

# Advent 2011

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Looking into the eyes of those who are struggling, wherever they may be, can be difficult – but we must shine a light, see, and attend to their needs.



## Can You See Me?

Homeless migrants from eastern Europe in London who were unable to get benefits became so impoverished that they were eating rats and drinking lethal cocktails of alcoholic handwash.

From [guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk)

Visit [Vincentians in Partnership](#), working with those on the margins of society in the UK.

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Anastasia Semenov  
1 November 1928  
Lukva, Ivano-Frankivsk  
Country: Ukraine  
Arrested: 1 June 1947  
Sentence: 10 years hard labor  
Released: beginning of 1955

## Can You See Me?

“Then a truck arrived with dogs and machine guns, and they loaded us on it. I remember how the head KBG agent, tapping his pockets, boasted: ‘Ah, today was a great success, I’ve earned a lot of money for today’s work, gathering all the troublemakers from this village.’”

Visit [the Church of the Nativity](#), where Daughters of Charity help people who suffered in prison camps.

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## Can You See Me?

Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world, and the children live in extremely difficult conditions.

The Daughters of Charity bring Jesus and the Vincentian charism to the people of Chad.

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## Quote from St. Vincent

“You might have yet another temptation: the boredom of seeing yourself doing the same thing over and over, or discouragement at seeing only little or no success in them. But the remedy for the first is to think that only perseverance wins the crown and that all is lost without it. For the second, it is to be convinced that God asks you only that you cast your nets into the sea, and not that you catch the fish because that is up to Him to make them go into the nets. Have no doubt that He will do so if, having fished all night long despite the difficulties of the undertaking and the hardness of people’s hearts– almost all asleep to the things of God– you wait patiently for day to come, for the **Sun of Justice** to awaken them, and for **His light** to illuminate and warm them. To this work and patience, you must join humility, prayer and good example; then you will see the glory of the Savior.”

Letter to Antoine Fleury, in *Saintes* 1658

Coste P. Correspondence, Conferences, Documents Eng Trans 1997 [VOL 7 L 2710, p356]