

# SVdP



## WORDS OF ST. VINCENT THAT TELL US WHO WE ARE

For the next few Reflections we will focus on five of Vincent's "words."

***I will always welcome joyfully any opportunity that comes my way to be of service to you.*** St. Vincent V.4, Letter 1231

Joyfully. We are joyful. When that call comes to meet the needs of the poor at an inconvenient time – we are at dinner ourselves, the football game is in the 4th quarter, we took the last two calls, where is everyone else? We all know that sometimes, we'd just rather stay home. But we also know that the joy comes when we actually meet our brother or sister who places such hope and trust in us to help them. Joy has nothing to do with balloons and grins. Joy has to do with our awareness that God lives deep down inside us. This is the God who said, "I have come that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete." John 15:11. It is in that joy that that we will welcome joyfully any opportunity to serve our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

Pope Francis tells us in his encyclical the "Joy of the Gospel" that without God's Spirit leading us, we risk becoming "sourpusses." paragraph 85, He urges us to live in the joy of the Gospel and to share that Gospel with everyone we meet.

Sister Rosalie Rendu became a mentor to the founding members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. She taught them how to make home visits and met with them after those visits. During one of those visits, she said to them, "*Love the poor. Remember that the poor are more sensitive to your behavior than to what you bring them.*"

Jesus calls us in Luke's Gospel to bring "Good News to the Poor." No matter what we take to the Poor or can't take, we can take the Good News of joy.

### **What does this mean for us and our service?**

Peace and Grace.

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