



A Vincentian Prayer

*Turn Everything to Love*



# OPENING PRAYER

*Leader:*

*Lord, we ask for the grace to live more deeply as a lay members of the Vincentian Family. In our daily life, give us the wisdom to follow the Rule so that we can love you with all our heart, all our soul, and all our strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.*





Alternate sides:

(A) A Rule is the fruit of experience. It distills the wisdom of those who have gone before us. It is not an abstract document, spinning out a theory about how to live well. Rather it maps out a path to holiness that many have trod. It aims to teach a well-tested way of loving.

(B) The goal of the Rule is to create an environment where we can express what is best within us. The Rule is a spiritual way, it is more wisdom than law. We remember the countless lay men and women who have walked before us in the way of the Lord.

(A) We have known saints—some canonized, most not—people whose lives radiated holiness because the love of God and the love of others, especially the poor, pulsed within them.

(B) The Rule is meant to set us free to love. The Rule says: “Turn Everything to Love.” It wants to create a free and open space in our life where the loving presence of God will touch us with the fundamental mystery of Christianity which is not so much that we love God but that God first loves us.



Reader:



First: The Rule aims to hollow out a sacred place within us. Over its door is engraved the title: “Given to God in Baptism.” It is a space not so much to love God as to be loved by God.

Second: The Rule wants to create a sacred place in our lives where the title reads: “In the Service of Others, especially the Poor.” It urges us to discipline our heart, our mind, and our use of time and energy, so that we can walk with Jesus as a servant of others, focusing on the neediest among us. It is only in accepting God’s love that we can truly love others, and so the Rule recalls again and again that the union of prayer and action is the key to genuine holiness.

Third: The Rule seeks to create a sacred space where the title reads: “A Graced Human Community.” It is a sacred space where we encounter God as we gather together in our Conference, as we listen to our suffering brothers and sisters supporting them in daily prayer and for walking with them through life, and in the sacred space as we come together around the Eucharistic table.



## Together:



Lord, as we reflect and meditate on the Vincentian Rule for Lay Members, give us the grace to reflect on the lives of the wonderful people who have walked before us in our family:

Most sacred heart of Jesus, have mercy on us

Immaculate heart of Mary, pray for us

Saint Joseph, pray for us

Saint Vincent de Paul, pray for us

Saint Louise de Marillac, pray for us

Saint Mary MacKillop, pray for us

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, pray for us

Blessed Rosalie Rendu, pray for us

May the souls of our departed members and all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen



