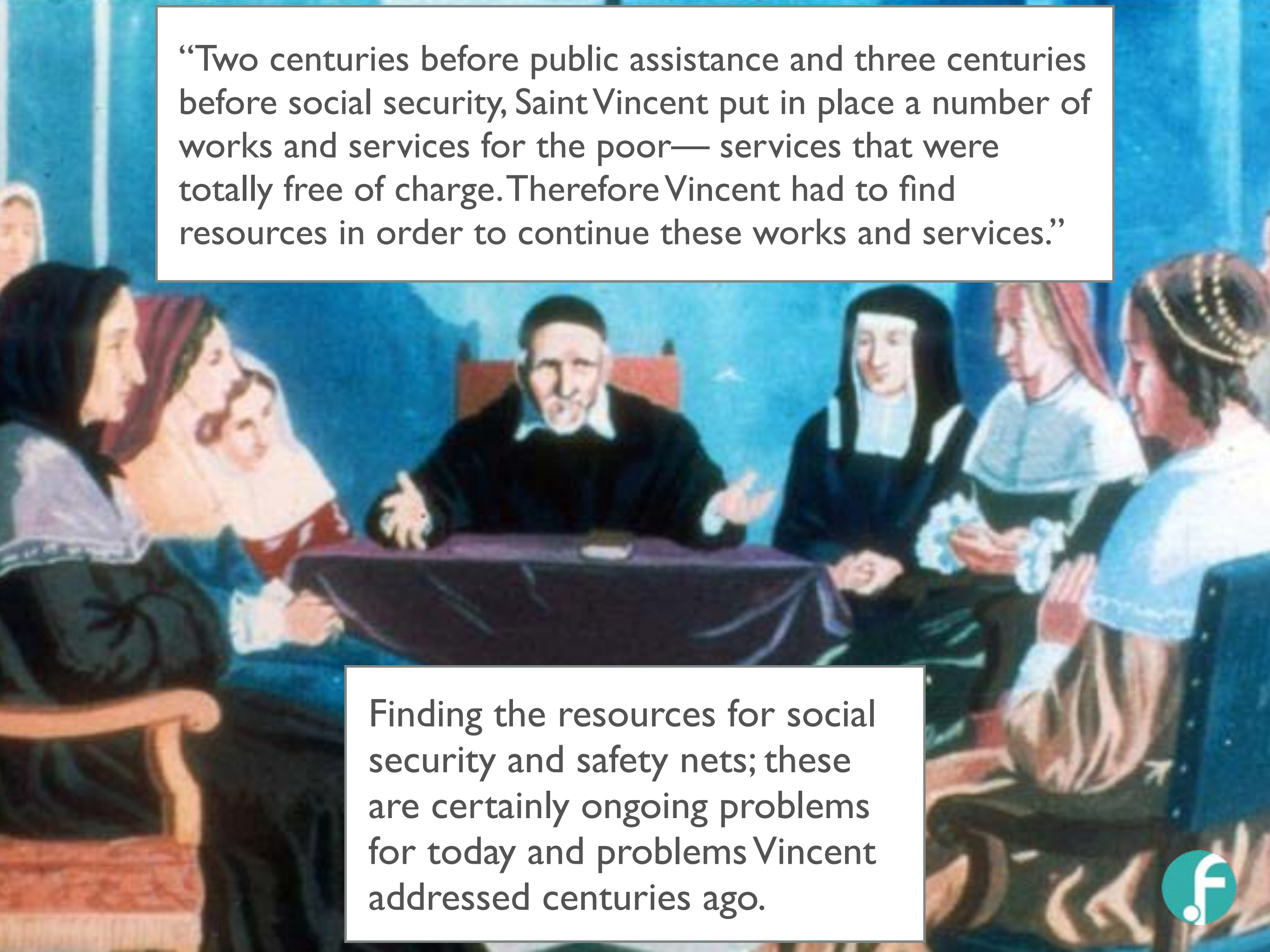


The Prophetic Dimension of the Vincentian Charism

In Light of the Social Doctrine of the Church

5

“Two centuries before public assistance and three centuries before social security, Saint Vincent put in place a number of works and services for the poor— services that were totally free of charge. Therefore Vincent had to find resources in order to continue these works and services.”

