

apostolate in Rome that he either did not initiate or was not involved in. Vincent responded to the **needs of his time** as did others but what was distinctive about Vincent was **his awakening the laity to collaborate**, participate, take their role with clergy and religious in the mission of the Church.

**If repentance means a change of outlook and behaviour, to be an Apostle of the Father how do I need to change?  
How am I sharing in the mission of Jesus?**

### Hymn

**Jesus, Apostle of the Father, God-with-us, Emmanuel  
Make us apostles of Your kingdom bearers of Your love to all  
Jesus, a joy ever new, a joy to be shared  
You send us to preach the gospel to the poor to all creation**

**I have called you from before all time I have called you to be mine  
Follow me and make your home in my word let my love transform your life**

**Jesus, Apostle of the Father, God-with-us, Emmanuel  
Make us apostles of Your kingdom bearers of Your love to all  
Jesus, a joy ever new, a joy to be shared  
You send us to preach the gospel to the poor to all creation**

**Give your life and become bread for the hungry drink to satisfy the thirsty  
Clothing for the naked healing for the sick and new sight for the blind**

**Jesus, Apostle of the Father, God-with-us, Emmanuel  
Make us apostles of Your kingdom bearers of Your love to all  
Jesus, a joy ever new, a joy to be shared  
You send us to preach the gospel to the poor to all creation**

**Then your light will break forth like the dawn your wound be quickly healed over  
The Lord your God will light your way and his glory come behind you**

**Jesus, Apostle of the Father, God-with-us, Emmanuel  
Make us apostles of Your kingdom bearers of Your love to all  
Jesus, a joy ever new, a joy to be shared  
You send us to preach the gospel to the poor to all creation**

## Pallottine Camino to Christmas - Advent Year A Week 2

### Gathering Song

O Saviour come to those who wait  
And open wide the heav'nly gate  
Drop down O clouds like gentle dew  
The One whose love makes all things new  
Oh come, Oh come, Emmanuel  
And save your suff'ring Israel



### First Reading

The prophet Nathan foretold that the royal line of David, son of Jesse, would last forever. But the Royal line was cut down to a stump. The prophet Isaiah recalls the promise and refers to the Davidic line in terms of a shoot (**Nazer** in Hebrew) from the stump of Jesse that was realized in Jesus the **Nazarene**. (Jeremiah 23:5; Zech 3:8) "He will renew the earth with the spirit of God upon Him"(Luke 1:32-37) "In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign for the peoples; Him shall the nations seek, the lord God will make Jesus a king forever; his kingdom will never end" (2 Sam 7:14-16; Luke 1:32-33).

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

There shall come forth **a shoot from the stump of Jesse**, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the **Spirit** of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of **wisdom and understanding**, the spirit of **counsel and might**, the spirit of **knowledge** and the **fear of the LORD**. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with **righteousness** he shall judge the poor, and decide with **equity** for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the **knowledge of the LORD** as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; him shall the nations seek, and his dwellings shall be glorious.

**What gifts of the Spirit or qualities of this ideal King do I need to develop in order to bring harmony into my family and parish community?**

## Gospel

John waiting for The One who is coming, seeks to prepare people for kingdom of God.

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit that befits repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

**John voiced the expectation of the coming kingdom of God and the need to prepare for it, in what area of our lives do we need to repent to prepare the way of the Lord?**

**We have been baptized with The Holy Spirit and with fire. Are we bearing the fruits of that baptism or are we in danger of being cut down?**

### A message from Vincent Pallotti on being sent, being an Apostle:

Rome in the 1820's and our society today are experiencing a massive swing to secularism. In Vincent's time people were leaving the Church in droves and in fact persecuting the clergy and the church. Vincent Pallotti saw the need to make some urgent changes in order to win the Catholic people back to God and especially those who do not know God.

#### **But how? What is the way to the Power Source, a God who is infinite?**

Vincent discovered Romans 8:29 which states he is "predestined to be conformed to the image of the Son, the firstborn of many brethren". Identifying with Jesus in his humanity as his Firstborn Brother, he can reach God, the Power Source.

Jesus was sent by the Father to make the God of love known, to save, to restore God's glory so that we might be fully alive and to draw us into the experience of God's infinite love. Vincent's answer to the problem was to enlist all people and form a Union of people who would all work together according to their own means and talents for the greater glory of God. Vincent's proposed Jesus, the Apostle of The Father, as a model for all of us

on how to live our lives as apostles.

As a consequence, "Jesus is the model of the apostolate of each one of us. As all are called, rather obliged to imitate Jesus, Apostle of the Father, so all in proportion to their condition and state in life, are called to be apostles" and to bear fruit. Vincent said to us, 'Your life has value and purpose, it can be apostolic, you can make a difference, you can share in the mission of Jesus.' The spark for Vincent was God's infinite Love. It was the personal energy source, the burning fire behind all that he did.

**Do you find Jesus, Apostle of The Father as your way to God who energises you to be an apostle?**

Vincent's desire was for total transformation into Christ, Apostle of the Father. Jesus' and before him John, whole identity is in being sent, in being an apostle. "God loved the world so much that he sent his Beloved Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that through him the world might be saved"

Vincent in his **Daily Practical Reminder** says to us, "The more you keep your eyes on Jesus, contemplating him, the more the love of Jesus will grow in you. As the love of Jesus grows in you, the more your confidence in imitating him will increase. Practise it in your thinking and acting and in controlling the affections of your heart. Do it every day.

If you believe in Jesus and strive to imitate him you will overcome your faults, Jesus will take possession of you, extend his life to you. Jesus will live and work in you. Didn't he promise, "The one who has faith in me, will do the works I do and even greater works". He will fill you with himself and do everything in you, as Paul experienced, "I live no, not I, Christ lives in me".

**Look seriously at Vincent's daily practical reminder, are you willing to use it so as to let Jesus live and work through you?**

You get a sense from Jesus and Vincent that apostolate implies DOING, dynamic action. But that doing comes from BEING, the deepest reality of who we are, from the indwelling of God in us. In Jn 14:23 Jesus said, "**All those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home in them.**" Jesus promises something stupendous to us here, that if we love him and keep his word, God dwells in us. Our apostolate springs from this relationship. Jesus wants to energise us, baptize us with The Holy Spirit and with fire, make us apostles like to him, empowered, so that he can work through us, through our eyes, hands, heart and words, by looking, listening and serving others. The apostle, through Jesus, indwells in God and God acts through each one of us.

Vincent following Christ the Apostle was known as the second apostle of Rome as he sought to respond to God's infinite Love and the needs around him. There was no