Summer 10-12-2015

Newsnotes

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Newsnotes

NEWS

John E. Rybolt, C.M., Honored by St. John’s University

Congratulations to our colleague, and longtime V.S.I. member, Fr. John Rybolt as he received an honorary doctorate from St. John’s University, New York, on 25 September 2014. The Conferral of the Degree of Doctor of Laws was presented to Fr. Rybolt during the Vincentian Convocation Ceremony held at Bent Hall Auditorium on the Queens Campus. He was also asked to deliver the Vincentian Chair of Social Justice Lecture — “Vincentian Social Justice.”

Vincentian Heritage Bookstore Operates with New Partner

From the DePaul University press release: “The Vincentian Heritage Bookstore, established in 1995 by the Vincentian Studies Institute at DePaul University, is expanding its reach. Effective July 1, 2014, the operations will be managed by the bookstore and gift shop at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

More than 120 items dedicated to Saint Vincent de Paul — including books, prints, statutes and medals — will be for sale in the shrine’s Seton Heritage Shop.

According to the Rev. Edward Udovic, C.M., senior executive for university mission at DePaul, the new arrangement will give the Vincentian Heritage Bookstore a larger presence and better infrastructure since the Seton Heritage Shop already manages a significant operation both in the store and online. It will also be able to provide the Vincentian Heritage Bookstore with efficient technical support and better shipping options, Udovic noted. “This new operation will provide us with a mechanism to sell materials that we have in our inventory…. The Seton Heritage Shop gives us more outreach and makes the items in our bookstore more widely available to scholars, Catholics and members of the Vincentian family. We believe we have found the right partner with the right mission who can provide the support for our books, publications and heritage material,” he said.

“We are excited about this partnership with the Vincentian Studies Institute and we look forward to working with DePaul University in the promotion of St. Vincent de Paul. We feel this partnership will make the shop more well-rounded as St. Elizabeth Ann Seton’s legacy is part of the Vincentian heritage,” said Rob Judge, executive director at the shrine. “The new line will be featured in its own category on the Seton Heritage Shop’s website, and a special area of the store will be dedicated to the Vincentian Studies Institute line,” Judge said.

Serving the Vincentian family worldwide, the Vincentian heritage collection is the
largest retailer of merchandise dedicated to the Vincentian family. The collection features a large selection of books about the Vincentian family, history and spirituality; as well as images, artwork, and copies of the Vincentian Heritage Journal.”

The Vincentian Heritage Bookstore can now be found online at: http://www.setonheritage.org/product-category/vincentian-studies-institute/

The DePaul University “Voices of Charity Oral History Project”

DePaul University’s Voices of Charity Oral History Project is now live online, available at: http://voc.is.depaul.edu

The Voices of Charity Oral History Project was initiated in honor of the Centennials of Marillac Social Center (in 2014) and the St. Vincent de Paul Center (in 2015) both located in Chicago. In order to document the histories of the two Centers, narrators were selected based on their having worked at one of the Centers for at least ten years or more. In all, twenty-one narrators were interviewed between October 2012 and October 2013. Interviews addressed workers’ experiences dating as far back as the 1960s. Interviews were transcribed verbatim and checked against the audio for omissions/errors; minor edits were made to ensure clarity.

The oral history project was generously funded by the Irene and Bill Beck Faculty Fellowship, sponsored by the Beck Research Initiative for Women, Gender, and Community and the Irwin W. Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning and Community Service Studies. The website design was generously funded by the Vincentian Endowment Fund of DePaul University.

The project could not have been completed without the diligent work of students from HST 396: ORAL HISTORY PROJECT in Autumn 2012, and most notably it could not have been completed without Eleanor Bossu, who served as the Lead Interviewer for the project. All are recognized on the credits section of the website. The faculty lead on this project was Amy Tyson, an associate professor in DePaul University’s History Department.

