In the name of the Father whom we ask to bless us and keep us …

And of the Son whom we ask to walk with us and guide us …

And of the Holy Spirit whom we ask to inspire us and enable us to be a light to the world.

AMEN.

St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Society Prayers

Let us reflect for a moment and recall that we are in the presence of God …

LISTEN!
Notice the sounds around you - small sounds, perhaps a bird, a distant voice.

Listen, be attentive!
Where is God in this space …
… in our thoughts
… in our words
… in the sounds around us
… in the silence
… in each other

Acknowledgement of Country

Gathered here today, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of Indigenous Australia. We must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt, this land is, was and always will be traditional Aboriginal land.

We pay respect to the first peoples on whose land we now are, acknowledging the loss of lands, cultures and treasures; knowing the consequences for people, communities and nations; and believing we can walk together to a better future. We gather today, taking this on.

We acknowledge this is, *and always will be*, Aboriginal land.

All: Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of Your faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.
Send forth Your Spirit
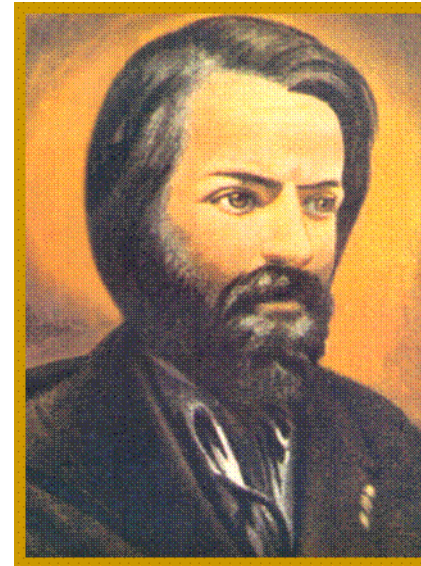and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

♦ *We call the Holy Spirit upon us, the faithful to empower us to renew the face of the earth.*
♦ *What does it feel like to have our hearts burn with the fire of love given by the Spirit for the work that we do?*
♦ *What are we being 'created' to do?*

All: O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit,
teach the hearts of the faithful
and grant that by the same Spirit
we may be truly wise
and ever enjoy His consolation.

♦ *Teach me as one of your faithful … What do I need to learn?*

All: Lord we pray
for the special intentions of our Holy Father,
for Bishops, Priests, Religious and members of the
Vincentian family throughout the world,
especially in those countries with which we are
twinned.
We remember particularly our benefactors and those
we assist.

♦ *As Vincentians we are part of a bigger family.*
♦ *What unites all members of the Vincentian Family in their mission?*
♦ *What unites us all as part of the wider church?*
♦ *What unites us all as inhabitants of our world?*

All: We ask for your
help and guidance
as we attempt to
pattern our faith
and lives on that of Blessed
Frederic Ozanam.
We pray that he be
canonised by the Church.
We make this prayer
through Christ our Lord.

Leader:	All:
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	*Have mercy on us*
Queen conceived without sin	*Pray for us*
Saint Joseph	*Pray for us*
Saint Vincent	*Pray for us*
Saint Louise de Marillac	*Pray for us*
Blessed Mary MacKillop	*Pray for us*
Blessed Frederic Ozanam	*Pray for us*
Blessed Rosalie Rendu	*Pray for us*

All: And may the souls
of our departed members
and of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of Christ rest in
peace.

Closing Prayers

Let us all join hands as we pray the words our Saviour taught us …

Our Father...

All: Lord Jesus Christ,
at Your last supper,
you prayed to the Father
that all should be one.
Send your Holy Spirit
upon on all who bear your name
and seek to serve you.

- ♦ *As we leave this space,*
  how do we continue to serve you?
- ♦ *How am I a witness to the spirit in our*
  world?

All: Strengthen our faith in you
and make us love one another
in humility.
May we who have been reborn
in one baptism,
all be united in one faith
under one shepherd.

- ♦ *To love in humility … how do we do that?*
- ♦ *Especially if someone believes in*
  something that we don't.

All: God our Father,
we pray that your will be done on earth
as it is in Heaven.
Through the intercession of Blessed Frederic Ozanam
we ask you to consider those for whom we now pray.

Let us remember those, either aloud or in the silence of our hearts,
for whom we would like to pray.

All: May we all become a living sign of your love.

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All: Lord, You gave St Vincent de Paul a heart overflowing with love for you.

Leader:

As Vincent de Paul walked through the streets of Paris everywhere he looked he saw homeless people and beseeching beggars.
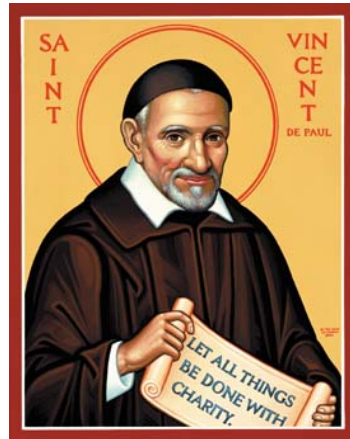
He saw hungry people.

He saw children and elderly men and women who were neglected.

He saw sick people without health care.

He saw refugees from warfare.

He saw people who were spiritually abandoned and without hope.

In these people he found those whom he had been looking for: his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Vincent de Paul was profoundly dissatisfied with what he saw because he knew it was at odds with his ideal vision of the "good news" of Kingdom of God as proclaimed by Jesus Christ to the poor; a place where each human being created in the image and likeness of God possessed an inestimable dignity and value as a person.

He turned his sense of frustration and dissatisfaction into an urgent faith-filled desire to do as much good as he could, as well as he could, to reach out to improve the lives of the people whose gazes he returned so intently and whose suffering moved him so personally.

St Vincent de Paul: A Person of the 17th Century A Person for the 21st Century

All: Grant us that same fervour of charity,
that we too may see your image in those whom we assist
and gladly give them a share of our time and possessions.

Where have we come from …

All: Lord Jesus,
we rejoice in the faith and courage
of our founders,
especially Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

And where do we want to be …

All: May their spirit be renewed
in the Society of today
that we may be open
to the needs of the poor
and disadvantaged and receptive to
the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

As we move on with our gathering let us …

"Be inspired by the example of your Patrons! Accept into your hearts and minds the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit! Recognize and believe in the power of the Spirit in your lives!"

VIGIL WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE
ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS
BENEDICT XVI
Randwick Racecourse
Saturday, 19 July 2008