John E. Rybolt, C.M., Receives the 2016 Pierre Coste Prize

Carol Hughes of DePaul University Newsline writes: “The Rev. John E. Rybolt, C.M., is the recipient of the 2016 Pierre Coste Prize, which was presented December 12 by the Vincentian Studies Institute. Fr. Rybolt, who was ordained in 1967, is a Vincentian scholar-in-residence at DePaul University. He receives the honor in part for his recently published seven-volume global history of the Vincentian community that dates back to its beginning in 1625. The award is named after the distinguished French Vincentian historian Pierre Coste, C.M., who worked during the first part of the twentieth century. Fr. Coste is considered the father of modern Vincentian studies.

Fr. Rybolt, who has a master’s degree in Latin from DePaul, also has degrees in Near Eastern languages and literatures, ministry, theology and sacred scripture, and a doctorate in biblical studies. He taught in Congregation of the Mission seminaries before initiating the Centre International de Formation, headquartered in Paris, designed for ongoing formation of members of the Congregation and the Vincentian Family. Since 2003, he has been the historian of the Congregation.

“Father Rybolt is a prolific author and traveler. He was selected for the Pierre Coste Prize for his significant contributions in advancing Vincentian studies, which includes the monumental seven-volume international history of the Congregation of the Mission plus an additional summary volume,” notes the Rev. Edward R. Udovic, C.M.

Fr. Rybolt’s books, articles and research on the history of St. Vincent de Paul and the Congregation of the Mission have been a part of the major renaissance of Vincentian studies in the second half of the twentieth century, according to Fr. Udovic,

“Now we’re beginning to see the scholars who will follow Father Rybolt in his work.”

The Pierre Coste Prize, established in 2003, is given periodically in recognition of distinguished achievement in Vincentian studies. “Coste is the one who brought together all of Vincent’s extant writings and conferences, and put them into an authoritative critical edition,” Fr. Udovic says. “He wrote what is still considered the foundational modern biography of Vincent. He is the first person who began to clear away the myths, and he contextualized Vincent within his world, so he really set the standard for twentieth-century Vincentian scholarship.”
Previous honorees include, in 2004, Sister Marie Poole, D.C., editor of the acclaimed English translation of Pierre Coste’s multi-volume *Vincent de Paul: Correspondence, Conferences, Documents*; in 2006, the Rev. Stafford Poole, C.M., a Vincentian historian; in 2010, Sister Louise Sullivan, D.C., author of several Vincentian works including *Saint Louise de Marillac: Spiritual Writings*; also in 2010, the late Rev. Paul Henzmann, C.M., archivist at the Maison-Mère of the Congregation of the Mission in Paris; and in 2013, Barbara Diefendorf, a Boston University history professor whose contributions to the religious historiography of seventeenth-century France have added context to the foundation of the Vincentian tradition.

“There’s a transcendent purpose behind all of this,” Fr. Udovic adds. “What this award reminds us of is that this history we’re recovering has happened through the scholarship of men and women who have dedicated their entire lives to this study. These individuals are highly specialized and need to be since this history isn’t easily recovered, nor is it easily reinterpreted.” See: Newsline

**DePaul Art Museum Hosts “The Many Faces of Vincent de Paul: Nineteenth-Century French Romanticism and the Sacred”**

Guest-curated by Edward R. Udovic, C.M., Ph.D., as a companion to “Four Saints in Three Acts,” this special exhibition of nineteenth-century sculptures, holy cards, textiles, decorative arts and prints from the university’s collection explored how Romanticism impacted the iconographic representations of Saint Vincent de Paul (1581-1660), at the dawn of the modern era. The exhibit ran from 26 January through 2 April, 2017. An extensive online Research Guide is available here: Many Faces Guide

**DePaul University Hosts “The Bicentennial Celebration of the Vincentians in America: An Exhibition at the John T. Richardson Library” Exhibition**

