



6th Sunday of Easter

John 14: 15-21

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

Some things to think about...

- What is Jesus' new commandment?
- Jesus speaks about the Trinity here - complete the sentence: "God the Father, God the, and the Holy Spirit".
- How can we show that we love God?

Activities

- Give each child one fact card about an important SVP person. Each child will read their fact card and write one way they will follow in their footsteps. E.g. I will follow in St Carlo Acutis' footsteps by being welcoming to everyone.
- Extended activity: Give a card to each child, then ask them to find out more about them throughout the week. They can write down what they found out and present it to the group at the next meeting.

Teacher's notes

This reading from John's Gospel follows Jesus' new commandment (John 13:34-35): A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Jesus challenged the complex rules of the Pharisees (high priests) at the time by giving the simple commandment to love one another, reminding us what our true mission is.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus explains that he is going back to the Father in Heaven, but that he will always be with us. He says, "whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me." This means that if we follow Jesus' example and love one another, we are showing love to God.

The saints and blessed people of the SVP provide inspiration for us. They were ordinary people like us who followed Jesus' commandments and put their faith into action.

We shouldn't underestimate the power of human kindness and the greatness within ordinary events in life. There are thousands of people around the world, old and young, rich and poor, who are doing their part to serve people as part of SVP and we as Mini Vinnies are following in their footsteps. You can make a huge difference to people's lives through your faith in action.

Notes:

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Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

- Started the SVP to tackle poverty in Paris
- Put his faith into action
- Showed leadership and worked together with his friends to help the community

I will follow in Bl Frédéric Ozanam's footsteps by...



St Vincent de Paul

- Patron Saint of charity
- Felt called by God to spread a message of gentleness to those who felt forgotten
- Founded the Daughters of Charity to teach others to care for those in need

I will follow in St Vincent de Paul's footsteps by...



St Louise de Marillac

- Helped start the Daughters of Charity (which is still active today!)
- Worked with St Vincent to bring comfort to poor people and help abandoned children on the streets.
- Patron saint of sick people, widows and orphans.

I will follow in St Louise de Marillac's footsteps by...



Blessed Rosalie Rendu

- Opened a free clinic, a school, a home for the elderly and much more.
- She helped Frédéric Ozanam and his friends to do good works, which is how the St Vincent de Paul Society started.

I will follow in Bl Rosalie Rendu's footsteps by...



St Pier Giorgio Frassati

- Joined the SVP at 17
- Loved his faith, caring for others and climbing mountains
- He spoke out for those in need helped lead protests and marched for human rights.
- Known for donating food, his bus fare and even his shoes!

I will follow in St Pier Giorgio Frassati's footsteps by...



St Catherine Labouré

- A member of the Daughters of Charity and founder of the miraculous medal (from a vision of Mary)
- Dedicated her life to prayer, and to helping the poor and elderly.
- Known to be quiet, humble and generous.

I will follow in St Catherine Labouré's footsteps by...