

**ENCOUNTERING CHRIST: See the face  
of CHRIST; Be the face of Christ**



**The Annual Gathering of Members of  
THE VINCENTIAN FAMILY**  
in the Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg

**Saturday April 18, 2026  
9:00 am to 3:30 pm at  
St. Ursula Church – Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish**



## SCHEDULE

9:00 am Mass for 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Easter in church

9:30 am Check in and simple coffee break in hall

10:00 am Welcome and Table Introductions,  
Opening Reflection and Sharing on  
*"The Call"*

11:00 am Return to church: private prayer before  
Tabernacle and opportunity for Confession

12:00 noon Break and Boxed Lunches in hall

1:00 pm Father John Forbidussi speaks on  
"Encountering Christ: See the Face of Christ, Be the  
Face of Christ"

Time for Quiet Reflection

1:45 pm Small group / Table sharing

2:30 pm Large group sharing  
Upcoming news announcements and  
activities from the Family Branches

3:00 pm Closing Prayer

## Opening Prayer

**Leader:** God of passion and encounter, swirl around us. Move within us. Draw us into the sacred center of stillness and quiet as we open our hearts to your presence.

**ALL:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Prayer of the Vincentian Family

Lord Jesus, You who willed to become poor,  
Give us eyes and a heart directed  
toward the poor,  
Help us to recognize You in them –  
In their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness  
and their misfortune.

Enkindle within our Vincentian Family  
unity, simplicity, humility and the fire of love  
that burned in St. Vincent DePaul.  
Strengthen us, so that faithful to the practices  
of these virtues,  
we may Contemplate You, and serve You in  
the person of the poor, and may one day be  
united with You and them in Your Kingdom. Amen.



## “The Call”

There is a need we all feel to be a part of something larger than ourselves. So much of our energy as human beings goes into finding that connection with something larger. We have a deep need for identity. Belonging to something larger is a way of telling ourselves, “This is who I am.”

Some of the most powerful calls that we may receive in our lives, the calls that come from the deepest places in ourselves, are not summonings but more like awakenings. They call us to attention.

There is a background call of which all other calls are an echo: the call to respond to the love that created us by being lovers of all that is created.

So, we are here on earth in part because of love, because the world has value, and we have value, and we wish to nourish and succor this. We are here because of this unique gift that only each of us can give to the world, each of us in our own way. I cannot love the world for you or sacrifice you for its wellbeing. Only you can do that for yourself, as only I can do that for myself. Only each of us can give the unique gift of love inherent in our individuality. This is our primal call.

The call actually comes from the person standing in front of you, who in their heart of hearts is saying: “Will you be kind to me? Will you value me? I am valuable after all. Will you see the sacred in me?”

It is my action in response to that call that draws me into a loving space. It is what opens me to experience the background call of the universe (of my life). What is background? What is foreground in my life? Should the background become the foreground?

Your calling is to be here. There is no higher mission, for each of us is a gateway that can open to allow the Beloved, the Christ, to step through. To give expression to the Beloved, to be that gateway, is why the universe appeared. It is the ultimate CALL.

--David Spangler



*For personal reflection and table sharing on The Call:*

- *What stood out for you? Did something call you to attention?*
- *Is what you read pertinent for your call to serve in charity?*
- *How can you/we practice the nourishment of love in daily personal encounters?*

# ENCOUNTERING CHRIST: *See the face of CHRIST; Be the face of Christ*

My notes on Fr. John's talk:

*For personal reflection and table sharing:*

- *How do you “see the face of Christ” in the people you serve or encounter today?*
  
- *How do you “be the face of Christ” to others in difficult or messy encounters?*
  
- *In what ways does serving the poor transform your own spiritual life and help bring you to “encounter Christ” more?*

*Is there any specific Gospel story or Bible verse that guides your approach to Vincentian service?*

## Closing Prayer

**Leader:** Let us center ourselves, relaxing in Christ's presence within us and around us.

~ ~ Pause ~ ~

**All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### Litany of the Vincentian Family

**Leader:** Lord, have mercy. **Response:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** Christ, have mercy. **Response:** Christ, have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord, have mercy. **Response:** Lord, have mercy.

<b>Leader:</b> Holy Mary, Mother of God, Holy Mary, Mother of the Poor, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Catherine Labouré, St. Justin de Jacobis, St. John Gabriel Perboyre, St. Francis Regis Clet, St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, Bl. Frédéric Ozanam, Bl. Rosalie Rendu, Bl. Marta Wiecka, Bl. Lindalva Justo de Oliveira, Bl. Ghebre Michael, All Martyrs of the Vincentian Family,	<b>Response:</b> Pray for us.
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**Leader:** For the spirit of humility and simplicity,

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For a heart of compassion for the suffering,

For the grace to see Christ in the poor,

For the unity of all branches of our family,

For the courage to serve those who are abandoned,

**Leader:** Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**Response:** Spare us, O Lord.

**Leader:** Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**Response:** Graciously hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,

**Response:** Have mercy on us.

**Leader:** Pray for us, all holy men and women of the Vincentian  
Family.

**Response:** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray together:

O God, who moved St. Vincent and St. Louise to dedicate their lives to the service of the poor and the formation of the clergy, grant that we, who are inspired by their examples, may be filled with the same spirit of charity and zeal. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# ~ Notes ~