In fall of 2016, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Congregation of the Mission’s work in the United States, DePaul University Library, with the assistance of DePaul’s Office of Mission and Values, presented *The Bicentennial Celebration of the Vincentians in America: An Exhibition at the John T. Richardson Library*. The exhibition was curated by Andrew H. Rea, Vincentian Librarian, and encompassed two separate installations. The first, *God as Compass, Rudder, and Pilot: the Missionary as a Pioneer*, detailed the journey the Vincentian missionaries took, from its beginnings in Rome in 1815 to the company’s eventual settlement at St. Mary’s of the Barrens in the Missouri Territory in 1818. Its sister installation was *Knowledge and Salvation: the Missionary as a Man of the Enlightenment*, which explored books from the library on these first American Vincentians and the influence of the Enlightenment on the missionaries. The exhibit included books, correspondence, artifacts, and maps, and acknowledged the religious vocations and motivations of the Vincentian missionaries while contextualizing their place within the larger arena of American history.
We offer congratulations to longtime Vincentian Studies Institute member John Rybolt, C.M., who received an Honorary Doctorate from Niagara University on Thursday, 29 September 2016, at Niagara’s Vincentian Convocation. The Convocation was an opportunity for the Niagara community to learn more about the Vincentian Mission, particularly the impact of a Vincentian education on the Church, society and the world. The Convocation strives to honor and celebrate people who embody the Vincentian mission and values. Fr. Rybolt was chosen for this Honorary Doctorate because of his outstanding contributions to the Church and the Congregation of the Mission as a priest, educator, and scholar. He gave the Keynote Address at the Convocation and spoke on the topic of the 200th Anniversary of the Vincentians in America.

Mr. Andrew H. Rea, DePaul University Vincentian Librarian, writes: “DePaul University Library and DePaul’s Office of Mission and Values are proud to announce the digital publication of The Annals of the Congregation of the Mission: A Collection of Edifying Letters. Volumes may be viewed and downloaded for free at: Annals online

The thirty-two volumes of The Annals (1894-1926) represent the English-language translation of those same years of Les Annales de la Congregation de la Mission, a French periodical published by the Congregation of the Mission via the Vincentian motherhouse in Paris. The letters, communiques, and updates included in each issue were meant to keep the community apprised of the activities of their confreres around the world. Modeled by the Vincentians on Les Annales de la Propagation de la Foi (published by the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, a Catholic administrative body that oversees Church missionary activity), The Annals, while successful, proved to be too much translation work for the Vincentians (each volume running approximately 700 pages). Publication ended in 1926.

Available digitally for the first time in English, the information included in these thirty-two volumes is invaluable in understanding the Vincentian community and Catholic missionary work during the late-19th and early-20th centuries. The lives and deeds of countless Vincentian priests and Daughters of Charity are detailed. Moreover, the volumes contain eyewitness accounts of missionaries, chaplains, and battlefield nurses who experienced conflicts including the First Sino-Japanese War, the Philippine Revolution and Spanish-American War, the Boxer Rebellion, the Mexican Revolution, and most importantly World War I.

Volumes are in the process of being digitized and made available online by DePaul University Library, where they reside as part of the Vincentian Studies Collection. This project began in 2016, with the first eight volumes (one quarter of the print run) currently available. The next eight volumes will be available in early 2018, eight more in 2019, and the remaining due to be completed in 2020.”
In Memoriam: Sr. Margaret Beaudette, S.C., Distinguished Vincentian Artist and Sculptor

Sr. Margaret Beaudette, S.C., of the New York Sisters of Charity died on Sunday, 12 March 2017. Sr. Margaret was a distinguished artist and sculptor whose work was widespread and enormously popular. One of her most famous statues is of Saint Vincent de Paul surrounded by students. Originally commissioned by DePaul University in 1995, this grouping was replicated at several other locations. Her artistic portrayals included Elizabeth Anne Seton, Saint Louise de Marillac, and Saint John Gabriel Perboyre. May she rest in peace.

PUBLICATIONS

Notable Books

A newly revised, edited, and updated edition of the classic text. From the jacket: “As the first saint to grow from the soil of the United States, Elizabeth Ann Seton holds a special place in the story of the Catholic church in America. A wife and widow, mother of five children, founder of a new community of religious women, teacher and administrator, Elizabeth was remarkable by any standard. Most importantly, Elizabeth Seton was a holy person who companioned other people to a greater love of God and of their sisters and brothers.”

Sister Judith Metz, S.C., archivist and historian of the Sisters of Charity, Cincinnati, OH, praises the book: “Elizabeth Seton has great name recognition among many around the world. Some know the basic outline of her life, but few know with any depth the beauty and profundity of her spiritual life. Sister Betty Ann McNeil, D.C., has provided a great service by overseeing the revised republication of Praying with Elizabeth Ann Seton. It is one of the few books available that offer an in-depth look at important aspects of the saint’s spirituality. For those who use it to truly PRAY with Elizabeth Seton, it can be an opportunity, not only to appreciate Elizabeth’s spiritual journey, but to open the door to one’s own journey into a deeper relationship with God.”
Dr. Brejon de Lavergnée writes, “I am delighted to announce the publication of an edited volume of essays about the Daughters of Charity. Thanks to their recently opened archives, more than twenty scholars have studied and written about the history of the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul from the 17th to the 20th century. Specialists across many different fields may be interested, including gender studies, religious history, transnational and colonial studies, nursing, history of education, spirituality, etc. A nice iconography is also presented.”


