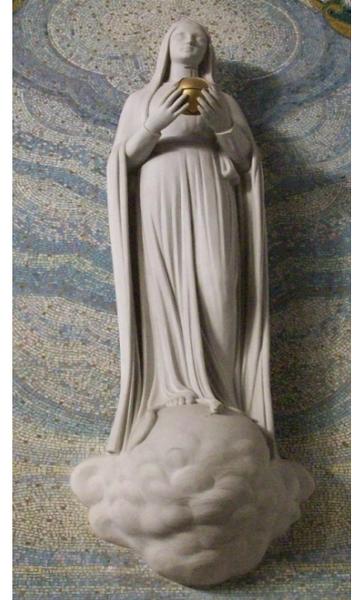


A Selfless Space

Opening Prayer

*Mary, Mother of God and our Mother,
we gather now as members of the AIC,
committed to serving those in need. Guide our
thoughts and discussions this evening, so we
may become more like you and your Son Our
Lord.*



Mary is the selfless face, where God became man.
She is the silence, in which God's word can be heard.
She is the free woman, subject to none, not even the powers of evil.

Mary is the image of the church.
Her self-effacing service will guide you to the Lord.
Her faith and fidelity are a model for your life.

Mary has trodden the paths of our human existence.
She has gone through darkness and suffering
Through the abyss of loneliness and pain.

Mary is the little creature, through whom god's grandeur cries out.
She is the poor one, filled with divine riches.
She is wholly grace and grace for you.

(Rule for a new Brother)

This sentiment reflects the message given to the Vincentian Family through Saint Catherine and portrayed in this picture of the Virgo Potens in the Rue de Bac chapel. We see Our Lady holding up the needs of the world to God.
Mary is the one who offered her life to God completely.

She is the Immaculate One, totally open to the Spirit, she is the humble, faithful servant of the plan of God. Our Lady is a true Icon for us as Vincentian women. Imitating her will bring us close to God and close to those in need.

AIC Reflection

Reflection

- Mary is the free woman, subject to none, not even the powers of evil
 - How free am I?
 - What is stopping me from being free?
 - Think of one concrete step you can take to become free?
- How self-effacing is my service to others?
 - Am I secretly looking for approval or reward?
- Mary is the silence in which God's word can be heard
 - Do I take time to be quiet?
 - Do I give God's word a chance to be heard?
- Mary is the humble servant of the plan of God
 - Am I attuned to God's plan or following my own agenda?

At the annunciation Our Lady grasped a fundamental truth:

Nothing is impossible to God

Concluding Prayer

Let us present Our Lady with our needs, the needs of the people we serve and the needs of the world at this time, as we pray a decade of the Rosary. Let us pray the first decade of the joyful mysteries: the Annunciation.

