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Newsnotes

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Newsnotes

Publications: books

Volume 6 of *Vincent de Paul: Correspondence, Conferences, Documents* has now been published. It can be ordered from the Vincentian Translation Project, Saint Joseph's Provincial House, 333 South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727-9297. Telephone (301) 447-6020, FAX (301) 447-7079. The cost is \$35.00, plus shipping. It can also be ordered through the publisher, New City Press, 202 Cardinal Road, Hyde Park, NY 12538. Volumes 1-4 are still available at \$33.00 plus shipping from the Translation Project in Emmitsburg.

CEME, the Vincentian publishing house in Salamanca, Spain, has recently published two works of note. One is *Escucha el clamor de los pobres*, a Spanish translation of *He Hears the Cry of the Poor*, by Father Robert Maloney, C.M., superior general of the Vincentian Community (pp. 223, pesetas 1,250). The other is *Revestirse del Espíritu de Cristo: Expresión de la identidad vicenciana* ("To put on the Spirit of Christ: Expression of the Vincentian Identity") (pp. 441, pesetas 2,700). Both works are available from Editorial Librería CEME, Avda. de la Serna, 26, 37900 Santa Marta de Tormes, Salamanca, Spain. FAX (923) 20 11 73.

In June 1996 the visitors (provincial superiors) of all the provinces of the Congregation of the Mission met at Salamanca, Spain, for a joint meeting and conference. The proceedings have now been published as *Meeting of the Visitors of the Congregation of the Mission* (Rome: Congregation of the Mission, General Curia, 1996). This volume contains twenty-one papers that were read at the meeting, covering almost every aspect of Vincentian life and ministry. They are divided into three categories: (1) profile of the visitor; (2) inculturation of the Vincentian charism; and (3) other topics, including ongoing formation, dealings with bishops, interprovincial collaboration, international missions, and the Vincentian laity.

Abba Alazar Abraha, MCCJ. *Saint Justin de Jacobis: His Missionary Methodology in Eritrea and Ethiopia*. Paulines Publications Africa. The author is a Comboni Missionary, a native of Eritrea who belongs to the Ge'ez (Eritrean and Ethiopian) rite. The author says that the Catholic

Church "in Abyssinia is the most inculturated church in Africa" and gives much of the credit to the missionary methods of De Jacobis. "Even though St Justin de Jacobis is not well known outside Eritrea and Ethiopia, I think he is one of the greatest Catholic missionary Africans ever encountered. . . . St Justin de Jacobis was superior in his methodology to those missionaries before him, at his time and those after him." This book is available through the Daughters of Saint Paul.

Heleen Murre-van den Berg. "Paul Bedjan (1838-1920) and his Neo-Syriac Writings," in *IV Symposium Syriacum 1992*, University of Cambridge, Faculty of Divinity, 30 August-2 September 1992, ed. René Lavenant, S.J. Rome: Pontificio Istituto Orientale, 1994. Bedjan was a Vincentian of Persian origin who made major contributions to the development of the Neo-Syriac language. This article highlights his linguistic accomplishments and contributions. For further information on Bedjan, see John E. Rybolt, C.M., "Notable Vincentians (6): Paul Bedjan," *Vincentian Heritage* 13, no. 2 (1992): 149-153.

A number of works have been published recently that deal with the world of Saint Vincent de Paul or its historical background. The following are the more notable of these.

Departed, Yet Present: Zhalan, The Oldest Christian Cemetery in Beijing. Ed. Edward J. Malatesta, S.J., and Gao Zhiyu. Instituto Cultural de Macau; Ricci Institute, University of San Francisco, 1995. Pp. 315. 135 illustrations. The cemetery was the final resting place of many Vincentian missionaries, including the famed Teodorico Pedrini (see below).

Dale K. Van Kley. *The Religious Origins of the French Revolution: From Calvin to the Civil Constitution, 1560-1791.* New Haven: Yale University Press. Reprint edition, 1990. Pp. 336. \$19.00.

