesus. Finally, it contributes new information to the literature on Louis XIV's prickly relationship with religious agents that will surprise historians working in this area."

Italo Zedde, C.M., *San Vincenzo De Paoli: Uomo Della Parola di Dio* (Editrice Velar, 2015), 140 pp. ISBN: 978-88-6671-105-6. Available: [Velar.it](http://Velar.it)

From the book jacket: "Nessuno ignora che San Vincenzo de Paoli sia il Santo della Carità. A lui si devono diverse fondazioni ancora fiorenti: le Associazioni di Carità (gli attuali Gruppi di Volontariato Vincenziano) e le Figlie della Carità, ma San Vincenzo è anche ben noto come rinnovatore dei Seminari per la formazione del Clero, come animatore delle Missioni interne ed estere, e come fondatore di una Congregazione di Missionari chiamata proprio "Congregazione della Missione." Queste fondazioni ci dicono lo straordinario impulso che egli ricevette dalla meditazione e contemplazione della Parola di Dio dall'esempio di Gesù descritto nei Vangeli.

Queste pagine si propongono di illustrare lo spirito con cui San Vincenzo ha intrapreso tali opere, partendo dalla Parola di Dio. Papa Francesco menzionandolo esplicitamente nella *Lettera a tutti i consacrati* (21 novembre 2014) afferma: "I nostri Fondatori e Fondatrici hanno sentito in sé la compassione che prendeva Gesù quando vedeva le folle come pecore sbandate senza pastore. Come Gesù, mosso da questa compassione, ha donato la sua parola, ha sanato gli ammalati, ha dato il pane da mangiare, ha offerto la sua stessa vita..." così dovranno essere i suoi discepoli, in questo anno della Vita Consacrata, seguendo San Vincenzo nel continuo riferimento alla Parola di Dio come unica ragione della evangelizzazione dei poveri."

## *Videos of Interest*

To watch Carol Harrison, Ph.D., professor of History at the University of South Carolina, deliver the spring 2015 DeAndreis-Rosati Memorial Archives lecture, titled: *Romantic Catholics: Frédéric and Amélie Ozanam, Marriage, and the Catholic Social Vocation*, see: <http://vhrn-depaul.ning.com/profiles/blogs/drma-spring-lecture-2015>

To watch Betty Ann McNeil, D.C., Vincentian scholar-in-residence at DePaul University, deliver the fall 2015 DeAndreis-Rosati Memorial Archives lecture based upon the subject of her book, *Balm of Hope: Charity Afire Impels Daughters of Charity Civil War Nurses*, see: <http://vhrn-depaul.ning.com/profiles/blogs/drma-fall-quarter-lecture-balm-of-hope>

To watch Thérèse Peeters, researcher and scholar on the correspondence of seventeenth-century Vincentian missionaries along the Barbary Coast, deliver the winter 2016 DeAndreis-Rosati Memorial Archives lecture, titled: *Trust and the Mission: The Vincentians in North Africa, 1645-1689*, see: <http://vhrn-depaul.ning.com/profiles/blogs/lecture-the-role-of-trust-in-the-vincentian-missions-in-north-afr>

To watch Peggy O'Neill, S.C., a long-time peace activist who has worked in El Salvador for the past 30 years where she currently serves as the founder of El Centro Arte Para la Paz, deliver the 2016 Louise de Marillac lecture, titled: *Energized by the Fire of Charity*, see: <http://vhrn-depaul.ning.com/profiles/blogs/louise-de-marillac-lecture-energized-by-the-fire-of-charity>