

“And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.”

— Acts 2:2-4



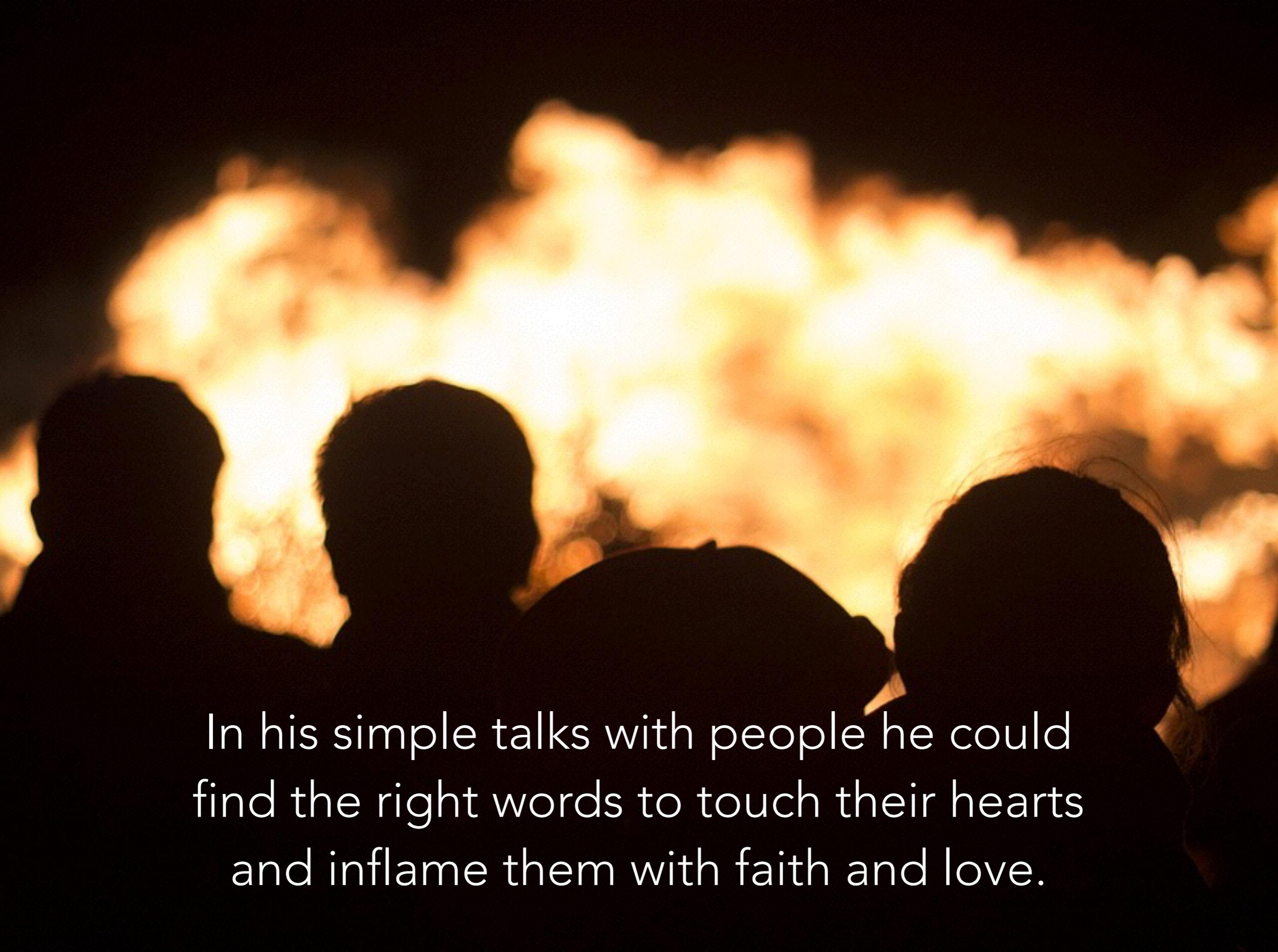
St. Vincent burned with this divine fire  
which drove him towards the poor.



