The **Prophetic Dimension**
of the **Vincentian Charism**

In Light of the Social Doctrine of the Church

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vinFormation

series based on an article by Sister María Pilar López, DC

17th Century

Saint Vincent affirmed that we must serve all people and serve the whole person (spiritual needs and corporal needs).

Three centuries later, from the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church: on integral salvation, salvation of the whole person, something that for us, the sons and daughters of Vincent de Paul, should not be new: The social doctrine has its own profound unity, which flows from Faith in a whole and complete salvation, from Hope in a fullness of justice, and from Love which makes all mankind truly brothers and sisters in Christ (p.2:#3).

21st Century

17th Century

For Vincent de Paul the experience of God was mediated through his encounters with the poor.

Pope Benedict XVI expresses the same principle in *Deus caritas est,* #15: Love of God and love of neighbor have become one: in the least of the brethren we find Jesus himself, and in Jesus we find God.

21st Century

In Saint Vincent's time women were seen as second-class citizens. Vincent confronted the traditions of his time and opened new paths and yet also understood the consequences of all of this as he placed women in the midst of social and religious life in his foundation of the Confraternities of Charity and the Daughters of Charity.

Pope Saint John Paul II in 1995: "Transcending the established norms of his own culture, Jesus treated women with openness, respect, acceptance and tenderness. In this way he honored the dignity which women have always possessed according to God's plan and in his love." (Letter to Women, #3)

20th Century

When we are dealing with doing something that will be beneficial for the poor we should not hesitate to act in a counter-cultural manner when necessary.

Reflection questions

- **Do we believe in integral evangelization of both body and soul?**

- **How do we balance the corporal and spiritual works of mercy?**

- **Are we willing to act in a counter cultural manner?**

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