



# VINCENTIAN PARISH MISSIONS

"OUR VOCATION IS TO GO NOT INTO ONE PARISH, NOR INTO ONLY ONE DIOCESE, BUT THROUGHOUT THE EARTH. AND TO DO WHAT? TO INFLAME THE HEARTS OF MEN. IT IS NOT ENOUGH FOR ME TO LOVE GOD IF MY NEIGHBOR DOES NOT LOVE HIM AS WELL."

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL MAY 30, 1659

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SEASON OF LENT EDITION



Fr. Richard Gielow C.M.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Special hello to friends of the Vincentian Parish Mission Center from the Director.

It's hard to believe that Lent is almost over. Wasn't Ash Wednesday just the other day? Everything is moving so fast that it's Saturday and we're not sure where the rest of the week went or even what I did during that time.

We now realize that Lents don't make us better; Retreats don't make us better; Missions don't make us better. With God's grace we make ourselves better. And in doing so we help the rest of the Church.

That's why we visit all those nursing homes. We get an opportunity to thank those heroes for the graces they earn for the church through their prayers and the suffering they offer to God. In turn when we attend a Mission or participate in the liturgical services during Holy Week, we earn graces for all those in the Nursing homes to strengthen them and help them deal with what they are facing. It's a great example of how we all belong to the same family, God's family, and all of us are important and needed.

As director, I speak for all those on our Mission team and those



(ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 2)



For over 40 years the missioners from the Mission Center have been conducting "Parish Missions" throughout the United States and Canada. During that time they have conducted thousands of missions and have provided their parish communities with very unique and rewarding experiences which have made a tremendous impact on their lives and their communities.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR... (CONTINUED)

...serving on our lay board of advisors and thank you for your prayers and support. May this Holy week culminating in the great feast of Easter be a time of great joy for you and your family.

Know that we so appreciate you and your faith. We are so blessed to have you as our Mission Center Friends.



## VINCENTIAN MISSION PRAYER

As we are approaching Easter, I think it is important that we take the remaining days in Lent to refocus our attention on how we should live our lives as people of God.

In the second reading on Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup>, in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, St. Paul writes:

*"More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ" (Phil 3:8).*

And...

*"It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ [Jesus]." (Phil 3:12)*

And...

*"I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus." (Phil 3:14)*

In these verses St. Paul is saying that all we have and all we do is nothing, a loss and even rubbish, if we have not built a relationship with Jesus Christ and if we are not pursuing and living the life as the example Jesus set for us.

These verses, written by St. Paul, reminded me of our Vincentian Mission Prayer written by Saint John Gabriel Perboyre, C. M. Our Mission Prayer card is in all of our newsletters and distributed and prayed at all our Parish Missions. The prayer starts with:

**Divine Savior, transform me into Yourself.  
May my hands be Your hands.  
May my tongue be Your tongue.  
Grant that every faculty of my body  
may serve only to glorify You.**

Here we are asking our Divine Savior for his help to transform us into a person that emulates the life and actions of Jesus Christ. Then the prayer goes on to ask:

(ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 3)



**Saint John Gabriel Perboyre**



## MISSION PRAYER (CONTINUED)

**Above all, transform my soul  
and all its powers,  
that my memory, my will and  
my affections, may be the memory,  
the will, and the affections of You.**

In this part of the prayer we again asked to be transformed so that we strive to have every part of our being and what we do to be what God desires.

The prayer goes on to ask Jesus to remove the obstacles and things that take us or separate us from our pursuit of Him:

**I pray You to destroy in me,  
all that is not of You.**

Then the prayer finishes with the following request:

**Grant that I may live but in You,  
and by You, and for You,  
and that I may truly say with St. Paul,  
"I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me."**

The Vincentian Mission Prayer ask Jesus, our Divine Savior, to help us be more like Him and follow His example in life, and we ask that He help us get rid of all the things and obstacles that get in our way of this pursuit. Which are the things St. Paul refers to as a loss and rubbish in his pursuit of knowing Jesus Christ our Lord.

In fact our prayer ends with a verse from St. Paul from his letter to the Galatians (Galatians 2:20); *"I live now, not I, but Christ Lives in me."*

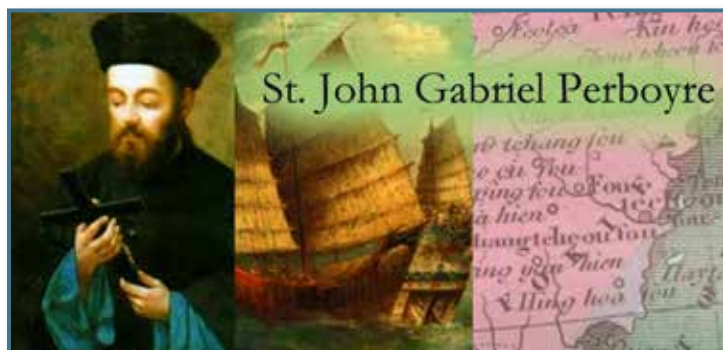
I would encourage you to print the Vincentian Mission Prayer and read and meditate on this special prayer.

To learn more about St. John Gabriel Perboyre's life, please go to our website link below to review a video slide show about his life or to read his life's story:

<http://www.vpmc.org/mission-prayer>



SAINT JOHN GABRIEL PERBOYRE, C.M.



### SEND US YOUR MIRACLE/PRAYER REQUEST:

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**VINCENTIAN MISSION PRAYER**

BY SAINT JOHN GABRIEL PERBOYRE, C.M.

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 May my tongue be Your tongue.  
 Grant that every faculty of my body  
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 and all its powers,  
 that my memory, my will and  
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 the will and the affections of You.  
 I pray You to destroy in me,  
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 Grant that I may live but in You,  
 and by You, and for You,  
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**UPCOMING MISSIONS**

FOR INFORMATION ON UPCOMING MISSIONS  
 IN YOUR AREA, PLEASE VISIT THE VINCENTIAN  
 PARISH MISSION CENTER WEBSITE AT:

[www.vpmc.org/events-calendar/](http://www.vpmc.org/events-calendar/)

**RECENT PARISH MISSIONS**

**Fr. Bob Gielow, C.M.**  
 Queen of the Rosary Parish Mission  
 Elk Grove Village, Illinois



**Fr. Bill Rhinehart, C.M.**  
 Sacred Heart Parish Mission  
 Warsaw, Indiana

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