

Spiritual Readings for the month of June 2022

Please choose a reading and questions for reflection.

How Do Real Servants Act?

We serve God by serving others.

How can you know if you have the heart of a servant? Jesus said, “You can tell what they are by what they do.”

- Real servants make themselves available to serve: Servants don’t fill up their time with other pursuits that could limit their availability. They want to be ready to jump into service when called on.
- Real servants pay attention to needs: Servants are always on the lookout for ways to help others. When they see a need, they seize the moment to meet it.
- Real servants do their best with what they have: Servants don’t make excuses, procrastinate, or wait for better circumstances. Servants never say, “One of these days” or “When the time is right.” They just do what needs to be done.
- Real servants do every task with equal dedication: Whatever they do, servants “do it with all their heart”. The size of the task is irrelevant.
- Real servants are faithful to their ministry: Servants finish their tasks, fulfill their responsibilities, keep their promises, and complete their commitments. They don’t leave a job half undone, and they don’t quit when they are discouraged.
- Real servants maintain a low profile. Servants don’t promise or call attention to themselves. Instead of acting to impress, they “put on the apron of humility, to serve one another”. If recognized for their service, they humbly accept it but don’t allow notoriety to distract them from their work.

(Source: Warren, Rick. The Purpose Driven Life. Zondervan, pp. 257-264.)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- Which of the acts of real servants appealed most to you? Why?
- Reflect on the acts of real servants. Name one that you would like to personally work on?
- Which of the acts of real servants do you think our SSVP conference need to work on?

Vincentian Ruth Morales from St. Joseph Streetsville, Mississauga

Judging Others

Luke 6:36-38

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” (*Living with Christ – Gospel Reading for Monday, March 14, 2022*)

Reflections

Oftentimes in our home visits we encounter situations that keep us from seeing things as we should or as we hoped. Two Vincentians paid a visit to a family who requested financial help. As they entered, one of the Vincentians noticed that there was an iPhone and a very high-end designer brand handbag on the table. At that very moment, before even starting any conversation, a lot went through her mind. “Wow.... even I could not afford such an expensive handbag....”

Needless to say, when encountering someone whom we thought is not so much in need, we also wrestle in our mind with doubts

- what-if someone is abusing the system?
- I am not judging; I just want to be a good steward of God’s money donated by the parishioners.

For Discussion –

- How can Vincentians get past judgements based on our biases?
- In what ways are we Vincentians prone to judge others harshly? How do Jesus’ teachings help you in the above situation?

Prayer

“Help me, O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearances but look for what is beautiful in my neighbors’ souls and come to their rescue. Help me, O Lord, that my heart be merciful so that I myself may feel all the sufferings of my neighbor. I will refuse my heart to no one.” *St. Faustina (Diary 163)*

Vincentian Bixon Cheung, Prince of Peace Conference