

1989

Newsnotes

Follow this and additional works at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/vhj>

Recommended Citation

(1989) "Newsnotes," *Vincentian Heritage Journal*: Vol. 10: Iss. 2, Article 6.
Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/vhj/vol10/iss2/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Vincentian Journals and Publications at Digital Commons@DePaul. It has been accepted for inclusion in Vincentian Heritage Journal by an authorized editor of Digital Commons@DePaul. For more information, please contact digitalservices@depaul.edu.

Newsnotes

As the work continues of translating the correspondence of Saint Vincent into English, so more material comes to light. One of the most recent letters is "An Unpublished Letter of Vincent de Paul," in *Echoes of the Company* May 1989 (#5), 184-187. Sister Elizabeth Charpy took fragments of this letter of Saint Vincent and was able through painstaking work to reassemble them. The letter, dated 15 September 1656, was addressed by Saint Vincent to the Abbé Louis de Chandénier. The complete text is given in the article. This same information has been published in several Vincentian and Daughter of Charity publications in other languages.

The Spanish *Anales*, published in Madrid, continues to offer interesting studies on the life and heritage of the two communities. In the issue of May 1989, a brief history of the Congregation of the Mission in Poland, translated from a German source not otherwise identified, recounts the work of the confreres there from the time of Saint Vincent to the present. Of note are the periods of harsh persecution faced by the Province after 1865 and after 1939, while at the same time Polish missions in the United States and Brazil grew and developed into independent provinces.

Father Jaime Corraera prepared a study on the spirituality of Saint Vincent, which appeared in the issue of June 1989. In this essay, he draws together some of the main lines of Vincentian spirituality, and tests against the contributions of Saint Louise de Marillac.

The Middle-European Group for Vincentian Studies (MEGVIS), publishes articles in German on Vincentian matters. One of the contributions of this journal is its interest in matters of iconography (Saints Vincent and Louise in art) and in literary references. One such series has dealt with identifying the often-quoted comment made by Voltaire: "Vincent de Paul is my kind of saint" (*Mon saint à moi, c'est Vincent de*

Paul.) Several confreres added their expertise in this issue. The basic source was a letter of Voltaire of 4 January 1766 to the Marquis de Vilette.

A study in the life of Bishop John Gnidovec of the Yugoslav province appeared in Issue 21 (1988). The bishop's cause for canonization has been introduced in Rome. His diocese was located north of Macedonia, an area where French confreres worked to establish a uniate eastern church. This interesting period of Vincentian history was partially treated in *Vincentian Heritage* 5:1 (1984), and deserves even further historical attention in the light of contemporary developments in the Communist world.

A study by the late Father Theodore Wiesner, C.M., appears in German translation in Issue 23 (1989). It had previously appeared in its original English in *Vincentiana* (1988), 328-336.

Issue 24 (1989) contains the texts of papers given at the conference of MEGVIS, held this year in Augsburg, on the subject of Saint Vincent and the laity. Participants came from Germany, Holland and Austria, and included sisters from the various communities using the rules of Saint Vincent, as well as members of the laity, particularly the general secretary of the Vincent de Paul Society.

The Age of Gold

On 22-25 June 1989 the conference on "The Age of Gold: The Roots of our Tradition", the first such conference to be organized and sponsored by the Vincentian Studies Institute, was held at Saint Mary's Seminary, Perryville, Missouri. Some seventy participants, representing the American provinces of the Vincentian Community, the Daughters of Charity, and other communities that trace their origin or inspiration to Saint Vincent de Paul, were in attendance. The purpose of the conference was to study and appreciate the spirituality of seventeenth-century France, which lies at the source of the charism of many contemporary American communities. The speakers were Professor James Hitchcock of Saint Louis University, who provided the historical background of the period; Father Raymond Deville, superior general of the Company of Saint Sulpice, Paris, who gave an overview of the French School of Spirituality and the role played by Saint Vincent and his

contemporaries; Doctor Wendy Wright of Creighton University, who spoke on the relationship between Saint Francis de Sales and Saint Jane Frances de Chantel; Sister Margaret John Kelly of the Northeast Province of the Daughters of Charity who traced the relationship of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise de Marillac from the latter's perspective; and Father Hugh O'Donnell of Saint Thomas Seminary, Denver, who dealt with the same subject from Saint Vincent's perspective.

The response of all the participants was enthusiastic. The evaluations given by those who attended indicated that the conference had successfully met a need, that of understanding the charisms of Saint Vincent and Saint Louise in the context of both the seventeenth and the twentieth centuries. Special thanks were directed toward Edward Udovic, C.M., and Kieran Kneaves, D.C., for their work in organizing the conference. The papers given at the conference will appear in the March 1990 number of *Vincentian Heritage*.