DePaul University Announces Digital Collection of St. Vincent’s Handwritten Letters

Andrew Rea, DePaul University’s Vincentian Librarian, writes: “In 1969, DePaul University acquired its first original, handwritten letter by St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660), presented by the well-known book collector and DePaul alumnus Abel Berland. Since that time, through other generous gifts and judicious purchases, it has added to that first letter seven-fold. DePaul’s eight Vincent letters represents the largest such collection outside of Europe. The letters are the collective cornerstone of DePaul’s Vincentian Studies Collection, a multidisciplinary corpus of resources pertaining to the study of St. Vincent and the Vincentian Family. They, along with bulk of the Vincentian Studies Collection, are currently housed in DePaul’s Special Collections and Archives department at the John T. Richardson Library.
In 2013, the decision was made to digitize these eight letters and make them more accessible to the public. The result of this effort is a new DePaul Library digital collection, St. Vincent’s Handwritten Letters. It can be a powerful experience to view 400-year-old letters written by the hand of Vincent, but the collection will also give scholars and researchers a chance to pore over the way the letters have been written — underlining, scratch-outs, and bolder passages — which cannot be replicated in the print volumes of Vincent’s correspondence.

Each letter includes a transcription and translation of the respective text, which allows users easy access to Vincent’s words. The seventeenth-century penmanship of these letters can be difficult for most of us to read, even with a knowledge of French. The letters themselves range in topic, from the mundane (in which Vincent simply writes that he has nothing much to say) to the essential (in which Vincent explains his opposition to the then-popular heresy of Jansenism). They span the years of 1641-1660, a fertile period during which Vincent’s influence was at its height.

We hope this collection further illuminates the figure of St. Vincent, whose four-century legacy of charity and respect for humanity informs the fundamental mission of DePaul even today.”

The collection is available at: http://libservices.org/contentdm/handwritten-letters.php

If you have any questions or feedback about this collection, please contact Mr. Rea at: area1@depaul.edu

St. Vincent de Paul Online Image Archive

John E. Rybolt, C.M., curator of the archive, writes: “Since 2008, the St. Vincent de Paul Image Archive has been offering a large collection of downloadable images related to the Vincentian family. Thanks to DePaul University, which hosts the archive, more than 15,000 images are now available, divided into four general categories: Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac and the Daughters of Charity, Vincentian Persons, and Vincentian Places.

The images are free to download for personal or professional use (such as for newsletters, in-house publications, greeting cards or announcements), but not to be distributed for profit. Those who want to contact me about various images or details can use a special email established for this purpose: jerybolt@gmail.com
I am happy to report that people do have questions or observations, and some even send me images to include in the Image Archive. My feeling is that there is a huge mass of material still to be uncovered. For this reason, I welcome new images and acknowledge those who have submitted them. Even though the name “St. Vincent de Paul” is in the title, the archive covers a vast array of possibilities. I am certainly willing to broaden the scope of this undertaking, and will soon be adding “Events” to the Vincentian Persons area.

Where else can you find nearly 7,500 different (or mostly different) images of Vincent de Paul, 2,200+ of Louise de Marillac, the Daughters of Charity, Elizabeth Seton, the Miraculous Medal, and many others? As of August 2014, the totals are as follows, reaching 15,000+ images for the first time: St. Vincent de Paul – 7,498; St. Louise and Daughters of Charity – 2,281; Vincentian persons and events – 3,449; and Vincentian places – 2,219.”

The archive can be found online at: http://stvincentimages.cdm.depaul.edu/

Stanford University and Bibliothèque Nationale de France French Revolution Digital Archives

From the website Hyperallergic: Sensitive to Art and its Discontents: “Toppled crowns and tumbrels to the guillotine are just part of the massive archive of images and documents released online this month. The French Revolution Digital Archive, a partnership between Stanford University and the Bibliothèque nationale de France, was announced last week with some 14,000 high-resolution images.”

From the French Embassy of the U.S.: “The site contains both resources for the dedicated scholar and fascinating material for the everyday history buff, from prints depicting the events of 1789 to records of parliamentary deliberations and private letters. FRDA is the result of a multi-year collaboration of the Stanford University Libraries and the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF) to produce a digital version of the key research sources on the French Revolution and make them available to the international scholarly community.”

