

**LCUSA National Assembly 2021  
Opening Prayer – Day 1**

**Led by Sr. Claire Debes, DC**

**Humility**

- Welcomes new directions with grace
- Risks new opportunities

**St. Vincent loved this Scripture Passage:** Matthew 25: 31-40

“While the **Christ** of St. Vincent remains ‘Lord’ and ‘Son of God,’ he **lives in the person of the poor. He continues to suffer** in them. Vincent says to the Daughters of Charity on February 13, 1646: ‘**In serving the poor, you serve Jesus Christ... you serve Christ in the person of the poor.**’

Vincent frequently cites Matthew 25 **to reinforce the identification of Jesus with the poor:** ‘So this is what obliges you to **serve them with respect, as your masters, and with devotion:** that **they represent for you the person of our Lord.**’”

(Maloney, Robert. *The Way of Vincent de Paul*. New City Press: NY, 1992, p. 26.)

When have I **welcomed new directions** with grace?

When have I **risked new opportunities** to minister to the poor and vulnerable in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul?

“Jesus, teach me by your example. Make me through the vigor of my efforts, **set the world around me on fire.**” **SVDP**

**Simplicity**

- **Acts upon new directions with faith**
- **Helps to keep the mission self-forgetting**

**Christ said:**

“**Seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, and all those things which you need will be given to you as well.**”

**That is the basis for each of us having the following set of priorities: matters involving our relationship with God are more important than temporal affairs; spiritual health is more important than physical; God’s glory is more important than human approval.**

**(from the writings of St. Vincent de Paul)**

**When have I collaborated with the Vincentian Family to act simply on new directions with faith?**

**Have I kept the Mission of the Ladies of Charity self-forgetting?**

**How?**

**There are no people more constant and firm in doing good... than those who are gentle and gracious. SVDP**

**Nothing is more "other" than you. Nothing more full of the unexpected, the unfamiliar, and the mysterious. Open our hearts to this work we are about.**

**Christ said: "Seek first the kingdom of God and his justice, and all those things which you need will be given to you as well."**

**God of the Inventive, of the Unexpected, of the Unfamiliar and the Unheard Of, open our hearts this day knowing that you are the source of all that exists.**

**Amen!**