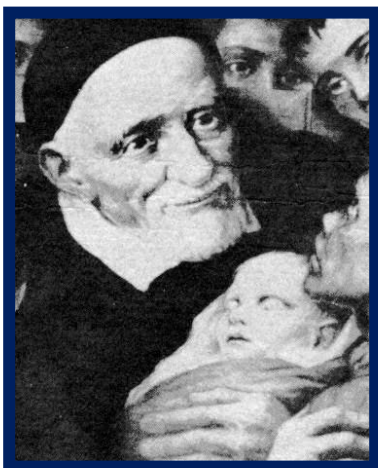


## Service to God through Poor Persons: St. Vincent de Paul



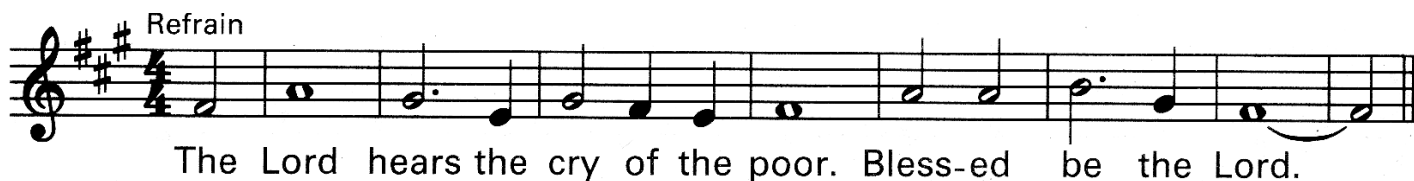
**Introduction:** As we conclude our 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary, let us listen to St. Vincent's words to the first Ladies. "The Confraternity of Charity (original name for Ladies of Charity) was instituted to honor its patron Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Mother, and to assist poor [persons] corporally and spiritually ... by giving them food ... and by [assisting them] to live well in the future."

*Conferences of Vincent De Paul*, Coste, Volume 13b  
#125 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR CHARITIES OF WOMEN, page 5

**Call to Prayer:** "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. On this day, August 23, 1617, the Ladies ... propose two aims, namely, to assist body and soul: the body by nourishing it ...; the soul by [helping poor persons] live a good life."

*Conferences of Vincent De Paul*, Coste, Volume 13b  
#124a FOUNDATION OF THE CHARITY IN CHÂTILLON-LES-DOBES, page 3

**Antiphon:** "The Cry of the Poor" refrain



Text: Based on Psalm 34. Text and Music @1978, 1991, John B. Foley, S.G., and OCP. Used with Permission OCP LicenSing Online #612305

### Psalm 34

- Side 1** At times I could never cease praising God.  
Come and rejoice with me over God's goodness.
- Side 2** What God has done for me He can do for you. Turn to Him.
- Side 1** God's loving presence encompasses those who yield to Him.  
God is with them in the midst of their troubles and conflicts.
- Side 2** God meets their emptiness with His abundance  
and shores up their weakness with His divine power.
- Side 1** God is ever alert to the cries of His children.  
God feels and bears with them in their pains and problems.
- Side 2** God is very near to those who suffer  
and reaches out to help those who are battered down.
- Side 1** Even the children of God must experience affliction,  
but they have a loving God who will watch over them.
- Side 2** The servant of God finds meaning and purpose  
even in the midst of suffering and conflict.

adapted from *Psalms/Now*, Brandt, pages 54-55

**ALL:** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

(Sing Antiphon again.)



**Reading:** “But how is it that God has chosen [me] for such a great blessing? It’s God’s Will to choose simple people. He chose the Apostles ... to convert the whole world. ... God began the Church with poor people ... ‘Because I am nothing, God has chosen me to render Him a great service. God has so willed it. From my lowly condition I will never forget Him and will always adore His great mercy to me.’”  
Conferences of Vincent De Paul, Coste, Volume 9 EXPLANATION OF THE REGULATIONS, page 9

**Reflection Questions:**

How has God chosen me to render service to persons living in poverty?  
 How have I grown personally through my ministry as a Lady of Charity?

**Response:** “Jesu, Jesu” verses 2, 3



Refrain

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

Verses

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,	Si - lent - ly wash - es their
2. Neigh-bors are rich folk and poor,	Var - ied in col - or and
3. These are the ones we should serve,	These are the ones we should
4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,	Si - lent - ly wash - ing their

to Refrain

1. feet,	Mas - ter who pours out him - self	for them.
2. race,	Neigh-bors are near - by and far	a - way.
3. love.	All these are neigh-bors to us	and you.
4. feet,	This is the way we should live	with you.

Text: 779 with refrain; John 13:3-5; Ghanaian Folk Song; tr. by Tom Colvin. Music: Ghanaian Folk Song; adapt. by Tom Colvin. Text and music @ 1969, Hope Publishing Co. Used with permission, license #5393

**Prayer:** (Pray together.) **O glorious St. Vincent, you never lost courage in spite of the difficulties you encountered in the path of your charitable apostolate. Pray for me and ensure that the love of poor persons may never diminish in my heart, but continue to increase and at the hour of my death I may find the same mercy from God that the poor people receive from me. May I merit the eternal happiness of heaven promised by God to those who have loved the poor during life. Amen.** adapted from MANUAL of the Ladies of Charity of the United States of America, page 27

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**Prayer Texts**

**Matthew 25: 34 – 40** “As often as you did it for one of my least, you did it for me.”  
**I Corinthians 1: 27 – 29** “God chose ... the weak ... so no boasting before God.”