The search engine that powers the French Revolution Digital Archive allows users to limit by:

- Date, Date Range
- Material Found in Speeches
- Proximity of Words (1-5 words)
- Only Words in Title and Key Terms
- Turn Off Stemming

Facets allow users to refine results. Categories include:

- People
- Documents
- Genre
- Collection
A dynamically created visualization located at the top of every search result page allows users to view results grouped by volume (year/month).

From the Curator Section of the FRDA Web Site:

The FRDA provides access to the most complete searchable digital archive of French Revolution images available. *Images de la Révolution française* is a benchmark image-base undertaken by the Bibliothèque nationale de France on the occasion of the Revolution’s bicentennial in 1989. It aimed to “allow the reader to explore the relationships, articulations and confrontations between the ideas of the Revolution and their metaphorical embodiment, the constant cross-fertilization of ideology and make-believe…” For this project the BnF created over 38,000 separate views of over 14,000 individual images, showing closeups and dividing documents with discrete iconographic materials into appropriate sections. The *Images*, which were originally offered in analog format on laserdisc, had become extremely difficult to access due to rapid technological change. Within the framework of its digitization programs, the BnF rescanned at high resolution almost half of the images on the laserdisc from the original materials. New JPEG files were created from the original videodisc for the remaining images in the corpus. Now all of these images are available online as part of the FRDA.…

The images included in the **FRDA** are classified by provenance or by subject within the collections of the BnF. Descriptions of the Hennin and De Vinck image collections, which constitute an important part of the FRDA corpus, are found in separate print catalogues. The *Images de la Révolution française* laserdisc constituted an initial stage in the development of an iconographic corpus of the Revolution, bringing these visual materials together into a single collection accessible through highly indexed descriptive metadata using a controlled vocabulary for artists, iconographic genres, places of publications, and subject terms. Unfortunately the obsolescence of laserdisc technology meant the loss of access to this descriptive metadata, as well as to certain images themselves, which became available only through the General Catalog of the BnF. FRDA incorporates this indexed metadata, and expands its research possibilities, by finally restoring access to this coherent corpus of iconographic materials on the French Revolution.

Direct link to: French Revolution Digital Archive  
Direct link to: Images of the French Revolution

Présentation de l’éditeur: Dans la mémoire collective, le «l’invasion mystique». Pourtant, en 1790, le royaume ne compte que 55 500 religieuses. Il y en aura 135000 en 1900.

Cet essai cherche à decrier cet essor, une fois résumé le legs de l’Acien Régime. Si la Revolution a entendu supprimer »la religieuse«, le XIXe siècle, lui, va promouvoir « la sœur».


Sur le terreau des Pieuses filles, Béates et »sœurs des campagnes« prendront naissance quelque 400 fondations nouvelles. L’index énumère ici plus de 200 congrégations anciennes et nouvelles. Il était temps de mettre à la portée de tous ou ouvrage qui repertoire les différents visages de ces sœurs aux fonctions multiples et au service de tous, jusque dans les missions lointaines.

L’auteur: Gérard Cholvy est Professeur émérite d’histoire contemporaine Paul-Valéry (Montpellier-III) où il a enseigné de 1962 à 2002. Auteur de nombreux ouvrages distingués par des prix littéraires, il est un eminent specialist de l’histoire religieuse et culturelle en France.


From the publisher: “At the beginning of the seventeenth century, Paris was known for isolated monuments but had not yet put its brand on urban space. Like other European cities, it was still emerging from its medieval past. But in a mere century Paris would be transformed into the modern and mythic city we know today.

Though most people associate the signature characteristics of Paris with the public works of the nineteenth century, Joan DeJean demonstrates that the Parisian model for urban space was in fact invented two centuries earlier, when the first complete design for the French capital was drawn up and implemented. As a result, Paris saw many changes. It became the first city to tear down its fortifications, inviting people in rather than keeping them out. Parisian urban planning showcased new kinds of streets, including the original boulevard, as well as public parks and the earliest sidewalks and bridges without houses. Venues opened for urban entertainment of all kinds, from opera and ballet to a pastime invented in Paris, recreational shopping. Parisians enjoyed the earliest public transportation and street lighting, and Paris became Europe’s first great walking city.
A century of planned development made Paris both beautiful and exciting. It gave people reasons to be out in public as never before and as nowhere else. And it gave Paris its modern identity as a place that people dreamed of seeing. By 1700, Paris had become the capital that would revolutionize our conception of the city and of urban life.”

