

SUPERIOR GENERAL G. GREGORY GAY, C.M.

ADVENT 2015



**During this
season of Advent,
we recall that God
has been faithful
to the promises
made to our
ancestors . . .**

photo: news.niagara.edu



...promises
extended to us as
the people of God
living in the midst
of the world of
2015:

**I will be your God and you will
be my people!**

Leviticus 26:12

My love shall never leave you!

Isaiah 54:10

**I rescued the poor who cried
out for help, the orphans, and
the unassisted!**

Job 29:12

**Behold, I am doing something
new . . . do you not perceive
it?**

Isaiah 43:19

**Everyone who lives and
believes in me will never die!**

John 11:26

**Those who eat my flesh and
drink my blood remain in me
and I in them!**

John 6:56

**I will not leave you orphans; I
will come to you.**

John 14:18

**Behold, I am with you always
until the end of the age.**

Matthew 28:20



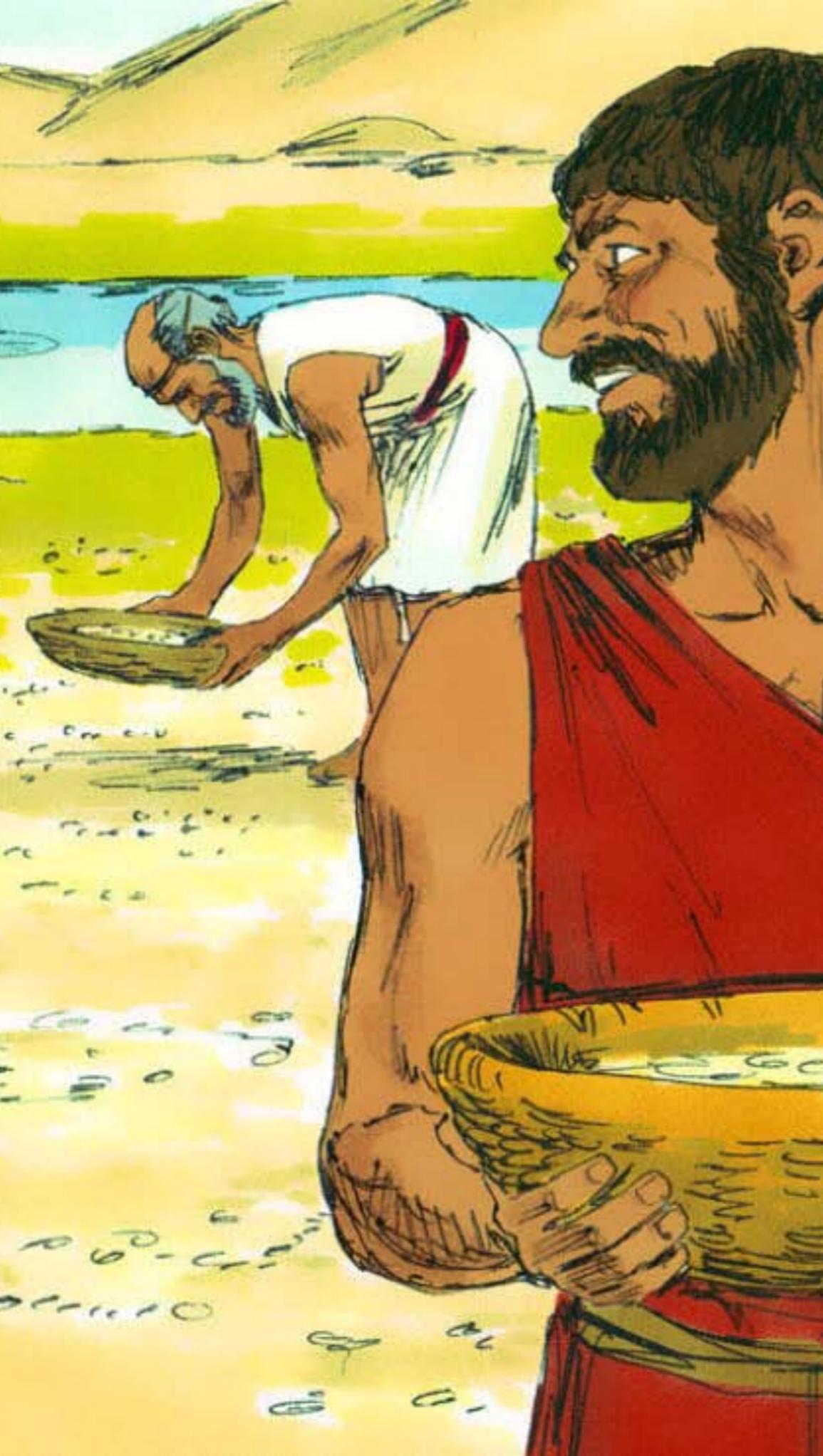
God established
a covenant
relationship
with
humankind



