



Lenten theme for 2017: The ideal model of the Trinity

“relationships” are an inseparable part of our mission

from Lenten letter of Tomaž Mavrič, CM
Superior General



S. Matteo Evangelista

My dear brothers and sisters,

May the grace and peace of
Jesus be always with us!

The season of Lent is near at
hand!



I admire the heroic witness and service of your ministering in difficult times and in remote areas of the globe.

My heart is with each one of you as I accompany you daily with my thoughts and prayers.

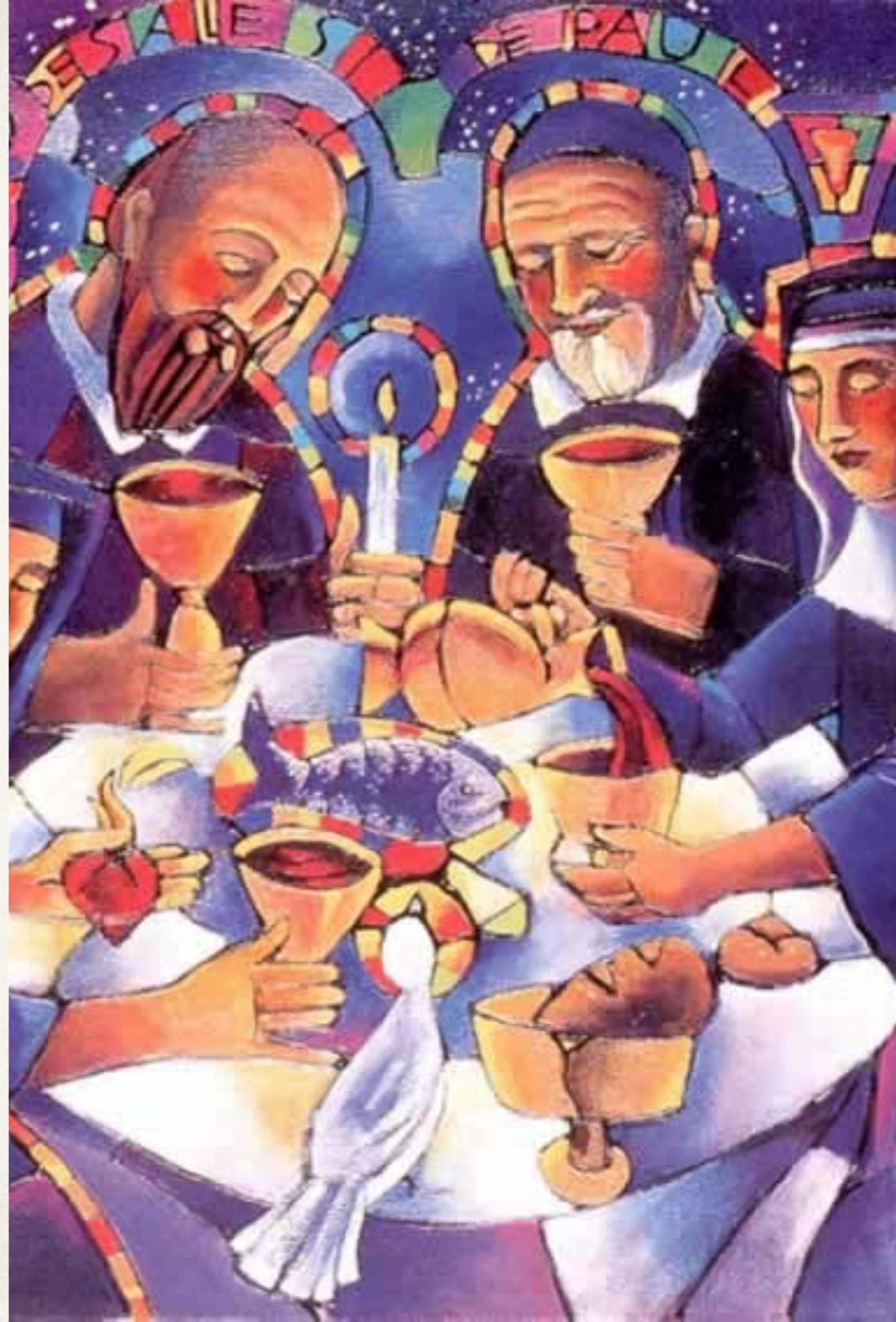


Lenten Theme for 2017

The mystery of the “Holy Trinity” as one of the central mysteries of Saint Vincent’s spirituality.



What is the message of the Holy Trinity for me personally, for the community where I live, the congregation or group to which I belong, for my family, for the people Jesus is sending me to serve?



- The Trinity is the ideal model of “relationships”
- We were created not as islands, but as social beings and as a family
- In the depth of our being, we are one with God, which means, with the Trinity and with each other



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AIC Mexico accompanying elderly people
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Our reflection on the Trinity needs to be accompanied by the wish and goal of incarnating that ideal model of “relationships” in the concrete life situation in which I find myself, in the community where I live and the congregation or group to which I belong, in my family, with the people to whom Jesus is sending me to serve.



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Vincentian Harbor Project in Odessa, Ukraine

What can we see in the “relationships” among the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?



The attention is always directed to the other person and not to oneself.

The priority is always given to the other person and not to oneself.

Praise, thankfulness, admiration are always given to the other person and not to oneself.

Each one of the three Persons of the Trinity always expresses the need for collaboration with the other Person to fulfill the mission.

Each of the three Persons of the Trinity always clearly expresses that it would be insufficient and ineffective for each of them to act alone.

Saint Vincent de Paul made the ideal model of the Holy Trinity one of the foundations of his spirituality. In this year's Lenten Season, we are invited to take new steps toward the ideal model of "relationships" given to us through Jesus.



If each of us would put the other person first, put him or her before oneself, before one's own desires, before one's own interests, before one's own personal wishes; if each one would give attention to the other person, share time, thoughts, experiences, hardships, doubts, sufferings, joys, etc. by following the ideal model of "the Trinity's relationships"...



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... then someone would do the same for each of us. In this way, a wonderful and miraculous set of relationships will take shape, where we together, in the best and most effective way possible, will accomplish the mission entrusted to us by Jesus.



So then, there's uniformity in the Blessed Trinity: what the Father wants, the Son wants; what the Holy Spirit does, the Father and the Son do and act the same way; They have only one power and one way of acting. That's the source of holiness and our model. Let's make ourselves uniform; we'll be many as if we were only one, and we'll have holy union in plurality. If we already have a little, but not enough, let's ask God for what we lack, and see in what we differ from one another in order to try to resemble one another and be equal; for resemblance and equality engender love, and love tends toward unity.

