

# Spiritual Readings for the month of February 2021

Please choose a reading and questions for reflection.

## **The First Letter of John: 2:3-11**

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; it’s truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother or sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. Are we walking in the darkness or in the light?
2. How do we ensure that we walk in the light?
3. How does this passage relate to our mission?

### **Prayer:**

Lord Jesus help us to follow your example and walk in the light. To love our brothers and sisters as ourselves and minister to them as you would have us do. Teach us to love as you love us and to see you in all we meet. Amen

*Submitted by Vincentian Sr. Denise Irvine-Robertson*

## **Spiritual Reflection – February 2021**

*I was asked to write the reflection for February, and had been thinking about my topic. Last weekend I was in the car and the Phil Collin's song, Another Day in Paradise, came on the radio. It's a song I've always found to be powerful and thought-provoking, and I heard it on my way from doing a call to a Neighbour in Need, so I thought that this might be appropriate for my reflection. Many of you are probably familiar with the song. If you go to YouTube, you can listen to it by entering Phil Collins – Another Day in Paradise. I suggest you watch the Official Music Video. The lyrics to the song are also on another nearby YouTube site.*

### **Another Day in Paradise**

The music in the song suggests a somber mood, with the repetition suggesting that the scene described is one that reoccurs for many of us. While the song references homelessness, it is easy enough for us Vincentians to replace that lyric with thinking about our home visits. Indeed, in our work as Vincentians, we may at times be confronted with a feeling of discomfort or helplessness towards our Neighbours in Need, because the situation may be the same as it was last time, and we may feel it's never going to change. While that may be the case, the cry for help is the same as in the song: "Sir can you help me?" While we may not be changing the Neighbour's situation, we are responding to that call for help through our work. We can "pretend" we can't hear, or we can do what we can. And who knows, our small acts of love may be helping more than we can ever know.

In another part of the song, the narrator cries out "Oh Lord, is there nothing more anybody can do?" and "Oh Lord, there must be something You can say." We are urged throughout the song to "Think about it." If we think about it, and **pray** about it, then I believe that we can arrive at the conclusion that, yes, there *is* something we can do. The Lord has called us and sent us on this mission of service. He has said 'I have chosen you.' Our caring presence to our Neighbours in Need is what we can do.

Another aspect of the song is the title and the oft-repeated line "It's just another day for you and me in paradise." **Just another day** might suggest not considering seriously what we have, a rather blasé approach to God's gift – that is, that each day truly is a gift. While I'm not denying that many of us have faced difficult situations in our lives, if we are honest, we can probably say that we have indeed been blessed abundantly; it's probably one of the prime motivations why many of us volunteer. This may be even more apparent when we look at the situations of many of our Neighbours in Need's. The repeated mention of paradise in the song reminds me to be grateful every day to God - I have so many blessings - with the responsibility to share my gifts.

### **Questions for Reflection:**

1. Does the song speak to you?
2. Can you relate the song to your service as a Vincentian?
3. Are we in Paradise now? How are we called to make this life Paradise?
4. How can I grow in gratitude this Lent?
5. What would you like to say to Our Lord?

*Submitted by Vincentian, Bro. Sal Badali*