

Module 1: “Lens” of Poverty

Spiritual Reflection:

Since Christ willed to be born poor, he chose for himself disciples who were poor. He made himself the servant of the poor and shared their poverty. He went so far as to say that he would consider every deed which either helps or harms the poor as done for or against himself. Since God surely loves the poor, he also loves those who love the poor. For when one person holds another dear, he also includes in his affection anyone who loves or serves the one he loves...

http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/library_article/253/To_Serve_the_Poor_is_to_Serve_Jesus_St_Vincent_de_Paul.html *This excerpt from the writings of St. Vincent de Paul (Epist. 2546: Correspondence, entretiens, documents, Paris 1922-1925, 7) is used in the Roman Office of Readings for the Feast (liturgical memorial) of Saint Vincent de Paul on September 27.*

In reflection on today’s lessons, who has done a deed to help you in your moment of great need? Who has been there in your life through thick and thin? Who has “held you dear”? For whom have you done a good “deed”? Or for whom have you been there? Or “held dear”?

Share as you desire

In exploring your “lens” of poverty, which lens most surprised you? Why? Was there an incident or life experience that created a filter or blinder for you regarding poverty? i.e. “Our family picks itself up by the bootstraps...we do not ask for help.”

Thank you God for those who do good deeds for others,

R: Let me be a servant of the poor.

Thank you God for those who have been there in our lives,

R: Let me be there for others on this journey of life.

Thank you God for those who held me dear,

R: Let me hold others dear, as you do for me!

Thank you God for allowing me to see and understand my own lens, filters and blinders through which I see the world,

R: Let me see and understand others lens, filters and blinders – because we are on this journey back to you together, as your beloved Children.