

***Let us reflect for a
moment and recall that
we are in the presence
of God ...***

LISTEN!

*Notice the sounds around you - small
sounds, perhaps a bird, a distant voice.*

Listen, be attentive!

Where is God in this space ...

... in our thoughts

... in our words

... in the sounds around us

... in the silence

... in each other



Acknowledgement of Country

Gathered here today, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes of Indigenous Australia. We must always remember that under the concrete and asphalt, this land is, was and always will be traditional Aboriginal land.

We pay respect to the first peoples on whose land we now are, acknowledging the loss of lands, cultures and treasures; knowing the consequences for people, communities and nations; and believing we can walk together to a better future. We gather today, taking this on.

We acknowledge this is, *and always will be*, Aboriginal land.



“If we are really called to carry the love of God far and wide, if we are to enflame the nations with this fire, if we have the vocation of setting the whole world on fire, if it is so, I say, if it is so, then how much I must myself burn with the divine fire!”

*St Vincent de Paul
“Like a Great Fire – Vincent de Paul”
Editions du Signe, Italy, 1995,*

All: Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of Your faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.

Send forth Your Spirit
and they shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

We call the Holy Spirit upon us, the faithful to empower us to renew the face of the earth.

What does it feel like to have our hearts burn with the fire of love given by the Spirit for the work that we do?

What are we being ‘created’ to do?

All: O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit,
teach the hearts of the faithful
and grant that by the same Spirit
we may be truly wise
and ever enjoy His consolation.

*Teach me as one of your faithful ...
What do I need to learn?*

All: Lord we pray
for the special intentions
of our Holy Father,
for Bishops, Priests, Religious and
members of the
Vincentian family throughout
the world,
especially in those countries with
which we are twinned.

We remember particularly our
benefactors and those we assist.

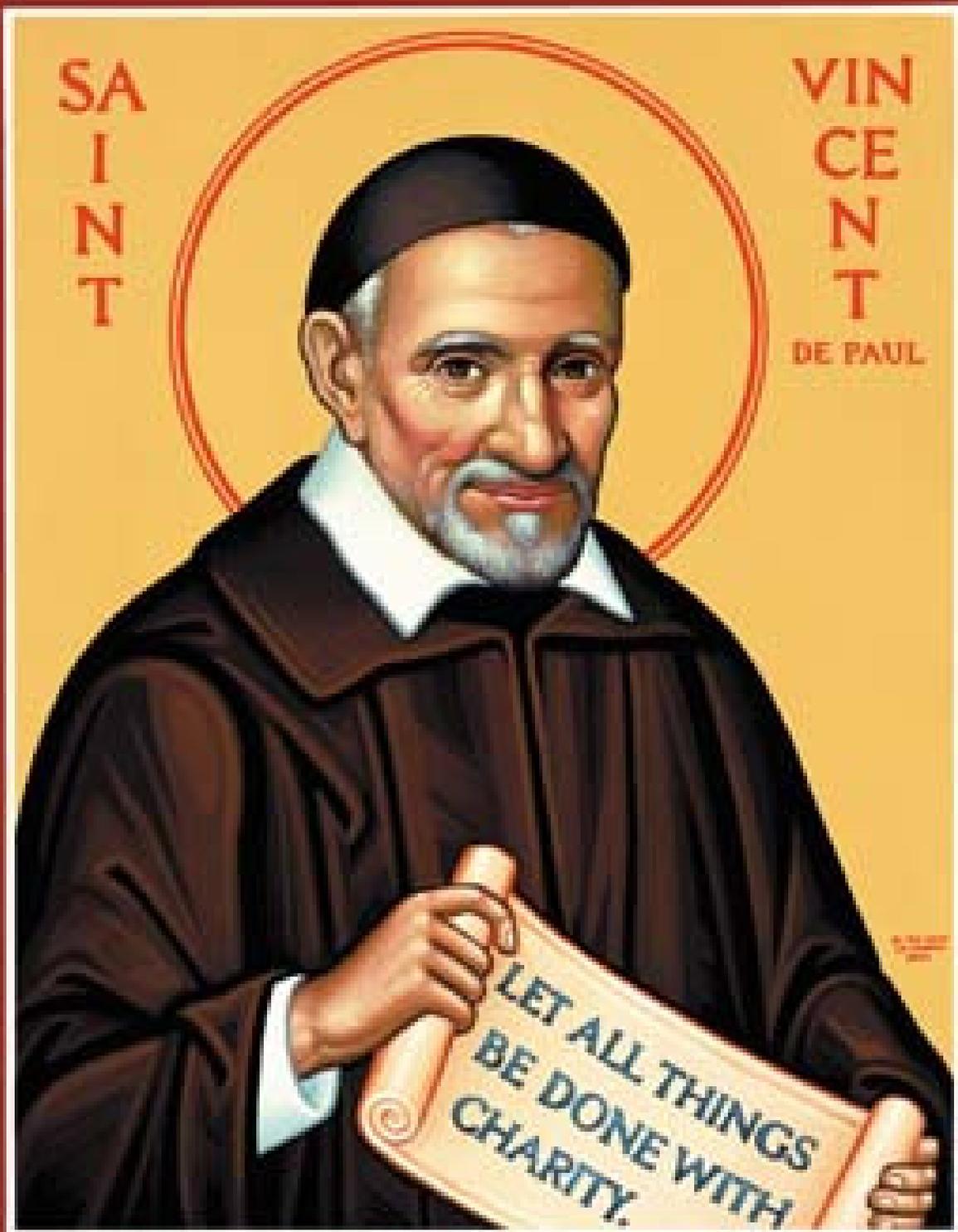
As Vincentians we are part of a bigger family.

*What unites all members of the Vincentian
Family in their mission?*

What unites us all as part of the wider church?

What unites us all as inhabitants of our world?





All:

Lord, You gave
St Vincent de
Paul a heart
overflowing with
love for you.

As Vincent de Paul walked through the streets of Paris everywhere he looked he saw homeless people and beseeching beggars.

He saw hungry people.

He saw children and elderly men and women who were neglected.

He saw sick people without health care.

He saw refugees from warfare.

He saw people who were spiritually abandoned and without hope.

In these people he found those whom he had been looking for: his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Vincent de Paul was profoundly dissatisfied with what he saw because he knew it was at odds with his ideal vision of the "good news" of Kingdom of God as proclaimed by Jesus Christ to the poor; a place where each human being created in the image and likeness of God possessed an inestimable dignity and value as a person.

He turned his sense of frustration and dissatisfaction into an urgent faith-filled desire to do as much good as he could, as well as he could, to reach out to improve the lives of the people whose gazes he returned so intently and whose suffering moved him so personally.

All:

Grant us that
same fervour of
charity,
that we too may
see your image in
those whom we
assist
and gladly give
them a share of
our time and
possessions.





Where have we come from ...

All: Lord Jesus,
we rejoice in the faith and courage
of our founders,
especially Blessed Frederic Ozanam.



And where do we want to be ...

All: May their spirit be renewed
in the Society of today
that we may be open
to the needs of the poor
and disadvantaged
and receptive to the inspiration
of the Holy Spirit.



*As we move on with our
gathering let us ...*

*“Be inspired by the
example of
your Patrons!
Accept into your hearts
and minds the
sevenfold gift of the
Holy Spirit!
Recognize and believe
in the power of the
Spirit in your lives!”*

VIGIL WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE
ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
Randwick Racecourse
Saturday, 19 July 2008