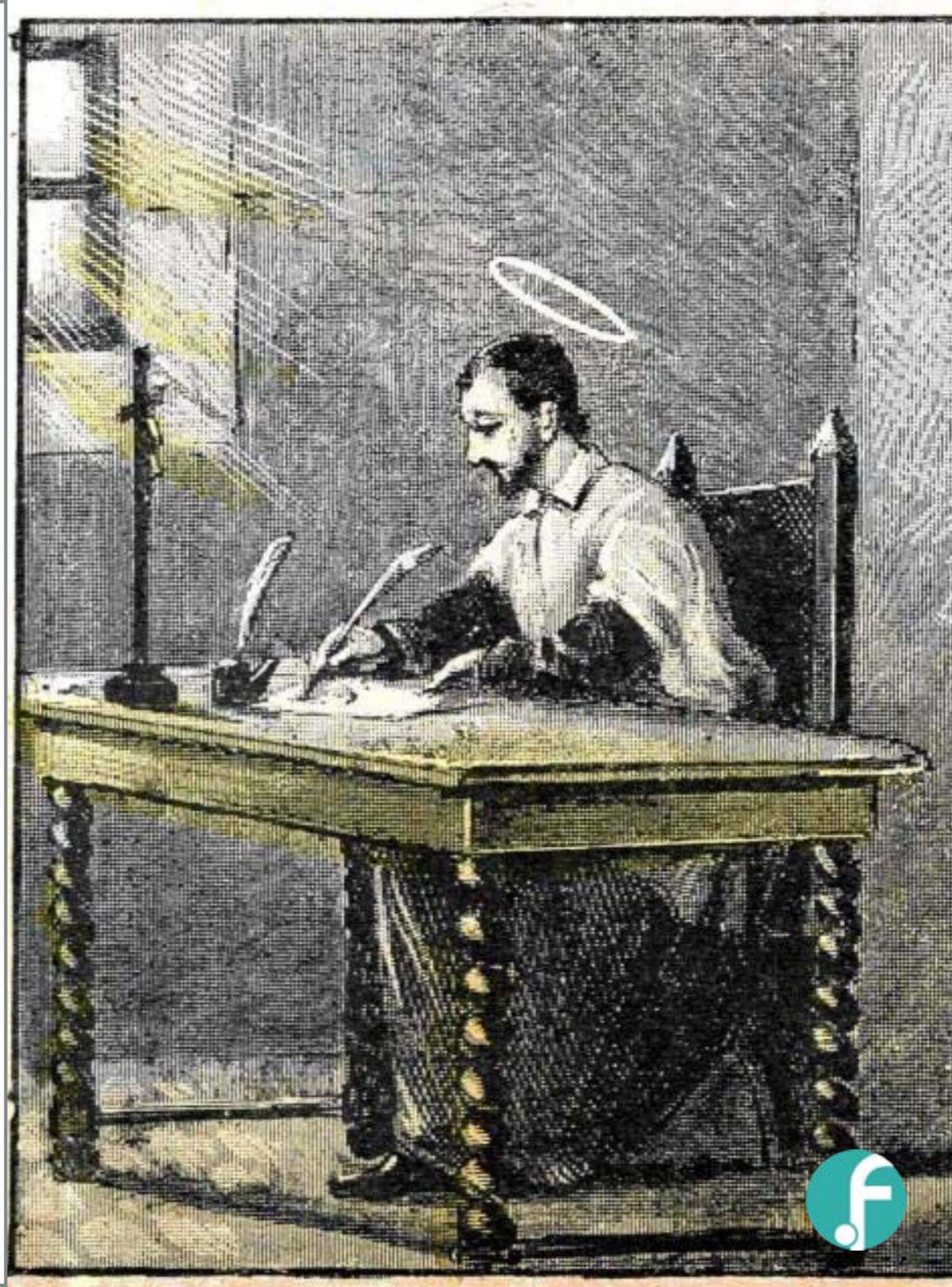


Finding the resources for social security and safety nets; these are certainly ongoing problems for today and problems Vincent addressed centuries ago.