This work provides invaluable and fascinating insights into Vincent de Paul’s Paris.


*Hirondelle d’Allah* est aussi une biographie. La demoiselle de Neuchâtel quitta tout pour entrer en religion. D’aspect fragile sous sa grande cornette, comment devint-elle une héroïne? Quelques éléments de l’histoire familiale et communautaire apportent un éclairage psychologique car en Sœur Louise se condensent d’autres héros et héroïnes restés anonymes. Dans cette fresque politique et religieuse, solidement documentée, tout est véridique à l’exception de quelques petits trous ravaudés par l’imagination.

L’ouvrage s’attarde sur les personnalités attachantes de trois grands Saints de France qui inspirèrent notre héroïne, Vincent de Paul, Louise de Marillac et Catherine Labouré. Il permet aussi de faire plus ample connaissance avec la Turquie, pays fascinant au passé prodigieux, au développement fulgurant. Mais *Hirondelle d’Allah* est d’abord et avant tout un témoignage de foi et de courage.”


Peu à peu, Vincent de Paul s’affirme comme la conscience de son temps. Avec Louise de Marillac, supérieure des Filles de la Charité, il suscite l’engagement et la générosité des femmes de la haute société, lutte sur le terrain contre les horreurs de la guerre de Trente Ans, institue à Paris l’œuvre des Enfants trouvés. Par sa présence, de 1643 à 1652, au Conseil de conscience de la reine Anne d’Autriche, celui qui fait jeu égal avec les grandes figures de la Contre-Réforme catholique, François de Sales, Bérulle, Olier, influera aussi
sur les affaires de l’Etat et s’engagera contre le jansénisme. Les années 1650 le voient jouer un rôle décisif dans le développement des missions étrangères. Il meurt en 1660 et sera canonisé moins d’un siècle plus tard.

Homme de prière, homme d’action, meneur d’hommes, témoin auprès des grands des exigences de la conscience, l’humble paysan gascon est devenu une grande figure de notre histoire.”


From the publisher: “In this well-written and imaginatively structured book, Carol E. Harrison brings to life a cohort of nineteenth-century French men and women who argued that a reformed Catholicism could reconcile the divisions in French culture and society that were the legacy of revolution and empire. They include, most prominently, Charles de Montalembert, Pauline Craven, Amélie and Frédéric Ozanam, Léopoldine Hugo, Maurice de Guérin, and Victorine Monniot. The men and women whose stories appear in *Romantic Catholics* were bound together by filial love, friendship, and in some cases marriage. Harrison draws on their diaries, letters, and published works to construct a portrait of a generation linked by a determination to live their faith in a modern world.

Rejecting both the atomizing force of revolutionary liberalism and the increasing intransigence of the church hierarchy, the romantic Catholics advocated a middle way, in which a revitalized Catholic faith and liberty formed the basis for modern society. Harrison traces the history of nineteenth-century France and, in parallel, the life course of these individuals as they grow up, learn independence, and take on the responsibilities and disappointments of adulthood. Although the shared goals of the romantic Catholics were never realized in French politics and culture, Harrison’s work offers a significant corrective to the traditional understanding of the opposition between religion and the secular republican tradition in France.”


From the publisher: “Looking especially at widows of master craftsmen in early modern Paris, this study provides analysis of the social and cultural structures that shaped widows’ lives as well as their day-to-day experiences. Janine Lanza examines widows in early modern Paris at every social and economic level, beginning with the late sixteenth century when changes in royal law curtailed the movement of property within families up to the time of the French Revolution. The glimpses she gives us of widows running businesses, debating remarriage, and negotiating marriage contracts offer precious insights into the daily lives of women in this period.

