



## **NOVENA TO ST. VINCENT**

from the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of Australia

These reflections can be used for any board, staff, group, society, meeting, community or as a personal reflection.

# day 1

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“From all eternity, God had His thoughts and designs on you and for you; and from all eternity you were in the mind of God to be in your present state.”

*St. Vincent, 13 February 1646, Conference 24*



Saint Vincent,  
man of deep serenity,  
be with us as we, too, seek to walk in the  
gentle way of Jesus.  
Bless us as we take up our days of service  
in the peace that comes from the loving  
heart of God.  
Amen.

# day 2

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“The spirit of your Company consists of three things: to love our Lord and to serve Him in a spirit of humility and simplicity.”

*St. Vincent, 9 February 1653, Conference 2:206*



Saint Vincent,  
man of great humility,  
be with us as we enter more deeply into the  
simple truth, that Jesus is the creative source who  
energizes all our aspirations and endeavors as we  
minister with people who are poor.

Bless us as we, too, seek to live the reality that  
Jesus is the One in whom our ministry bears fruit.  
Amen.

# day 3

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“Notice that it was the people who, seeing what you are doing and the service that our first Sisters rendered to the Poor, have given you this name which has been kept as most fitting for your way of life.”

*St. Vincent, 4 March 1658, Conference 93*



Saint Vincent,  
man of truth,

be with us as we seek the way of truth that Jesus opened for us while He was with us on His earthly journey.

Bless us as we immerse ourselves in the ocean of truth which opens daily before us. May we always seek the better way of the Spirit's guidance now and always.

Amen.

# day 4

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“Live together as having one heart and one soul so that by this union of spirit, you may be a true image of the unity of God.”  
*St. Vincent to Sr Anne Hardemont 30 July 1651, no. 1389*



Saint Vincent,  
man of equanimity,  
be with us as we learn how to balance our days  
with deep care and grace.  
Bless us as we open ourselves to unity within the  
Trinity, and as we strive to be truly fruitful in our  
ministry to people who are poor.  
Amen

# day 5

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“You have to be ready to go wherever you are told to go...saying, ‘I belong neither here nor there but wherever God wants me to be.’ You are chosen to be at the disposition of Divine Providence.”

*St Vincent, 31 July 1634, IX, Conference 1.*



Saint Vincent,  
man of great **detachment**,  
be with us as we stand in wonder at the depth and  
beauty of God's presence within us.

Bless us as we attune ourselves to God's call which  
often beckons us to remote corners of need and  
deprivation.

Amen

# day 6

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“The Daughters of Charity are not nuns, but come and go like  
seculars.”

*St. Vincent, 7 February 1660.*



Saint Vincent,  
man of great courage,  
be with us as we dare to go into new forms of need  
and poverty.

Bless us as we seek to network globally in order  
that the Father's Will may be done, and His  
Kingdom may come in new and creative ways for  
those in most need.

Amen

# day 7

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“You should not worry about the future; spend what you are accustomed to spend throughout the year, and, if anything is left over, bring it to the Motherhouse to help to form Sisters for the service of the poor.”

*St. Vincent, January 25, 1643, IX, Conference 13.*



Saint Vincent,  
man of God, gifted with sobriety,  
be with us as we enter into the reality that “the  
more” comes only from deepthing the riches found  
in the heart of God.

Bless us as we open ourselves to the abundance  
which comes from the inexhaustible reservoir of  
God’s divine love.

Amen

# day 8

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“You are destined to represent the Goodness of God to these poor people...so you must treat them as this same Goodness treats you, with gentleness, compassion and love, for they are your masters.”

*St. Vincent, 11 November 1657, X, Conference 85.*



Saint Vincent,  
man of self surrender, be with us as we seek  
to mirror the strength and beauty of God's  
enduring love which is basic to all beings.

Bless us as we move to go in justice for the  
oppressed, and compassion for those who need to  
hear of God's eternal graciousness.

Amen

# day 9

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“You must be ready to serve those who are poor wherever you are sent : with the army, as you did when you were called there, with poor criminals, and, generally speaking, wherever you can assist poor persons.”

*St. Vincent, 18 October 1655, X, Conference 71.*



Saint Vincent,  
man grounded in right action,  
be with us as we discern from a global perspective,  
the needs of those who are poor.

Bless us as we listen without prejudice or  
discrimination and recognize anew the face of Jesus  
as He comes to us in our suffering sisters and  
brothers.

Amen