

Servanthood

Opening Prayer

Compassionate God, through Jesus you taught us charity that was abundant, fearless, tender and effective. May I learn from Jesus, so that my charity may be more Christ like in action and attitude.



In the Beginning Vincent explains:

The Words of Vincent

Some devout young women and virtuous inhabitants of Chatillon–les-Dombes have decided among themselves to assist spiritually and corporally the people of their town. The group will be called a Confraternity of Charity and the women will be called **Servants** of the Poor. (Coste Vol.13b; p 8)

The Words of Scripture

John 13: v 12-15

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments again he went back to the table. Do you understand he said what I have done to you? If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.

This attitude of Servant is clearly outlined in Louise's words

The Words of Louise

Above all, be very gentle and courteous toward your poor. You know they are our Masters and that we must love them tenderly and respect them deeply. (SWL p320) and were echoed again by Vincent.

The Words of Vincent

She will do all this as lovingly as if she were serving her own son- or rather God, who considers as done to himself the good she does for persons who are poor (Coste Vol 13b; p13)

Charitable acts need to be done with a charitable attitude, an attitude of servant.

AIC Reflection

Reflection

- ❖ How gentle am I with those I serve...particularly the ones I find unattractive?
- ❖ How are my interactions with my co-workers? Can I be more humble and co-operative?
- ❖ Is my service 'done to others' or is it 'done with them'?
- ❖ How can I empower the person who is in need?
- ❖ In my charitable acts, am I looking for approval...from others...from those who are in need...or from God?
- ❖ What small concrete step can I take to improve my attitude of Servant?

Words of Scripture

Luke 1: v38

I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your Word.



Closing Prayer

Loving God, help us to be like Mary. Let our lives be acts of humble acceptance of your will. Let us be your Servants to those who we find in most need. For this large task we need your generous grace. Be with us Lord in our charitable actions and in the manner we do them.