

Reflecting

on our ministry as
Vincentians



Vincentian Way of Life

- ♦ As Vincentians, we perform many acts of charity and service to the poor and the needy.
- ♦ We are people who are willing to grow in love for the poor. This helps us to grow in holiness.



Reflection #1

Gratefulness For Our Vocation

Reflect

- ♦ How did I get started in my vocation in the Vincentian family?
- ♦ From whom did I receive this charism, this spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul?



Reflect

- ◆ Where would I be right now were it not for someone who cared enough to want to share this great gift with me?
- ◆ How can I mentor to others Vincent's spirituality?

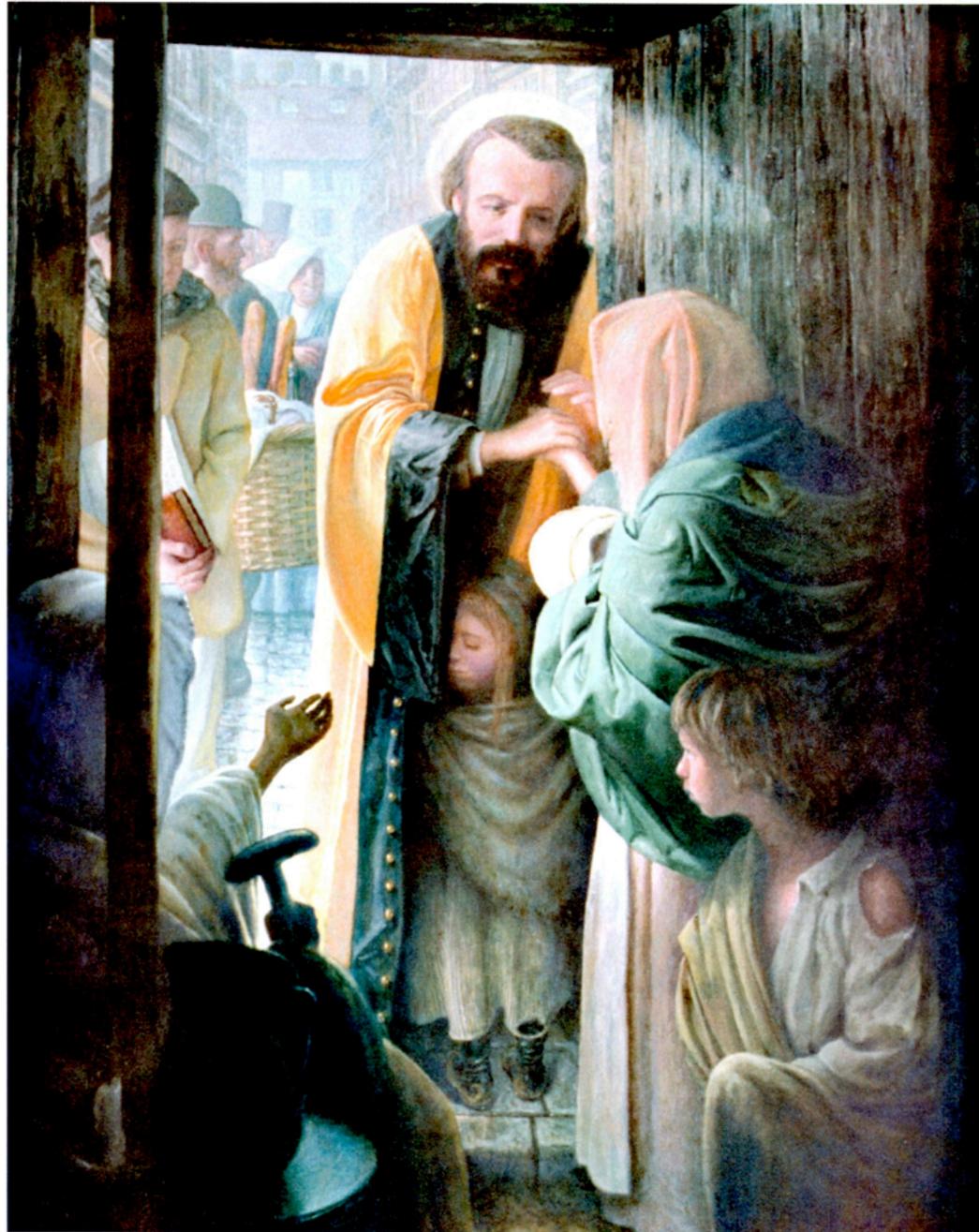


Reflection #2

Consoled and Fortified

Read these words of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam:

“How often has it not happened that being weighed down by some interior trouble, uneasy as to my poor state of health, I entered the home of the poor confided to my care; there, face to face with so many miserable poor, who had so much more to complain of, I felt reproached for my depression, I felt better able to bear sorrow, and I gave thanks to that unhappy one, the contemplation of whose sufferings had consoled and fortified me! How could I avoid henceforward loving him the more!” - Bl. Frédéric Ozanam



Painting by Gary Schumer

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Painting by Gary Schumer

Reflect

In Frédéric's commitment to the truth, the truth of the Gospel, we see a recognition through the eyes of faith-- and not through society's eyes-- of the poor, and Whose face they ultimately reveal.

There is a spirituality at work which allowed Frédéric to minister to the poor when he felt less inclined because of poor health and other troubles. This is Vincentian spirituality!

Reflection #3

Seeing Christ in the Poor

Reflect

- ♦ In an experience of ministry with a poor person, what qualities did he or she possess that reminded me of Christ?