Lanza shows that understanding widows dramatically alters our understanding
of gender, not only in terms of how it was lived in this period but also how historians can use this idea as a category of analysis. Her study also engages the historiographical issue of business and entrepreneurship, particularly women’s participation in the world of work; and explicitly examines the place of the law in the lived experience of the early modern period.

How did widowed women use their newly acquired legal emancipation? How did they handle their emotional loss? How did their roles in their families and their communities change? How did they remain financially solvent without a man in the house? How did they make decisions that had always been made by the men around them? These questions all touch upon the experience of widows and on the ways women related to prevalent structures and ideologies in this society. Lanza's study of these women, the ways they were represented and how they experienced their widowhood, challenges many historical assumptions about women and their roles with respect to the law, the family, and economic activity.”


From the bookjacket: “One of the most striking features of French government in the second half of the sixteenth century was the influence of Italians. Notwithstanding widespread French admiration of Italian culture, Italian influence at the heart of French government aroused xenophobic antagonism among many in French society. This study throws light on this complex relationship by offering the first detailed examination of the Gondi, one of the most influential of the Italian families active during this period. The Gondi family played a leading part in the finance, government, church and military affairs of the nation, and were indispensable counselors to the Queen Mother, Catherine De’ Medici. They were also the targets of anti-Italian hostility, much of it deliberately stirred by rivals in the French aristocracy who felt threatened by these powerful foreigners occupying positions they believed were rightfully theirs. The book examines perceptions of the Gondi through examination of contemporary pamphlets, diaries, and ambassadors’ dispatches. It investigates among other issues, their notorious role in the plotting of the St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre in 1572. Making use of many previously overlooked archival sources from France and Italy, this book charts the Gondi’s rise to power and demonstrates how their deft use of patronage and financial expertise allowed them to weave the intricate web of power and obligation that protected them against native hostility. In so doing the book reveals much about government and society in late sixteenth-century France.”

From the publisher: Winner of one of the 2012 Heineken Prizes; Sunday Times History Book of the Year 2013; Selected as a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2013 in the History, Geography, & Area Studies Category; Received an Honorable Mention for the 2013 American Publishers Awards for Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE), in the European & World History category; Winner of the Society for Military History 2014 Distinguished Book Award for the best book-length publication in English on non-United States military history.

“Revolutions, droughts, famines, invasions, wars, regicides — the calamities of the mid-seventeenth century were not only unprecedented, they were agonizingly widespread. A global crisis extended from England to Japan, and from the Russian Empire to sub-Saharan Africa. North and South America, too, suffered turbulence. The distinguished historian Geoffrey Parker examines first-hand accounts of men and women throughout the world describing what they saw and suffered during a sequence of political, economic and social crises that stretched from 1618 to the 1680s. Parker also deploys scientific evidence concerning climate conditions of the period, and his use of ‘natural’ as well as ‘human’ archives transforms our understanding of the World Crisis. Changes in the prevailing weather patterns during the 1640s and 1650s — longer and harsher winters, and cooler and wetter summers — disrupted growing seasons, causing dearth, malnutrition, and disease, along with more deaths and fewer births. Some contemporaries estimated that one-third of the world died, and much of the surviving historical evidence supports their pessimism.

Parker’s demonstration of the link between climate change and worldwide catastrophe 350 years ago stands as an extraordinary historical achievement. And the contemporary implications of his study are equally important: are we at all prepared today for the catastrophes that climate change could bring tomorrow?”