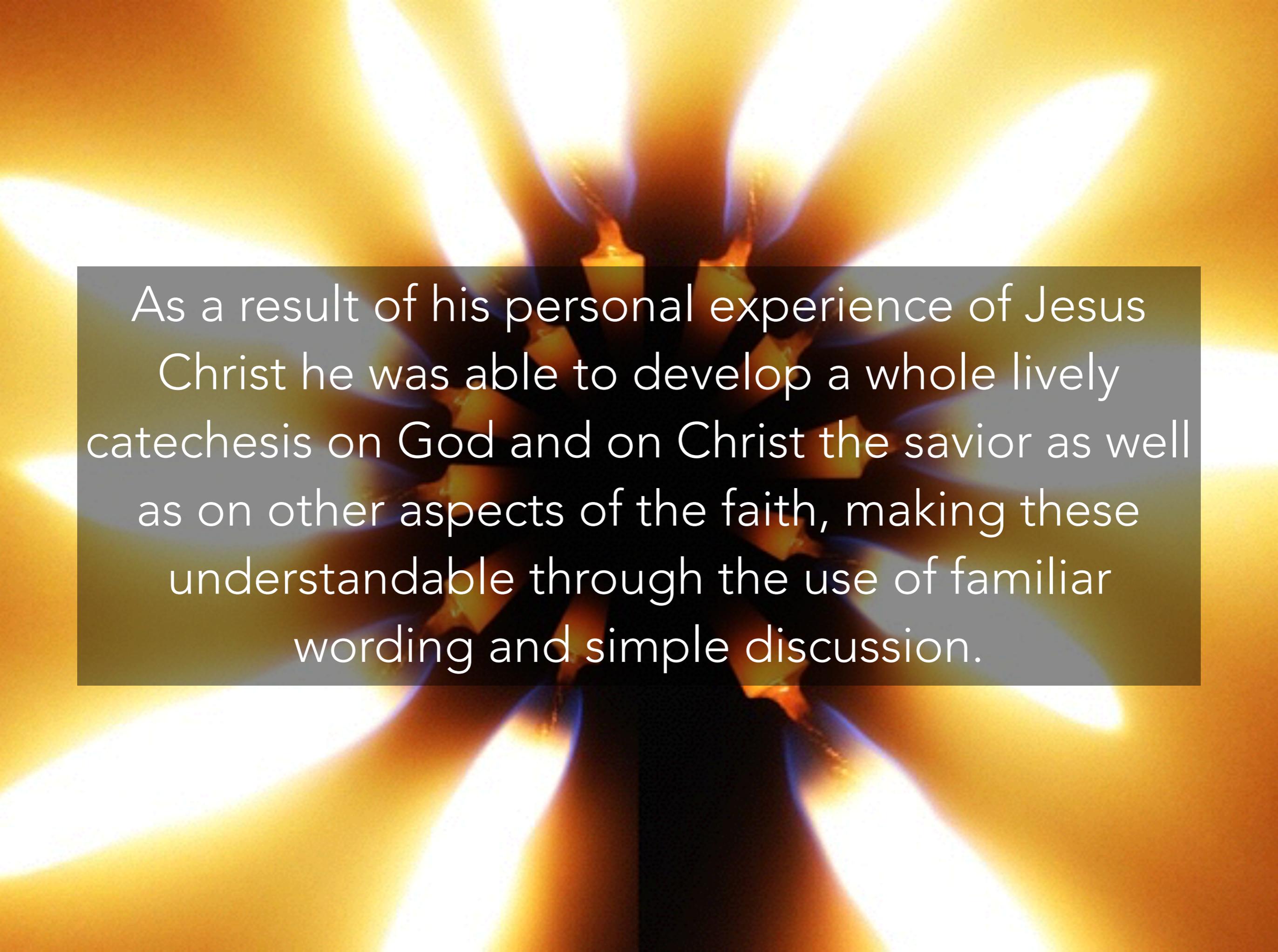
With it he could set hearts on fire.



He could go about proclaiming Jesus Christ.

The image shows the dark silhouettes of several people in the foreground, looking towards a large, bright fire in the background. The fire is a mix of yellow and orange, with a soft, out-of-focus glow. The overall scene is dark, with the fire providing the primary light source.

In his simple talks with people he could find the right words to touch their hearts and inflame them with faith and love.

