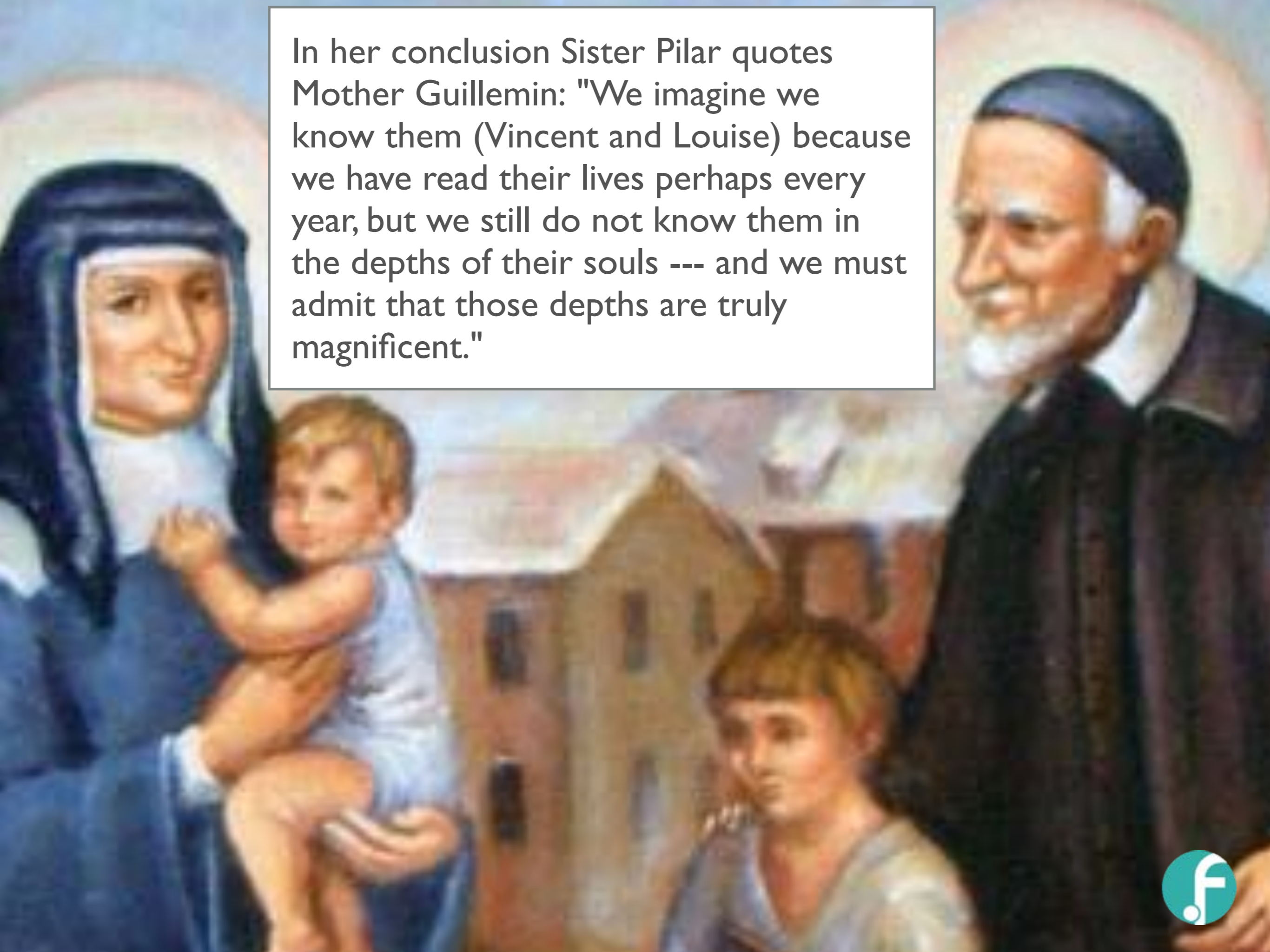


The Prophetic Dimension of the Vincentian Charism

In Light of the Social Doctrine of the Church

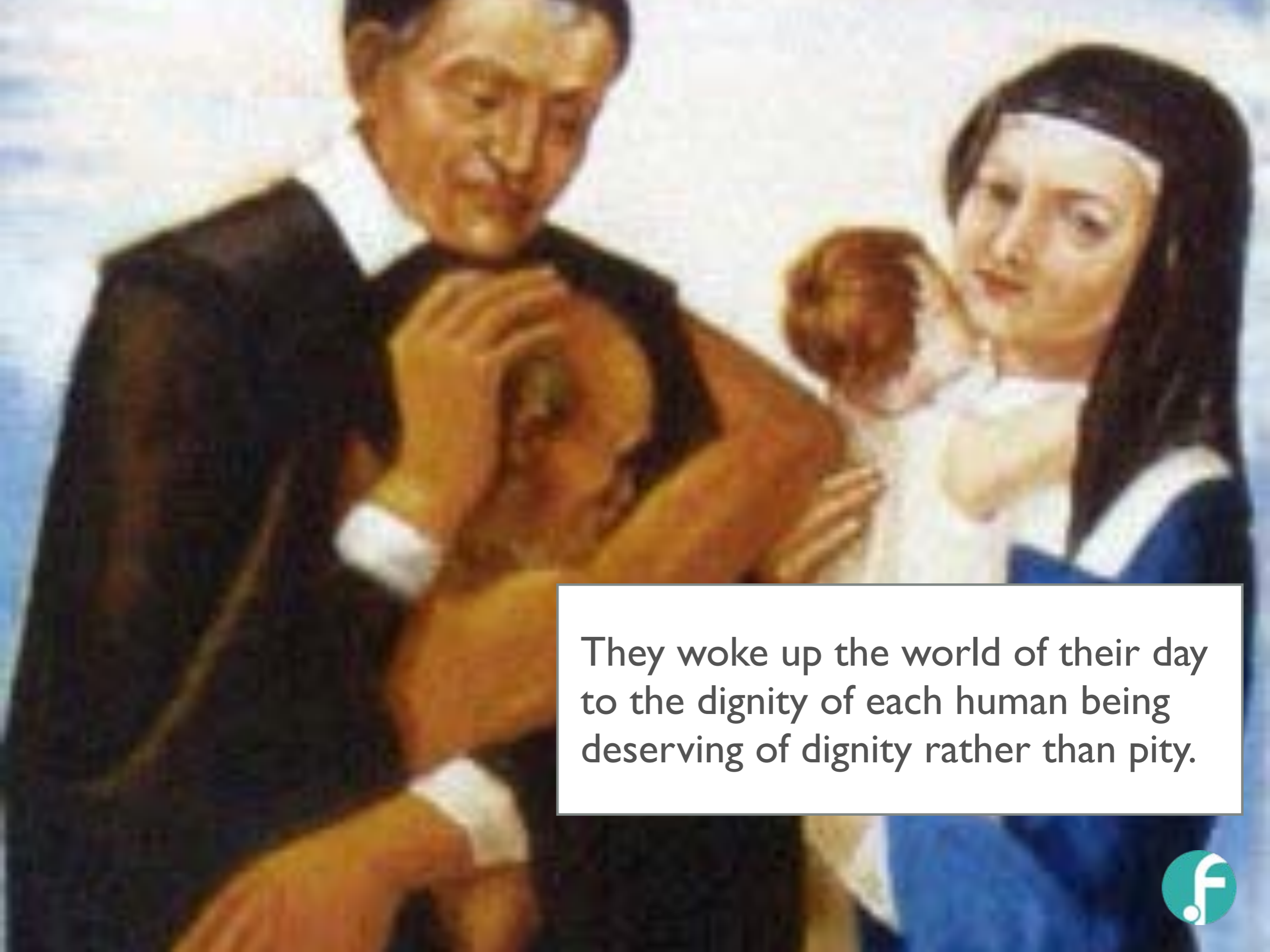
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In her conclusion Sister Pilar quotes Mother Guillemin: "We imagine we know them (Vincent and Louise) because we have read their lives perhaps every year, but we still do not know them in the depths of their souls --- and we must admit that those depths are truly magnificent."




They lived an integral evangelization approach well before the phrase became part of the body of doctrine known as the social doctrine of the church. They deeply understood the ecclesiology of the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 25.





They woke up the world of their day to the dignity of each human being deserving of dignity rather than pity.





They were not afraid to hold others and themselves accountable even in how they administered their own institutions.