After some 40 years, the task of the Vincentian Translation Project is complete. The final volume of the English edition of Pierre Coste’s 14-volume series of the work of Saint Vincent de Paul, the index volume, was published in September 2014. The index is exhaustive and is a great help in quickly and easily accessing this incredible resource. Congratulations are in order to Sr. Marie Poole and her collaborators on this final volume. The book is now available for $45.00. Although the project’s offices are closing all volumes will remain available for purchase. They have been shipped to the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal building in Philadelphia, where the Vincentians will see to their storage and future sale. If you wish to obtain any of the volumes in the series, *Vincent de Paul: Correspondence,*
Conferences, Documents, please contact: Nick Gibboni, Director of Operations, Central Association of the Miraculous Medal, 475 E. Chelten Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19144; 215-848-1010 x232 (Office); 267-299-1463 (Fax); via email: ngibboni@cammonline.org


Of note, Mr. Scott discusses the role of the U.S. Vincentian and Daughters of Charity missionaries in China in aiding the flyers in their escape. Images are reprinted from the DeAndreis-Rosati Memorial Archives at DePaul University in Chicago.

From the publisher: “The dramatic account of one of America’s most celebrated — and controversial — military campaigns: the Doolittle Raid.

In December 1941, as American forces tallied the dead at Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Roosevelt gathered with his senior military counselors to plan an ambitious counterstrike against the heart of the Japanese Empire: Tokyo. Four months later, on April 18, 1942, sixteen U.S. Army bombers under the command of daredevil pilot Jimmy Doolittle lifted off from the deck of the USS Hornet on a one-way mission to pummel the enemy’s factories, refineries, and dockyards and then escape to Free China. For Roosevelt, the raid was a propaganda victory, a potent salve to heal a wounded nation. In Japan, outraged over the deaths of innocent civilians — including children — military leaders launched an ill-fated attempt to seize Midway that would turn the tide of the war. But it was the Chinese who suffered the worst, victims of a retaliatory campaign by the Japanese Army that claimed an estimated 250,000 lives and saw families drowned in wells, entire towns burned, and communities devastated by bacteriological warfare.

At the center of this incredible story is Doolittle, the son of an Alaskan gold prospector, a former boxer, and brilliant engineer who earned his doctorate from MIT. Other fascinating characters populate this gripping narrative, including Chiang Kai-shek, Lieutenant General Joseph “Vinegar Joe” Stilwell, and the feisty Vice Admiral William “Bull” Halsey Jr. Here, too, are indelible portraits of the young pilots, navigators, and bombardiers, many of them little more than teenagers, who raised their hands to volunteer for a mission from which few expected to return. Most of the bombers ran out of fuel and crashed. Captured raiders suffered torture and starvation in Japan’s notorious POW camps. Others faced a harrowing
escape across China — via boat, rickshaw, and foot — with the Japanese Army in pursuit. Based on scores of never-before-published records drawn from archives across four continents as well as new interviews with survivors, Target Tokyo is World War II history of the highest order: a harrowing adventure story that also serves as a pivotal reexamination of one of America’s most daring military operations.”


From the publisher: “The first study to address social status in Louis XIV’s court as a key tool for defining and redefining identities, relations, and power; Offers perspectives on members of the court, rather than the usual perspective of the Sun King himself; Draws from a wide variety of printed and manuscript sources. Who preceded whom? Who wore what? Which form of address should one use? One of the most striking aspects of the early modern period is the crucial significance that contemporaries ascribed to such questions. In this hierarchical world, status symbols did not simply mirror a pre-defined social and political order; rather, they operated as a key tool for defining and redefining identities, relations, and power. Centuries later, scholars face the twofold challenge of evaluating status interaction in an era where its open pursuit is no longer as widespread and legitimate, and of deciphering its highly sophisticated and often implicit codes.

Status Interaction during the Reign of Louis XIV addresses this challenge by investigating status interaction — in dress as in address, in high ceremony and in everyday life — at one of its most important historical arenas: aristocratic society at the time of Louis XIV. By recovering actual practices on the ground based on a wide array of printed and manuscript sources, it transcends the simplistic view of a court revolving around the Sun King and reveals instead the multiple perspectives of contesting actors, stakes, and strategies. Demonstrating the wide-ranging implications of the phenomenon, macro-political as well as micro-political, this study provides a novel framework for understanding early modern action and agency. Readership: Scholars and students of the early modern period, of Louis XIV and his court, and of social and political interaction in an historical context.”


