

St. Vincent de Paul: On Mortification
to the Daughters of Charity, 8 March 1658



“I pray you, bear with one another. You go in company to eternity, and you are all spouses of Jesus Christ, our Savior; be united, then, more and more.”



“Let no one take it to heart if another contradicts her, or if others speak and murmur against her. There is not a person in the world who has not something to endure from his neighbor.”



“Even our Lord. Himself, among His disciples did not escape. We must pass by this way, or else live in a desert, separated from all. But woe to him who is alone!”



“Let us, then, go together cheerfully and sweetly. We belong to God and are obliged to accept what He ordains and what He permits.”



“We are repulsed, our actions are criticized, we are treated worse than servants; again, we are informed on, superiors listen to what is said to our disadvantage, the very worst is done against us. Oh, Lord, my God, what beautiful opportunities...”



“Oh, Lord, my God, what beautiful opportunities...”

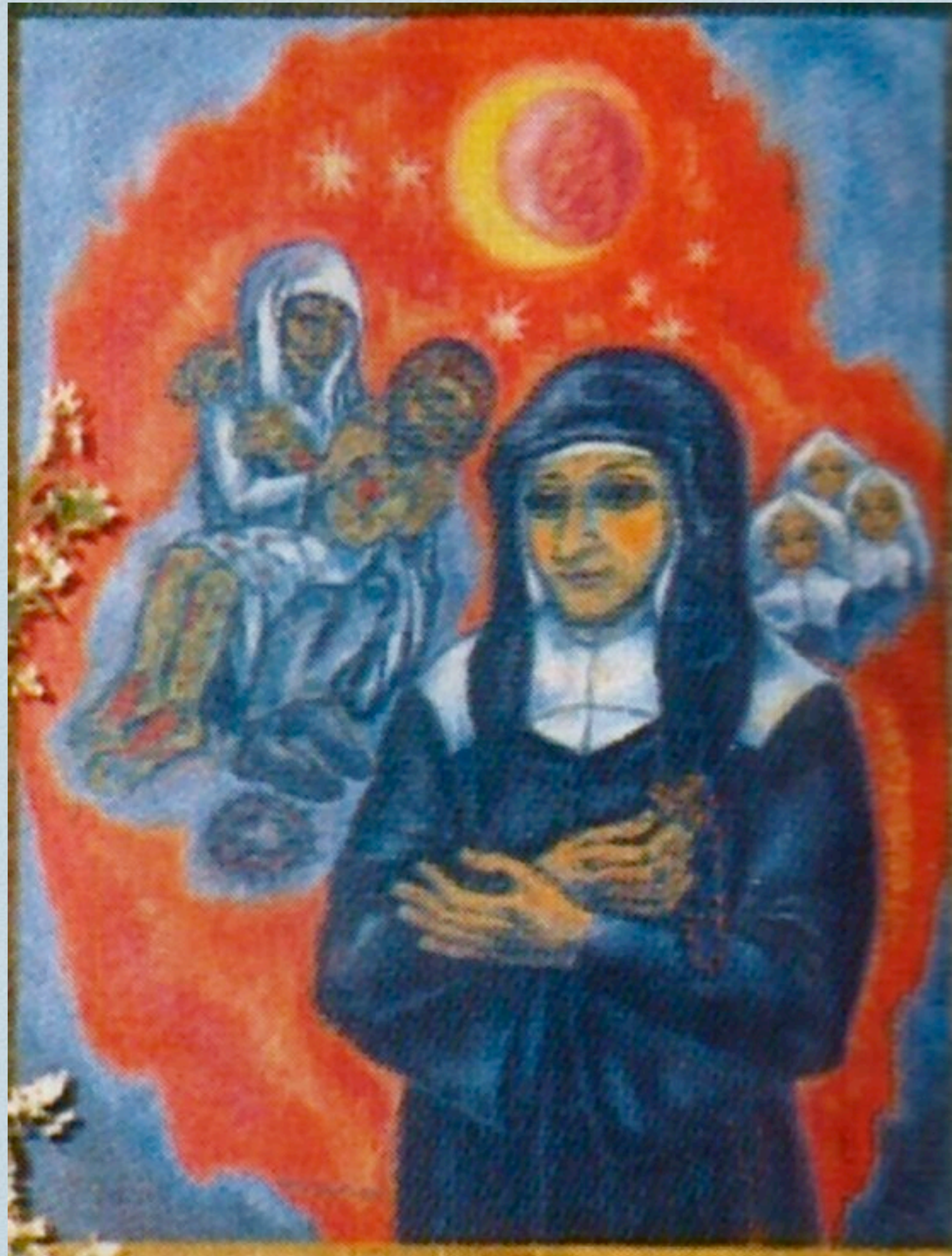
to acquire humility,



“Oh, Lord, my God, what beautiful opportunities...”

to exercise

sweetness and patience,



“Oh, Lord, my God, what beautiful opportunities...”

to make ourselves
agreeable
in the eyes of God,



“Oh, Lord, my God, what beautiful opportunities...”

to become beloved of the glorious Virgin Mary, and all the heavenly court,



...and finally, to gain the hearts of those who made us suffer, for, sooner or later, they will recognize their fault, if we only do our little duty, and this we should do diligently and carefully.”



“Let us, then, do it in the presence of God, with calmness of mind, with sweetness and condescension towards everyone; in this way, our actions will become golden and our recompense will be very great.”



“But what must we do to make proper use of the contradictions and vexations which God sends us? We must love them.”



“And the means to love that which is disagreeable? First, we must reflect that such was the constant practice of our Lord, while on earth, and generally, such was the practice of all the saints...”



“secondly, none go to Heaven save by way of tribulation and penance...”



“thirdly, to suffer in this world is a necessity whether we will or not and only those who love to suffer, do not, suffer...”



“fourthly, if the Sisters of Charity, those whom our Lord has chosen among thousands to elevate to His love, do not wish to honor His passion in anything, who then, will do so?”



“You are Daughters of Charity: mortification is also a daughter of charity and ought, therefore, be your sister. Caress her, then, visit her often in prayer, and be mindful of her on occasion.”

Source:

Michel Ulysse Maynard, *Virtues and Spiritual Doctrine of St. Vincent de Paul*, pp. 285-286: Vincent de Paul to the Daughters of Charity, 8 March 1658

Images: St. Vincent De Paul Image Archive, Depaul University

brought to you by



famvin.org