Michel Mollat. *The Poor in the Middle Ages: an Essay in Social History.* Translated by Arthur Goldhammer. New Haven: Yale University Press. Reprint edition, 1990. \$19.00. This work examines attitudes toward the poor in the Middle Ages. "Mollat examines the lives and attitudes of the poor, revealing their suffering, their resignation, and their occasional vengeance" (book jacket).

Joseph Bergin. *Cardinal Richelieu: Power and the Pursuit of Wealth.* New Haven and London: Yale University Press. Reprint edition, paperback, 1990. Pp. 341. \$20.00. The enigmatic figure of Richelieu continues to fascinate historians and biographers. The cardinal played an important role in many of the ministries of Saint Vincent de Paul and in his will left a sum of money to found a mission house in Sedan.

"Here is a vivid and fascinating guide to the financial basis of high society in Louis XIII's France, and a precise account of how Richelieu gained and maintained his position in government." *History Today*.

Carmel Elizabeth McEnroy. *Guests in Their Own House: The Women of Vatican II*. The Crossroad Publishing Company, 370 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. 1996. Paperback pp. 309. \$19.95. This work highlights the role of Mother Suzanne Guillemin, D.C.

Christopher J. Kauffman. *Ministry and Meaning: A Religious History of Catholic Health Care in the United States*. The Crossroad Publishing Company, 370 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. 1995. Pp. 354. \$29.95. According to the book jacket, "This is the first comprehensive study to explore the religious self-understanding of caregivers, particularly women religious whose ministry was manifested in public and private facilities, in times of epidemics and war, in cities and on the frontier, in railroad and mining-camp hospitals." This work also highlights the pioneering health care work in the United States by the Daughters of Charity. Professor Kauffman is a well known historian who has written histories of the Alexian Brothers, the Knights of Columbus, and the Sulpicians.

Andrew P. Trout. *City on the Seine: Paris in the Time of Richelieu and Louis XIV*. New York: Saint Martin's Press, 1996. Pp. 275. \$39.95. Chapter 6 of this work is devoted to "Monsieur Vincent and Catholic Reform." The author comments that "it is not inappropriate in fact to view this period mainly through the eyes of Monsieur Vincent, as contemporaries knew him, since few events, and no crisis, in the Paris region escaped his attention." (p. 61).

Publications: journals

The *Annali della Missione*, 103, no. 3 (1996) devoted the entire issue to the recently canonized Saint John Gabriel Perboyre and related topics of the missions in China and *ad gentes*. The *Annali* are published by the Italian provinces of the Vincentian Community.

Richard Wilkinson, "Cardinal Mazarin," *History Today*, 46 (April 1996): 39-45. Jules Mazarin was the powerful first minister of France during the minority of Louis XIV. He was hostile to Saint Vincent de Paul for a number of political reasons, especially the saint's influence over the queen mother, Anne of Austria.

The *Echo of the Company* for January 1996 has an article on "Inculturation of the Charism of the Daughters of Charity in the

XVIIth Century," by Sister Elizabeth Charpy, D.C., a recognized expert on Saint Louise de Marillac and the history of the Daughters of Charity. The article is continued in the February 1996 issue, together with a second article by Sister Charpy, "Inculturation of the consecrated life in the world of the poor." The third installment of the article on inculturation is found in the March 1996 issue, together with an extract of an historical survey of the province of Romania submitted by that province. The June 1996 issue has an interesting article on "Work with the foundlings: A handwritten manuscript by Saint Vincent, 1647," by Mother Juana Elizondo, and an historical article, "The Daughters of Charity in Tunisia, 1896-1996."

Publications: Dissertations

Reverend Edward Udovic, C.M., "Jean-Baptiste Étienne and the Vincentian Revival." Catholic University of America. 1996. Pp. 436. Étienne has been called the "second founder" of the Congregation of the Mission, a title that reflects a French orientation and that has been disputed by Vincentians of other nations. There is no doubt, however, that he had a profound impact on the Vincentian Community both in his lifetime and after, though he remains a controversial figure to this day. Father Udovic's dissertation, based on massive original research, surveys and evaluate's Étienne's work. It is the most complete study done so far and is a supremely important contribution to Vincentian studies. This dissertation will be published as a monograph by the Vincentian Studies Institute in 1997.