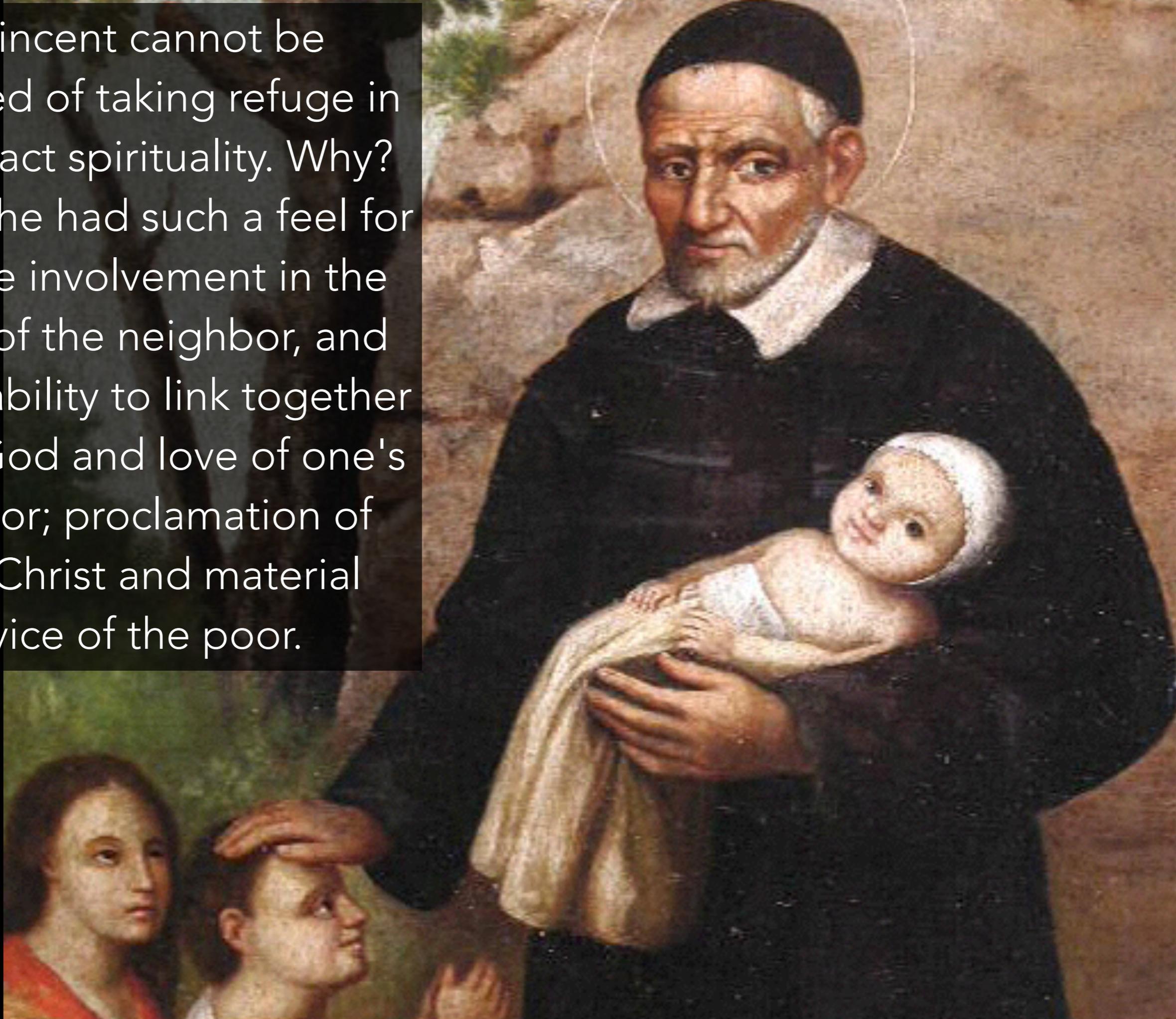


As a result of his personal experience of Jesus Christ he was able to develop a whole lively catechesis on God and on Christ the savior as well as on other aspects of the faith, making these understandable through the use of familiar wording and simple discussion.

As Vincentian “missioners” in our own spheres of influence, St. Vincent encourages us to always continue to listen to God, who will inspire our words.

**“They ought, in speaking to them, lift up their minds to God to receive from him what they ought to say to them. Because God is an inexhaustible source of wisdom, light and love. It is from him we should draw forth what we say to others (XII, 15).”**

St. Vincent cannot be suspected of taking refuge in an abstract spirituality. Why? Because he had such a feel for concrete involvement in the service of the neighbor, and such an ability to link together love of God and love of one's neighbor; proclamation of Jesus Christ and material service of the poor.



A dramatic sunset or sunrise scene. The sun is partially obscured by dark, heavy clouds, creating a bright, golden glow that illuminates the surrounding clouds and the sky. The colors range from deep orange and red to bright yellow and white where the sun is breaking through. The overall atmosphere is one of intense light and contrast.

He invites us to do the same.



So what about ourselves today?

What proclamation are we making of Jesus Christ who died and rose and is our savior?

What understanding of faith for today's world are we putting forth?

Do we feel at ease about proclaiming the *kerygma*, the centre of our faith, like the apostles on Pentecost Day?

What difficulties do we experience with regard to the people we are evangelizing?

And what are the resistances which we can detect in ourselves?

Source:

*"Announcing the good news of salvation  
in the steps of Saint Vincent", Vincentiana 2009*

BY EMERIC AMYOT D'INVILLE, C.M.

adapted for online presentation by