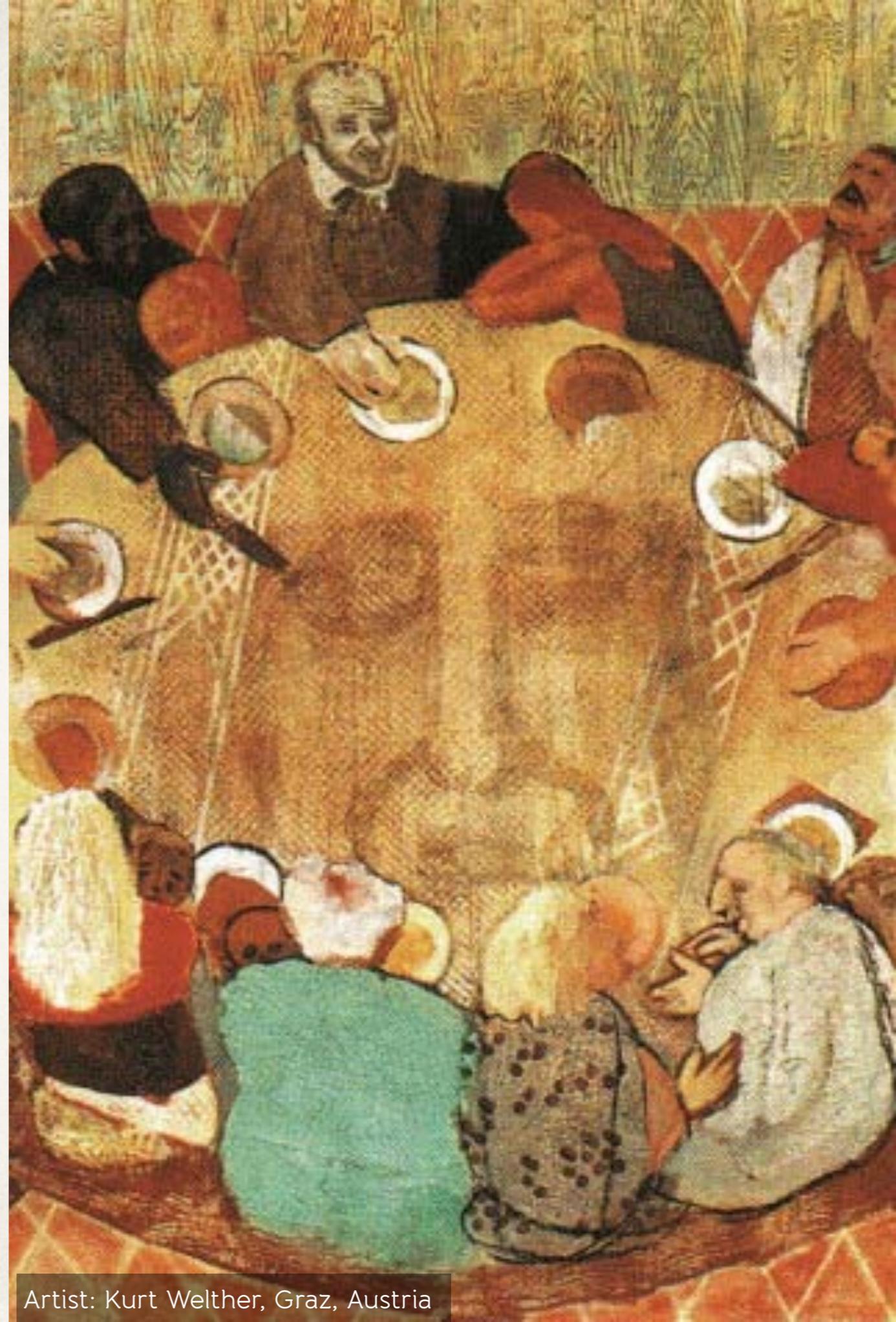
- St. Vincent de Paul
CCD XII, 210-211



Artist: Toribio, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Saint Vincent's devotion to the Trinity was not an intellectual exercise but a search from his heart. It led him and leads us, as a Congregation still living the charism of the Founder, to a two-fold experience:

- To imitate the mutual relations of the three Persons. We are called to be an image of the Trinity, the merciful and compassionate God of Love.
- To connect our devotion to the Trinity, to the Mission; to the proclamation of the mystery of God's love for the poor.



Artist: Kurt Welther, Graz, Austria



We are celebrating the 400th Anniversary of Saint Vincent de Paul's charism. May this Jubilee Year bring us abundant fruit. With total trust in Providence, through the intercession of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Saint Vincent de Paul, and all the Saints and Blessed of the Vincentian Family, we continue the path inward toward our own self, and outward to our communities, family, and to the people Jesus is sending us to serve, to those who may not know the charism yet or to those places where the charism has still to take root.

I hope and pray that this year's Holy Week, Easter, and Easter Season celebrations will bring additional joy and meaning to us and our life's mission as we reflect on the Trinity and take new steps toward the ideal model of "relationships."

May we continue praying for one another!

Your brother in Saint Vincent,

Tomaž Mavrič, CM
Superior General



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