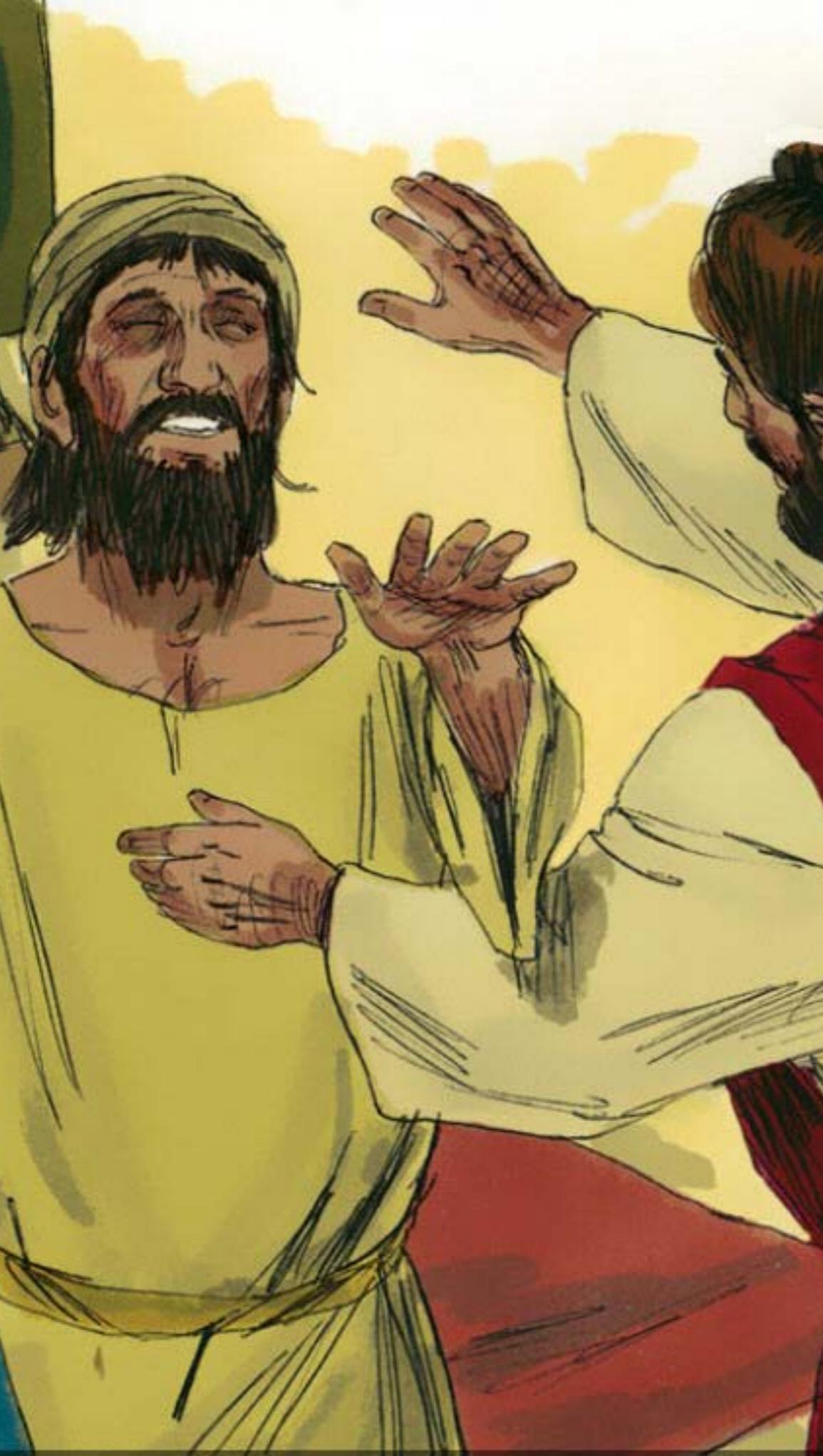
God was present,
listening to the
cries of His
people enslaved
in Egypt



God was present,
as they crossed
the Red Sea to
begin their
journey through
the wasteland



God was present,
providing them
with manna in
the desert; water
flowed from the
rocks in their
time of need



**God was present,
physically in the
person of Jesus,
as teacher and
healer and
comforter**



**Now we must
be present**

photo: SVDP Phoenix (www.stvincentdepaul.net)



**We, as
Vincentians,
are called to
continue the
mission of
Jesus Christ**

photo: aic.ladiesofcharity.us



by proclaiming
the Good News to
those people who
are marginalized
and living on the
peripheries of
society.

photo: vpmc.org

Maison
St Vincent

FR. GREGORY GAY

A MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE:

MADAGASCAR

2015



photo: Nuntia, Congregation of the Mission May-June 2015



“I had to travel for two days over some of the worst roads I have seen during my eleven years as superior general...”



“I was unable to travel this distance by myself since I had no familiarity with the roads; others had to accompany me.”

photo: YouTube: drustvoskam



“I had the privilege to celebrate the Eucharist with the people of that community... I preached my homily in English, which was then translated into Malagasy.” [with the help of others]

photo: YouTube: drustvoskam



“Father Anton and those who ministered with him were mediators in bringing to fulfillment the promises that God and our Founders had made to the people of Madagascar.”

photo: YouTube: drustvoskam



**What can we
learn from this
missionary
experience?**

photo: Stane Kerin, MSS



In order to fulfill our promise to be the servants of those who are forgotten and abandoned and cast aside, living in the midst of poverty and misery, we must travel along some difficult roads, take risks, and allow ourselves to feel uncomfortable.

photo: YouTube: drustvoskam



We must collaborate with others in order to be effective.

This could mean surrendering control and power, being willing to compromise, and inviting the poor to be equal partners in decision-making.

photo: YouTube: drustvoskam



**“You are for us the
sacred image of the
God we cannot see.”**

Frederic Ozanam

photo: Stane Kerin, MSS



**“Can we remain
passive in the midst
of a world which is
suffering and
groaning?”**

Frederic Ozanam

photo: Stane Kerin, MSS



May God bless us all as we celebrate this season of Advent, a time in which God fulfills the promises that were made to our ancestors and that are renewed in this present era...



...a time in which
God fulfills those
promises by using
us as humble
instruments and
zealous ministers.

Your brother in Saint Vincent,

G. Gregory Gay, C.M.

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Superior General

presented by