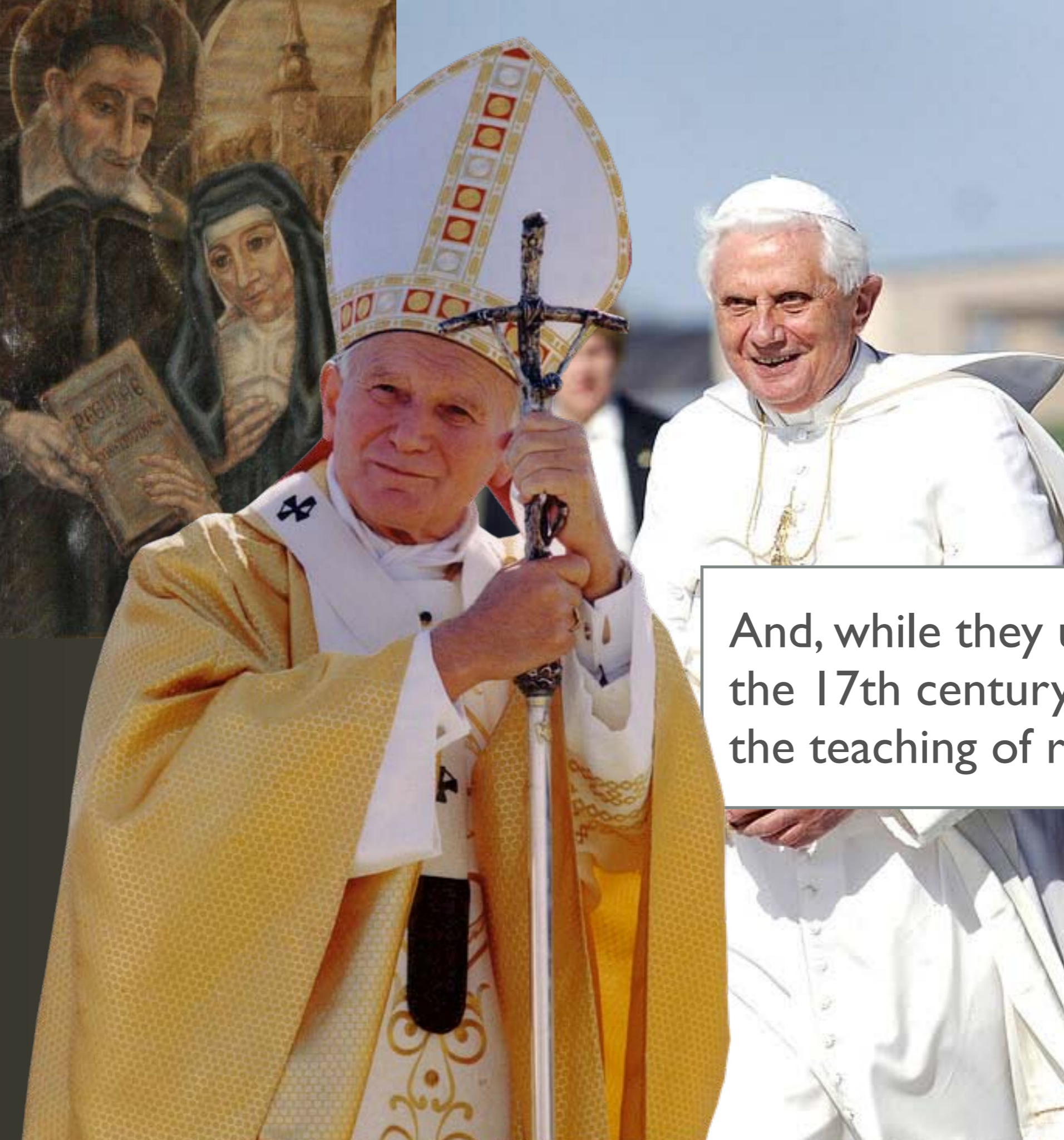
They were able to find God in the margins of society and even in the details of administration and fund-raising.





They instinctively lived Pope Francis' call to solidarity understood as a "mindset of encounter". Although the words "integral evangelization" would have sounded strange to them, their pastoral ministry embodied its deepest meaning.





And, while they used the language of the 17th century, they foreshadowed the teaching of recent Popes.





In her final section Sister writes movingly of the the Vincentian Charism as a treasure we hold in “earthen vessels” and the prophetic challenge it is to those who walk this path today.



Reflection questions



- How has the experience of reflecting on the prophetic dimension of the Vincentian Charism challenged me?
- What can I do to more deeply grasp the tremendous gift of the Vincentian Charism... and live it?