Friendship

**Opening Prayer**

Holy Friend, help me to be open to your friendship and to be generous in extending it to others, especially those most in need. May I cherish, share with, and help my friends, companions and AIC sisters along life’s journey.

Vincent and Louise were not just good business partners, they were friends. Their friendship was mature and selfless. It allowed them to work collaboratively at a deep level. Vincent and Louise knew they could count on one another in all circumstances. Louise went to Vincent and told him all that was in her heart. Vincent listened. He would not take away the pain or the worry; he eased it by simply listening. Likewise Louise was a gift and a grace to Vincent. She listened to him and brought gentleness, tenderness, and peace to his heart.

**AIC Training book**

“Following the example of Vincent and Louise and also imitating the early Christian community who were known as being of one heart and mind, we must continue to appreciate the fact that our differences are a treasure that should lead us to an unconditional commitment to our AIC group and to the brothers and sisters whom we are called to serve.” (Nov 2014)

**Tender Words from Louise:**

If your heart has been as steadfast as you tell me, oh, then I will love it with all of mine and even more because, since it is the love of God which produces such effects in it, it must be honoured and cherished. I beg his holy love to fill it completely…..**Let us truly love each other in Him, but let us love Him in each other as we are His** (SWL p158)

**Reflection**

* Think about all your friends, living or dead and thank God for the blessing they were to you.
* Recall when you were a good friend to someone and what that felt like.
* Do you count on God as a friend?
* Are you one of God’s friends?
* What can you do to deepen your relationship with God?

We each have different personalities and ways of working but we should be open to listening to one another and working together.

* How friendly are you with the members of the group?
* What resolution can you make that will help to build up the sisterly atmosphere of the group?



Let us take these words of Louise to our hearts:

**Let us truly love each other in Him, but let us love Him in each other as we are His.**

**Concluding Prayer**

Loving Lord, help is to follow your example by enlarging our hearts. Help us to help one another so that your glory may be known.