- ♦ In an experience of ministry with a poor person, what did he or she show me that demonstrated that my first impressions were incorrect?

Reflection #4

The Poor Are Our Masters

Read these words of St. Vincent de Paul:



“We should seek out the poorest and most abandoned. We must recognize before God that they are our lords and masters, and that we are unworthy to render them our small favors.”

Reflect

- ♦ What do you suppose Vincent meant by this passage?
- ♦ How does it make you feel? A little uncomfortable with the idea of becoming a slave to the poor? Grateful to the poor for teaching you; for giving you the opportunity to grow in holiness? In awe of the poor for trusting God in the midst of all their sufferings?

Reflection #5

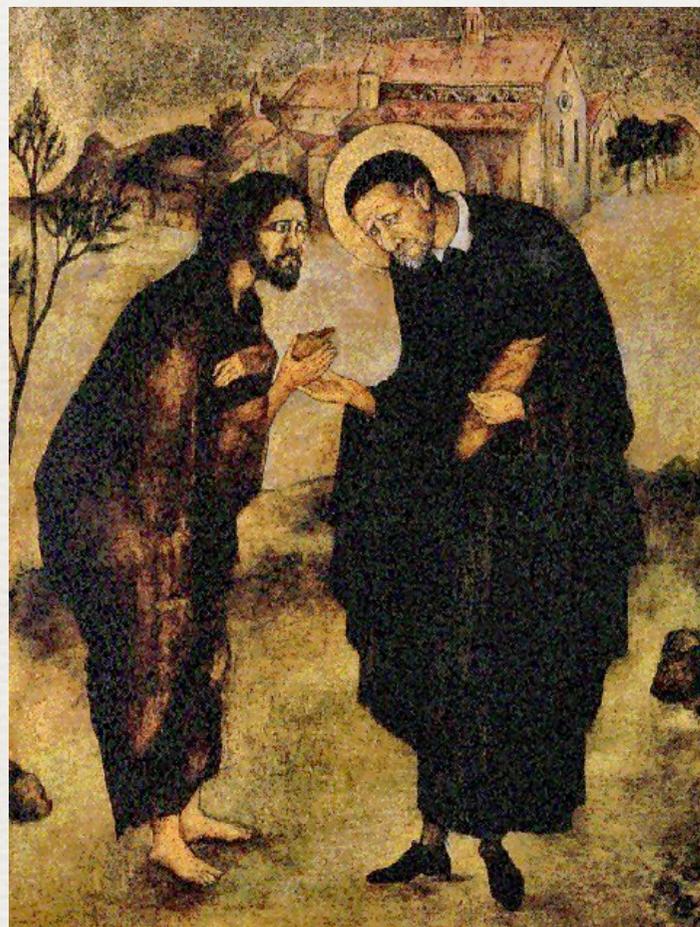
Encountering Christ



What do you see in this picture?

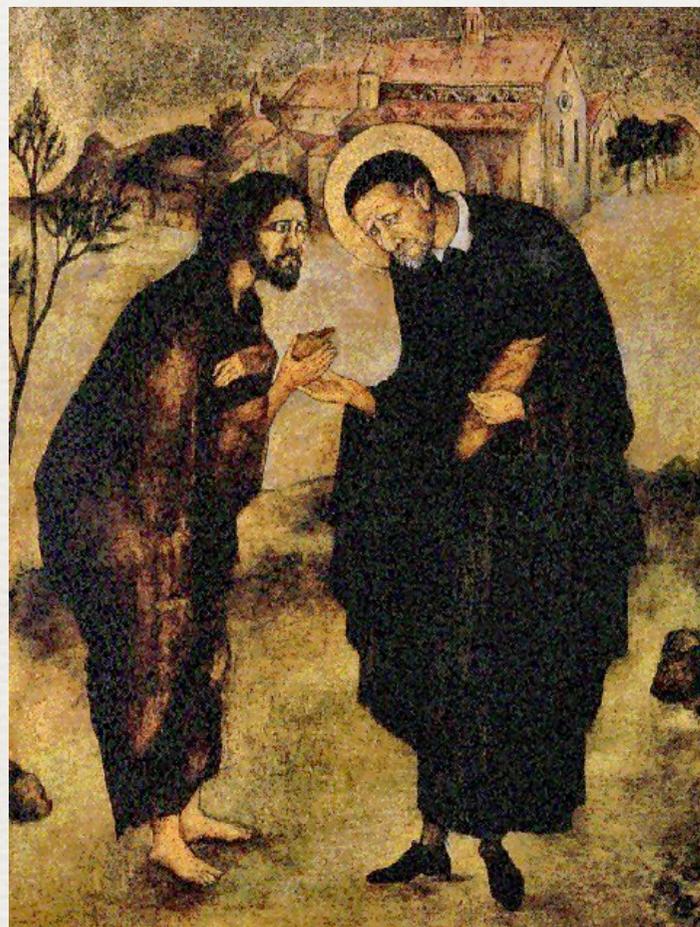
What did you see in the icon?

- ♦ The poor person appears to be Christ.
- ♦ There is humility and meekness in both. Their heads are lowered, and they seem to be gentle toward one another.



What did you see in the icon?

- ♦ It is unclear who is giving and who is receiving the bread.
- ♦ The encounter of the poor person/Christ is outside the church.



What did you see in the icon?

- ♦ They are looking into one another's eyes. They are showing each other deep respect and dignity.





Thank you for taking the time to reflect. We receive so much more than we give in ministry. This was the path toward holiness for St. Vincent.

based on a presentation
developed by
Fr. Bruce J. Krause, C.M.