# Prayer Service GRACE -- September

**Introduction:** Saint Vincent's letters often "...begin with this greeting: '*The grace of Our Lord be with you forever*!' a quite sincere expression of the most intimate desire of his heart." Coste, Pierre <u>Vincent de Paul Correspondence</u> Introduction, Volume 1, page xxviii

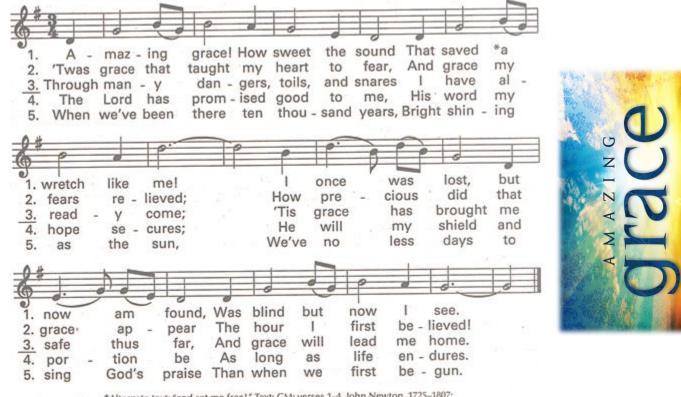
<u>Call to Prayer</u>: "Grace is necessary to begin and we need more to persevere to the end." Coste, Pierre <u>Vincent de Paul Correspondence</u>, Volume 1, October 19, 1636, page 346

Leader: "The grace of Our Lord be with you forever." ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

### Hymn: Amazing Grace verses 1-4



\*Alternate text: "and set me free!" Text: CM; verses 1-4, John Newton, 1725–1807; verse 5, anon., fr. A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790. Music: Columbian Harmony, 1829.

### Scripture and Remarks from Saint Vincent: (Read in alternate sides, please.)

- "Three times I pleaded with the Lord ... But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12: 8-9 <u>NIV</u>
- II. "... [I] only proceed from His grace and [this] makes me hope for great blessings ..." (SV 1:362)
- I. "Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."
  2 Peter 1: 2 <u>NIV</u>
- II. "... we recognize that this abundant grace comes from God, a grace which He keeps on giving ... to [those] who realize that all the good done through them comes from God ..." (SV 1:183)
- I. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace ..." 1 Peter 4: 10 ESV
- II. "... your own heart, [ready to accept God's will] ..., will receive abundant graces from heaven to do much good on earth." (SV 4:437)

# Prayer Service GRACE -- September (con't)



## Silent Reflection and Sharing:

**<u>Reading</u>:** "What a blessing to be a member of a Community because each individual shares in the good that is done by all! By this means you'll have more abundant grace. Our Lord promised us this, saying, 'Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst.' For even greater reason, when several of you have the same intention of serving God, 'my Father and I will come and dwell among [you]'..." Coste, Pierre Vincent de Paul Correspondence, Volume 4, page 437

# When have I experienced God's grace at home, in ministry as a Lady of Charity? In what areas of my life do I need God's grace now?

### Intercessions:

Leader: By your grace, O God, we come before you asking for all we need during this new year.

### Response: May your grace be with you, O God.

Reader 1: May we thankfully accept the grace and love that God has shown up in Jesus, ...

**Reader 2:** May the abundance of God's grace free us to generously share our gifts and talents with others, ...

Reader 3: May God's grace achieve infinitely more in us than we dare to expect or ask ...

**Reader 4:** May we recognize and appreciate God's grace in the good done by other people ... (Your spontaneous prayers are welcome.)

### **Our Father**

**Leader:** Let us repeat the words that Saint Louise wrote to Saint Vincent in June, 1627:

ALL: We "... have really wished that you would remember to offer [us] to God and to ask Him for the grace of accomplishing entirely His holy Will in [us] ..." (Louise de Marillac 1:27)

Leader: Now, let us pray together,

ALL: Pour forth we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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### **Prayer Texts**

John 1:15-17 "... from his fullness, we have all received, grace upon grace." Romans 1:5 "Through [Jesus], we have received grace and apostleship ..." Hebrews 4:16 "... receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."