Weavers of Hope or Bearers of Light in a Wounded World

Feast of St. Vincent de Paul
September 27, 2026

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: They'll Know We Are Christians (By Our Love)
(*or song of your choice*)

LEADER:

On this feast of St. Vincent de Paul, we gather as one Congregation, across continents and cultures, united by the charism entrusted to us.

We gather with grateful hearts for the witness of St. Vincent, who taught us that the love of God and the love of the poor cannot be separated. God invited us to recognize Christ in those who suffer and to allow the needs of our sisters and brothers to touch our hearts and move us to compassionate action.

Today, we bring before God our wounded world.

We remember those who lost their lives and those whose lives were forever changed by the events of September 11, 2001. Twenty-five years later, the memory of the nearly 3,000 people who died remains a call to remembrance, reconciliation, peace, and service.

We remember the people of Nepal and Tibet, and all communities affected by devastating floods and other calamities - those who have experienced loss of life, destruction, displacement, and the uncertainty that follows disaster.

We pray for all those affected by war and violence, especially the people of Iran, Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Lebanon, and all places where conflict continues to claim innocent lives.

Let Us Pause in Silence

We bring before God those whose suffering may never make the headlines:

- people living in poverty and hunger;
- migrants, refugees, and displaced families;
- victims of violence, trafficking, and exploitation;
- those who experience discrimination, isolation, and loneliness;
- children and families living amid war and instability;
- communities suffering from ecological devastation and natural disasters;
- workers whose dignity and livelihoods are threatened;
- those who feel forgotten, abandoned, or without hope;
- and all those whose human dignity is threatened by indifference, injustice, exploitation, or the misuse of technology.

Let Us Pause in Silence

We are mindful of Pope Leo's message in *Magnifica Humanitas*: to safeguard the dignity of every human person and to work together for the common good.

As we pray, let us place before God the wounds of our world and open our hearts to become weavers of hope and bearers of Christ's light.

Let Us Pause in Silence

SONG: Christ Be Our Light
(*or song of your choice*)

SCRIPTURE READING:

"Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'" *John 8:12*

Let Us Pause in Silence

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE/LAMP

LEADER:

Jesus is the Light of the world.

This light represents Christ - the Light who enters the darkness of our world, who remains with us in our suffering, and who calls us to carry light to others.

As we light this candle/lamp, we place before Christ the needs of our wounded world.

We light it:

- for those who died on September 11, 2001;
- for those who continue to suffer from the wounds and consequences of that tragedy;
- for the people of Nepal and Tibet and all communities affected by floods, destruction, and displacement;
- for victims of war, violence, trafficking, exploitation, and poverty;
- for migrants, refugees, and displaced families seeking safety and a place to call home;
- for children and families living amid war, fear, and instability;
- for girls and women denied education and the right to make their own choices about their bodies, lives, and futures free from control, force, and violence;
- for those who feel forgotten, abandoned, or without hope;
- for all whose human dignity is threatened by poverty, injustice, exploitation, indifference, or the misuse of technology;
- for those who work each day to bring healing, justice, peace, and dignity to others;
- for all who dedicate their lives to serving humanity;
- and for all the needs of our world.

Let Us Pause in Silence (5 minutes)

May this light remind us that even in the deepest darkness, Christ is present.

May it also remind us that we are called to be light for one another.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

God of light and mercy, we thank you for the witness of
St. Vincent de Paul, whose life showed that every person is worthy of love,
dignity, and care. Make us instruments of your healing.
Where there is darkness, bring light;
where there is despair, bring hope;
where there is division, build bridges.
Give us eyes to see Christ in every person who suffers,
hearts moved by their pain, and hands ready to serve.
Inspired by St. Vincent, help us build communities, protect
creation, defend human dignity, and leave no one forgotten.
May the light of Christ shine through our lives
and bring love, healing, and peace to our wounded world.
We entrust to you all for whom we have prayed.
Hold them in your mercy and strengthen those who serve them.
We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SONG: We Are Called
(*or song of your choice*)