Vingt-cinq textes abordent ici l’histoire des Filles de la Charité, les fameuses sœurs à “cornettes” qui appartiennent encore à l’imaginaire occidental. Après quatre siècles, les Sœurs de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul demeurent à l’échelle du monde la plus importante des congrégations catholiques (20000 sœurs). Leur histoire n’avait pourtant jamais été écrite. Elle est désormais possible grâce à l’ouverture des archives de la maison mère à Paris, croisées avec des fonds publics et privés tant en France qu’à l’étranger. L’ouvrage aborde le temps long et les ruptures d’une congrégation, déploie les échelles du local à l’international comme il s’interroge sur les conditions politiques et culturelles du ‘service des pauvres.’”


From Oxford University Press: “*Vincent de Paul, the Lazarist Mission, and French Catholic Reform* offers a major re-assessment of the thought and activities of the most famous figure of the seventeenth-century French Catholic Reformation, Vincent de Paul. Confronting traditional explanations for de Paul’s prominence in the devot reform movement that emerged in the wake of the Wars of Religion, the volume explores how he turned a personal vocational desire to evangelize the
rural poor of France into a congregation of secular missionaries, known as the Congregation of the Mission or the Lazarists, with three inter-related strands of pastoral responsibility: the delivery of missions, the formation and training of clergy, and the promotion of confraternal welfare.

Alison Forrestal further demonstrates that the structure, ethos, and works that de Paul devised for the Congregation placed it at the heart of a significant enterprise of reform that involved a broad set of associates in efforts to transform the character of devotional belief and practice within the church. The central questions of the volume therefore concern de Paul’s efforts to create, characterize, and articulate a distinctive and influential vision for missionary life and work, both for himself and for the Lazarist Congregation, and Forrestal argues that his prominence and achievements depended on his remarkable ability to exploit the potential for association and collaboration within the devot environment of seventeenth-century France in enterprising and systematic ways.

This is the first study to assess de Paul’s activities against the wider backdrop of religious reform and Bourbon rule, and to reconstruct the combination of ideas, practices, resources, and relationships that determined his ability to pursue his ambitions. A work of forensic detail and complex narrative, Vincent de Paul, the Lazarist Mission, and French Catholic Reform is the product of years of research in ecclesiastical and state archives. It offers a wholly fresh perspective on the challenges and opportunities entailed in the promotion of religious reform and renewal in seventeenth-century France.”


From Amazon: “In exploring the shifting realities of missionary experience during the course of imperialist ventures and the Catholic Reformation, The Frontiers of Mission: Perspectives on Early Modern Missionary Catholicism provides a fresh assessment of the challenges that the Catholic Church encountered at the frontiers of mission in the early modern era. Bringing together leading international scholars, the volume tests the assumption that uniformity and co-ordination governed early modern missionary enterprise, and examines the effects of distance and de-centering on a variety of missionaries and religious orders. Its essays focus squarely on the experiences of the missionaries themselves to offer a nuanced consideration of the meaning of ‘missionary Catholicism,’ and its evolving relationship with newly discovered cultures and political and ecclesiastical authorities.”

Truman State University Press notes: “In 1818, a small group of Catholic clerics established a religious community in southeastern Missouri and opened a school, grounded in its European Vincentian roots but influenced by the isolation of its rural location. St. Mary’s of the Barrens became the first American institution of higher learning west of the Mississippi River and only the fourth Catholic seminary in the United States. Over the years, St. Mary’s emerged as a significant institution whose early leaders played an important role in the development of the Catholic Church on the American frontier. The school’s subsequent history reflected the changing status of the growing American Catholic community. In this history of “the Barrens,” Rick Janet demonstrates how its story reflects the broader sweep of the American Catholic experience.”


From the author: “*Leaving God for God* is a study of five generations of Catholic Sisters in Britain from 1847 to 2017 and of their wide-ranging ministries to people in poverty. Written with full access to the Daughters of Charity’s archives in London and Paris, this study assesses how the Sisters lived out their undertaking to serve the most marginalized in society in the modern era, coming up to the present day. Themes explored in the book include: the nature of the Daughters’ community culture; the development of Marian devotional life in Britain; the influence of lay and religious status and gender on the Church’s mission at home and overseas; the Sisters’ engagement in civil society and with the State; their response to the Second Vatican Council; and the interplay of national identities in Catholic Britain.

The history of Catholicism in England and Scotland is seen in fresh perspective through the lens of this singular transnational community of women. Their history, it is argued, challenges both the mainstream narrative about the nature of philanthropy and charity in Britain and the Church’s narrative about Catholic Sisters in the twentieth century.

