

Vincent and the Incarnation:

Jesus in all persons and in all things



He humbled Himself to share in our humanity...

- St. Vincent adored, in the Incarnation and Eucharist, God abasing himself to our level and becoming like unto us.
- The 28 days of Advent are a special time where God draws us close into relationship, a time when we remember how God entered human history in human flesh as Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Emmanuel, "God with us."

Continuing Presence

- While Jesus was living on the earth, He focused all His thoughts on the salvation of souls. Vincent believed that Jesus **“still continues to come to us every day for this same reason.”** XI.74
- Vincent adored the Savior **who is present every day in the world and in human beings.**

Eternal Mystery

- **The Incarnation is not an event of the past.** Christ wants to be active among us. He still pursues His work of salvation, of healing. **He comes to us in the person of the poor,** in order to build up, in order to edify, in order to bring to completion, our salvation!

Jesus Always

- Jesus always, Jesus everywhere, Jesus in all persons and in all things; such was Vincent's doctrine, his morality and his policy, and this he loved to express in one phrase:

“Nothing pleases me but in Jesus Christ.”

Jesus in All

Vincent saw Jesus in everyone he encountered.

- Vincent saw Jesus: as infirm and agonized, in the sick and dying



Jesus in All

- as workman, in the artisan
- as a divine merchant, in businessmen
- as poor, in the poor
- as prisoner, in prisoners

Jesus in All

- as master and sole doctor, in doctors of divinity
- as king of kings and judge of judges, in princes and magistrates
- as little, in the lowly

Jesus in All

- as great and noble, in royalty



Jesus in All

- as bishop and prince of pastors, in bishops
- as high priest, in priests



Jesus in All

- as Supreme Pontiff,
in the person of the
Pope



God's Special Presence in the Poor and Lowly

- Vincent had respect and tenderness for all classes of men, but especially for all those whose lowliness and suffering presented a greater resemblance to the God annihilated, to the suffering Christ



