

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (Sunday of the Word of God)



Matthew 4:12-17

'Jesus went to Capernaum so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled.'

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles — the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Reflection

Jesus doesn't stay where it's comfortable. When things get difficult, he moves to the edges, to Galilee, a place many looked down on. Isaiah calls it a land of darkness, yet it's exactly where Jesus chooses to live and begin his mission.

For Vincentians, this feels familiar. Our founders believed God's light shines brightest among those who are forgotten or struggling. They didn't wait for people to come to church. They went to where people already were.

Jesus' message is simple: the kingdom of heaven is at hand. God isn't distant or waiting for us to be perfect. God is already here, especially in places of hurt or loneliness.

To be Vincentian today means choosing to be light-bearers, noticing who might feel in the shadows and showing up with kindness, courage and hope. Even small actions can remind someone they are not alone and that God is closer than they think.

Materials Needed

Quotes printed out

Activity

Choose one quote (or place several around the room):

St Vincent de Paul: *"Let us love God, but let it be with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brow."*

Rosalie Rendu: *"Never forget that the poor are our lords and masters."*

St Louise de Marillac: *"Be diligent in serving the poor with joy."*

St Pier Giorgio Frassati: *"Charity is not enough; we need social reform."*

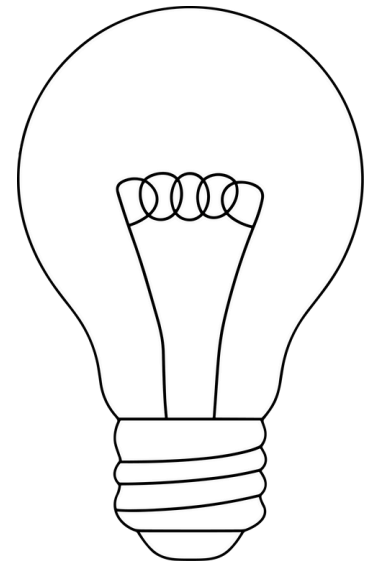
Invite participants to stand or sit near the quote that speaks to them most today.

Then ask three gentle reflection prompts (spoken or written):

1. What does this quote say about where God is found?
2. Who might this quote be calling me to notice?
3. What is one small action this inspires me to take?

Call to Action

This week, take that small action that you have been inspired to do and be a light-bearer to someone else.

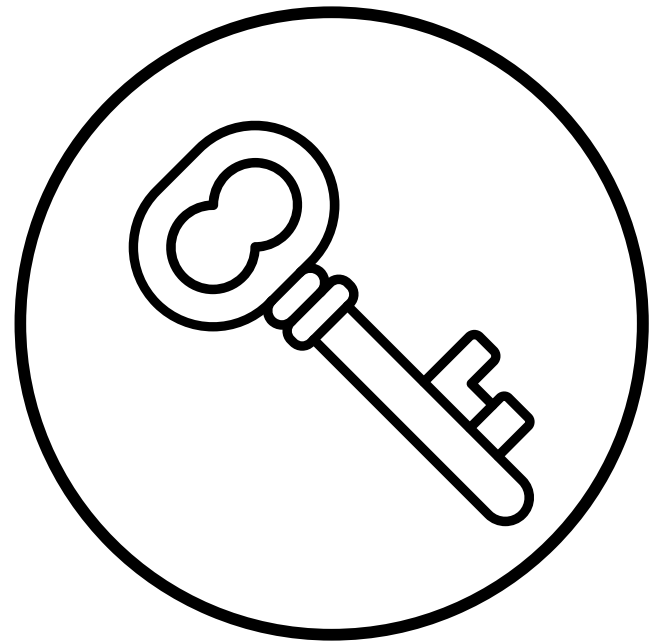


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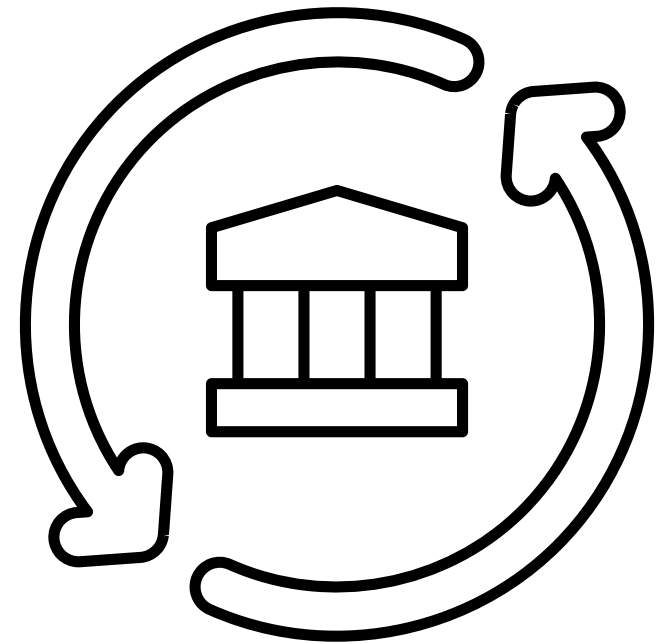
ROSALIE RENDU

“BE DILIGENT IN SERVING THE
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ST LOUISE DE MARILLAC

“CHARITY IS NOT ENOUGH; WE
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ST PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI