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
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:

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