Lent 2011

A Lenten Prayer for Vincentians

based on Fr. Gregory Gay's 2011 Lenten letter (Download here)

God of Love,
through this Lenten journey, purify my desires to serve You in the person of the poor. Free me from ignorance, fear, intolerance, any temptations to judge others, or to place myself above others.

Lord, You speak loudly to us in the cries of those who are poor. Through your love and your grace, help me to be less and less absorbed with myself, and more and more focused on all who are cast out from our societies, especially:

Immigrants	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
Refugees	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
The marginalized	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
The most abandoned	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
The homeless	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
Street children	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
Prisoners	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
Victims of gender inequality	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
Victims of discrimination	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
Victims of human trafficking	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
Victims of religious wars	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
Children soldiers	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.
Those in situations of desperation, violence, and mob destruction, especially recently in Northern Africa	Pardon me for what I have been unable to do for you.

To deepen my encounter with You my God.	Lord, grant me the grace to take action.
To be one with You, Lord.	Lord, grant me the grace to take action.
To deepen my encounter with the poor.	Lord, grant me the grace to take action.
To deepen my relationships and solidarity with the poor.	Lord, grant me the grace to take action.
To act with justice for peace.	Lord, grant me the grace to take action.
To focus on dialog and relationship building.	Lord, grant me the grace to take action.
To go and teach.	Lord, grant me the grace to take action.
To eliminate ignorance, fear, and intolerance in whatever way I can.	Lord, grant me the grace to take action.
To accept and respect those of faiths different from my own.	Lord, grant me the grace to take action.
To do all I can for those who are marginalized, both in direct service and systemically.	Lord, grant me the grace to take action.

I thank You for the gift of my Vincentian vocation. Let this gift be what purifies and reconciles me to You this Lenten season. Among the poor, I find my salvation.

Amen.