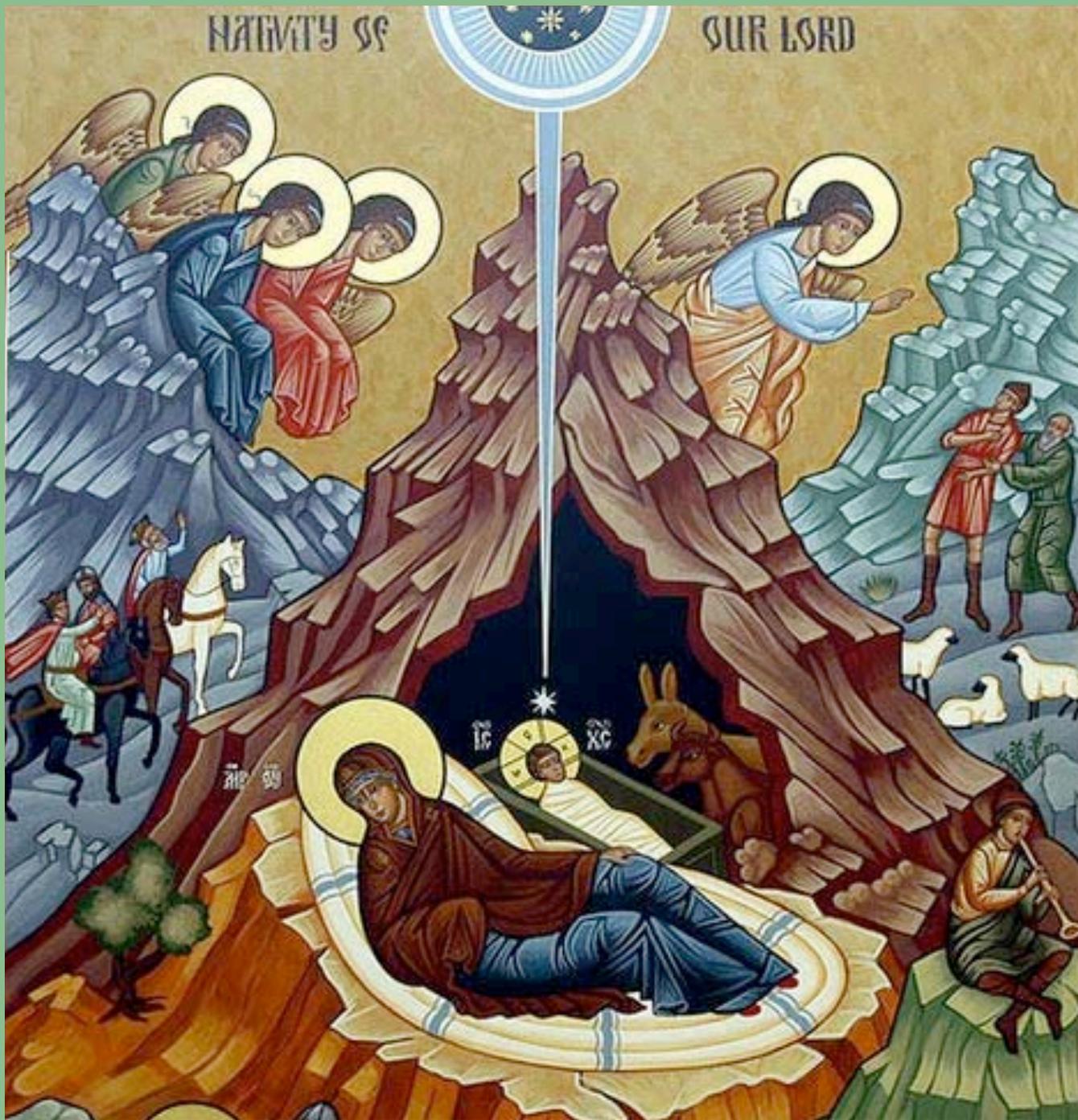
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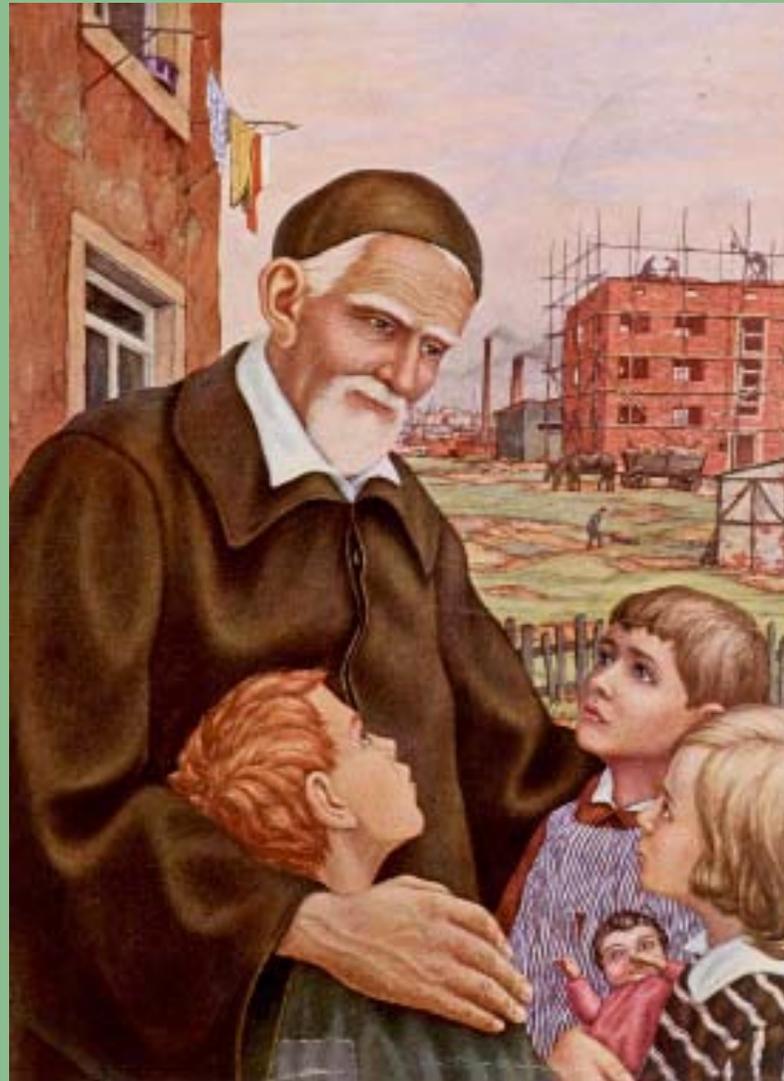
Incarnation



Incarnation

Philippians 2.1-11

“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bend, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”



Text based on Virtues and spiritual doctrine of St. Vincent de Paul by Michel Ulysse Maynard, p. 75, and Vincentian Spirituality: A Correspondence Course, by Sr. Elizabeth Charpy, DC