Published in hardback, *Leaving God for God* is fully referenced and indexed and includes 64 pages of full-color visual essays and a Gazetteer providing details on every House opened and closed by the Sisters since 1847.”

Notre Dame Press writes: “Raymond Sickinger’s biography of Antoine Frédéric Ozanam is more than a chronological account of Ozanam’s relatively brief but extraordinary life. It is also a comprehensive study of a man who touched many lives as a teacher, writer, and principal founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Ozanam’s life encompassed a particularly turbulent time in French history, and he was a witness to two major political upheavals—the overthrow of the Bourbon dynasty that brought Louis Philippe to power in 1830, and the end of Louis Philippe’s “Bourgeois Monarchy” as a result of the 1848 Revolutions. This book examines Ozanam’s life in a variety of ways. First, it explores the various roles he played throughout his life—son, sibling, student, member of and an inspiration for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, spouse and father, scholar, and spokesperson for the common people. Second, it examines the lessons he learned in his life, including the importance of friendship, the meaning of solidarity, and the role and purpose of suffering, among many others that he shares with those who study his thought and work. It concludes with an account of Ozanam’s enduring legacy.

Antoine Frédéric Ozanam feared that he would not have a fruitful career, but his legacy remains a powerful testimony to his greatness. This book will interest scholars wishing to know more about Ozanam and the period in which he lived, as well as a wider audience including those who are aware or are members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.”


Notable Articles

The Journal of Ecclesiastical History, First View (17 May 2017), features:

Sacred Architecture: Journal of the Institute for Sacred Architecture, Issue 30 (2016), ISSN# 1535-9387, includes:
Simone Zurawski, Ph.D., “The Alliance des Arts, the Chapelle des Lazaristes, and the Reliquary Shrine of Saint Vincent de Paul,” pp. 11-20. Read online: Sacred Architecture

Notable Music

Teodorico Pedrini: Complete Violin Sonatas, Performed by Nancy Wilson and Joyce Lindorff (Paladino Music, 2016), 2 CD’s. ASIN: B013F6KRPS. Available at: Amazon.com

Amazon notes: “Teodorico Pedrini, C.M. (1671-1746), had quite the journey during his lifetime. Over the course of eight years, he traveled from Italy to the Canary Islands, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and the Philippines. Pedrini is the sole eighteenth-century composer of which we know that wrote European compositions in China, where he finally arrived in 1711. Upon arrival in Beijing, he worked for emperors Kangxi, Yongzheng, and Qianlong until he died in 1746. Pedrini is still considered one of the most significant ambassadors for Western music in Asia. His complete violin sonatas, presented here, are performed by violinist Nancy Wilson and harpsichordist Joyce Lindorff.”

Notable Videos

To watch Sung-Hae Kim, S.C., Professor Emeritus in the Department of Religious Studies, Sogang University, Seoul, Korea, and General Superior for the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill at the Generalate in Chicago, deliver the spring 2016 DeAndreis-Rosati Memorial Archives lecture, titled: The Ecological Spirituality of Elizabeth Ann Seton, see: Sung-Hae Kim, S.C.

To watch Michael Pasquier, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Jaak Seynaeve Professor of Christian Studies at Louisiana State University, deliver the fall 2016 DeAndreis-Rosati Memorial Archives lecture, titled: French Missionaries and the Roman Catholic Priesthood in the United States, 1789-1870, see: Michael Pasquier, Ph.D.
To watch Alison Forrestal, Ph.D., Acting Head and Lecturer in History, School of Humanities, National University of Ireland, Galway, deliver the spring 2017 DeAndreis-Rosati Memorial Archives lecture, titled: *Vincent de Paul, the Lazarist Mission, and French Catholic Reform*, see: Alison Forrestal, Ph.D.

To watch Simone Zurawski, Ph.D., Professor of History of Art and Architecture at DePaul University, deliver a winter 2017 lecture, a collaboration between the DePaul Art Museum and the Office of Mission and Values, titled: *The Iconographie of the “Heroic” St. Vincent de Paul & the Foundlings: Its Origins in the Salons of the Bourbon Restoration, 1817-1824*, see: Simone Zurawski, Ph.D.

To watch the 2017 Annual Vincent de Paul Lecture, titled *The Modern Exodus: Walking with Refugees and Migrants in a Time of Crisis*, in which Kim Lamberty from Catholic Relief Services and Rev. Craig Mousin from DePaul University share their experience and expertise working directly with people who have largely been forgotten, see: Vincent de Paul Lecture