The DePaul University Vincentian Studies Institute is pleased to announce the publication of its sixth monograph. This title offers a first look at the narrative that would eventually frame the story of Vincent de Paul’s life as we recognize it today. It also marks a remarkable accomplishment of Vincentian scholarship and research, and an invaluable contribution to the study of Vincent de Paul that will undoubtedly become required reading for future scholars.

Robert P. Maloney, C.M., 23rd Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission,
writes: “This book provides the first English translation of the funeral oration given by Henri de Maupas du Tour two months after Vincent de Paul’s death. The oration has a special importance as it was “the first public presentation of Monsieur Vincent’s life and works.” Rev. Udovic presents an enormous amount of original research about Henri de Maupas du Tour, the literary form of funeral orations, their sometimes political goals, and the canonization process of St. Vincent. I recommend this book highly to those who love Vincent de Paul and are eager to know more about this extraordinary period of history.”

A press release from DePaul University can be read here: Maupas du Tour publication
For an interview with the author concerning the historical significance of the funeral oration and the publication of the book, please visit: http://tinyurl.com/maupas-video


From the publisher: “In 1924, in Shanghai, the first Plenary Council for China took place in communion with Rome. The canonical institution of the Roman Catholic Church, even then, foresaw the possibility of uniting bishops at a plenary council, i.e. on a national scale. But to hold such an assembly was, and remains, an exceptional initiative. This non-permanent collegiate instance can help adapt pastoral work and Catholic activities to the richness and the difficulties of a local context, and the Plenary Council of Shanghai succeeded in adapting canonical missionary law to the specificity of China at the beginning of the 20th century. The evangelization of the Middle Kingdom, which had begun long before, then required appraisal, consecration and a relaunch. For centuries, the direction of the Church in China had been obliged to rely essentially on many foreign congregational missionaries, and to deal with foreign political powers who took great interest in the evangelization of China. More than his predecessors, the Pope at that time — Pius XI — was capable of summoning such a council: his vision was to recommend that Chinese Catholics should participate in the canonical decisions and gain access to greater ecclesial responsibilities. So the Council of Shanghai marked an important and unique development in the history of this country and the establishment of the local Church, by putting an end to the famous quarrel of Chinese rites that had lasted since the 16th century. It also contributed to adapting
the canonical missionary law of the entire Roman Catholic Church. To situate this event, analyzed in detail from the viewpoint of its juridical originality, the author paints a vast fresco of China’s very long religious evolution, with its renowned and subtle encounter between Confucianism and the various Christian presences that had been in China for centuries.”


From the publisher: “The Chinese Catholic Church, with its complex history and remarkable longevity, has continued to attract the attention of China watchers. Historians, political scientists and theologians have been exploring different aspects — the Church’s development in the modern era, the issues of contention between the Vatican and Beijing, and the implications of a universal Catholic Church. This edited volume is the product of scholars of various backgrounds, specialties and agendas bringing forth their most treasured understandings and findings regarding the Chinese Catholic Church. The chapters in this book covering the church from 1900 to the present trace the development of the Church in China from many historical and disciplinary vantage points, and shed light on the way forward.”

Our colleague John Harney from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, contributed a chapter to this volume entitled: “Vincentian Missionaries in Jiangzi Province: Extending an American Catholic Community to China, 1921-1951.” Much of the research upon which this chapter was based was done at the DeAndreis-Rosati Memorial Archives at DePaul University. The DeAndreis-Rosati Memorial Archives are the archives of the Western Province (U.S.) of the Congregation of the Mission.

VIDEOS OF INTEREST

• To watch a newly-produced YouTube video on the history of the Sisters of Charity Federation in the United States, please visit: Sisters of Charity history

• For a great YouTube video which offers a ten minute presentation on the “Little Ice Age” and its impact on the seventeenth-century world, including France, see: Little Ice Age and 17th Century
Letter From Vincent de Paul to Pierre du Chesne, in Crécy, 24 July 1642.

Courtesy Vincentian Studies Collection, Special Collections and Archives, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois.
HENRI DE MAUPAS DU TOUR

The Funeral Oration for Vincent de Paul

23 November 1660