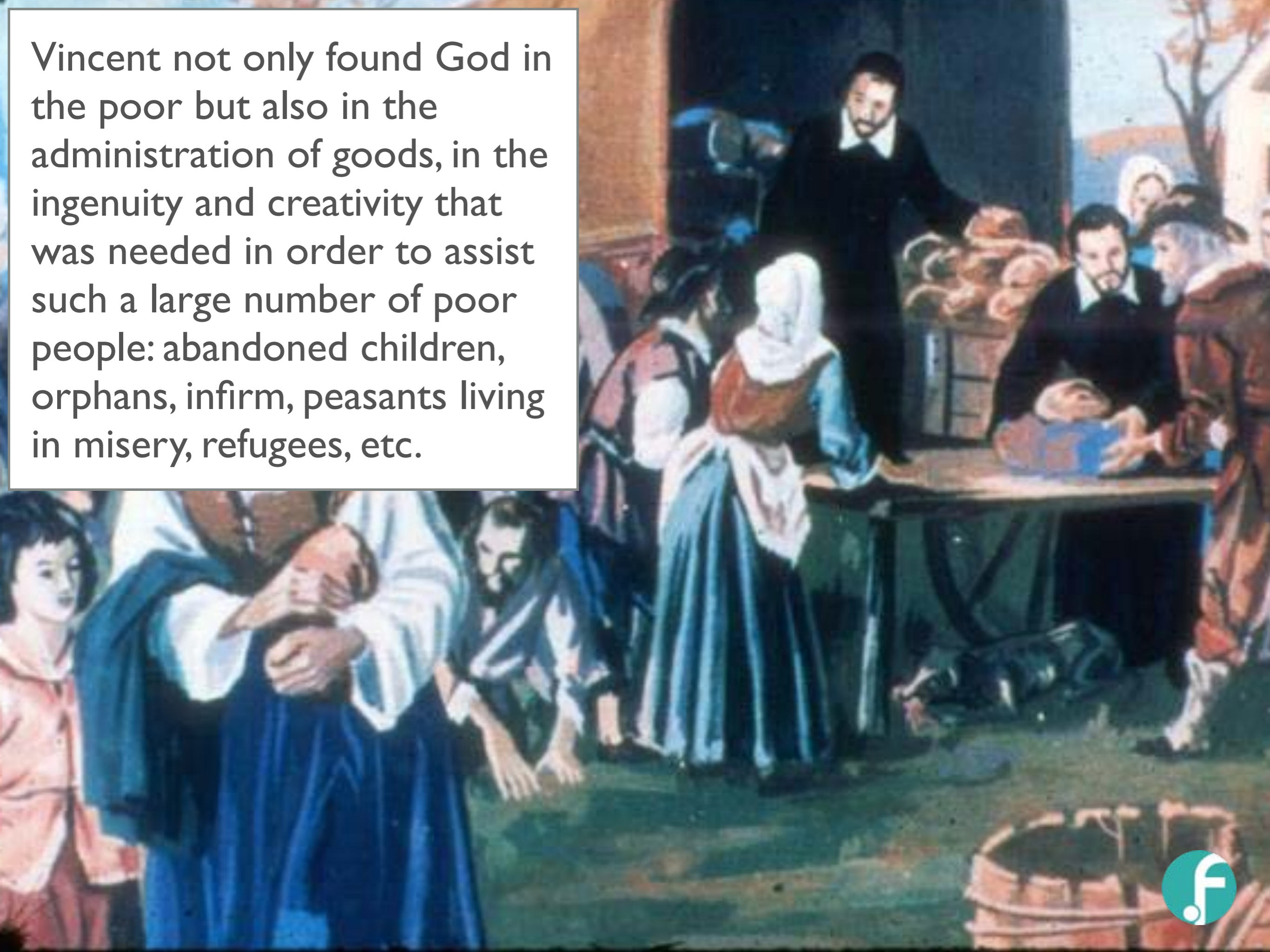


The administration of material goods takes on a mystical dimension which Vincent understood as meaning “a life united with God”, that is, having “the same will and non-will as God” (CCD:XI:286).

Administrators who fulfill their mission and have been purified by detachment and the Vincentian spirit, become an image of God, Creator and Provider.



Vincent not only found God in the poor but also in the administration of goods, in the ingenuity and creativity that was needed in order to assist such a large number of poor people: abandoned children, orphans, infirm, peasants living in misery, refugees, etc.



Reflection questions

- Can I reframe my sense of administration as a burden getting in the way of real ministry?
- Can I see myself as finding God in administration?