Agnes Marie Delagrangé, "The Apostle of Women in Seventeenth-Century France: Saint Vincent de Paul, Servant and Advocate of their Dignity." Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 1995. Pp. 315. Despite the title, the dissertation is in French.

Beatification

On Tuesday, 2 July 1996 Pope John Paul II signed the decree of beatification that designated Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, as Blessed. This is the final step before actual canonization, when an individual is named a saint. Joseph H. Mueller, president of the United States Council of the society, spoke for the more than 60,000 volunteer members of the organization in this country when he said, "Frederic Ozanam was a devoted family man,

and it seems particularly fitting that he be moved one step closer to canonization at a time when there is such an outcry to embrace family values." The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has been easing the suffering of the needy for more than 150 years in the United States. In their person-to-person activities the members help more than 6 million people with over \$100,000,000 in direct aid each year.

Saint Vincent and e-mail

"Vincent" is an e-mail discussion list devoted to exploring the implications and possibilities of Vincent de Paul's charism in the modern world. This discussion forum is intended to be a network for those who research the causes of poverty, work on the front lines or look for new ways to celebrate the good news with the poor. To fifty or so people from around the United States, Canada, Taiwan, Nairobi, it already serves to increase a sense of solidarity and support. Anyone who is on-line can subscribe to "Vincent" by e-mailing the following message "subscribe Vincent [your name]" to listserv@sjuvm.stjohns.edu (no subject header necessary). It is also possible to visit the web site for the Vincentian Center for Church and Society at <http://www.stjohns.edu/vincentianctr>. The site has a wealth of information about the more than 1 million women and men inspired by Vincent de Paul: members of the Congregation of the Mission, Daughters of Charity, Vincent de Paul Society, International Association of Charity (Ladies of Charity), the various congregations of the Seton heritage, etc. Those who are not on-line and would like some help in exploring possibilities should contact Father John Freund, C.M., at Saint John's University (Voice 718-262-8826; FAX 718-262-8695).

Concert

At a conference on the harpsichord in China held in Hong Kong in October 1996, Darragh Morgan at the violin and Joyce Lindorff at the harpsichord played the Sonta 1 for violin and Continuo, op. 3, part 1, by Teodorico Pedrini, C.M. Pedrini (1670-1746) was one of the most colorful and accomplished of the Vincentian missionaries in China. He was a talented musician and composer and after his arrival in China in 1711 was appointed imperial palace music teacher. In addition to teaching music to the heirs to the imperial throne, he performed for the court and tuned the many harpsichords that were kept

in almost every room. He signed his musical compositions with the anagram Nepridi. It is anticipated that within the next year or two a compact disk of his music will be published. For further information on Pedrini, see [Stafford Poole, C.M.], *A History of the Congregation of the Mission, 1625-1843*, pp. 315, 321-333.

Exhibit

The Special Collections Department of the John Richardson Library at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, recently opened an exhibit entitled "West of the Mississippi: The gift of the oldest college library in the United States west of the Mississippi River donated by the Vincentians of the Midwest Province of the Congregation of the Mission to DePaul University." The exhibit is a small part of what is sometimes called the "opening day" collection, that is, books that formed part of the original library of Saint Mary's of the Barrens, the first Vincentian establishment in the United States and the first institution of higher learning west of the Mississippi. The 3000 volumes that the Midwest Province donated to DePaul University were all printed before 1818 and are now carefully housed in a climate-controlled atmosphere. The books cover every conceivable topic, from obvious ones like theology, scripture, and devotion to beekeeping, accounting, and the autobiography of Benjamin Franklin. Several of the books deal with Jewish studies, including Hebrew grammar and talmudic studies. The library has also published an attractive catalogue, with a history of the collection written by Father Edward Udovic, C.M., and a description of the exhibit by Kathryn DeGraff, curator of the Special Collections.