



Apostles for Today

Reflections and prayers - September 2009

God, the Infinite Love of St. Vincent Pallotti

Prayer

Come, oh Holy Spirit,
speak to my heart, now,
through this meeting with You:
Infinite Love.

Fill me with wisdom and discernment
in order to enter into the mystery of the tender
heart of the Father, who continually
regenerates me through Jesus,
with Love and for Love.

Place in my heart
the desire to love infinitely
with the same intensity
with which St. Vincent loved you
so that I too
become a place of love
and a proposal of love for all. Amen.

Presentation

This month we begin to present you with the text *God, the Infinite Love*, written by St. Vincent Pallotti.

It is a small book, meant for all the faithful, brothers and sisters of our crucified Lord Jesus Christ and is composed of 31 meditations on the Apostles' Creed.

Each article is laid out in a way that follows a constant rhythm of a meditation, with a prayer that is relevant to the theme and then a prayer which is also an offering of oneself; the same pattern is followed in each meditation.

Vincent Pallotti, the author, proclaims the marvels of God at the top of his voice, he enters into a dialogue with Love, a dialogue of reverence, respect, admiration, a fusion of hearts ...

Every word is steeped in contemplation of God. A God who takes care of human existence and who gives life, body, colour, taste to every living being and who creates the marvels of the universe and the beauty of the Earth for humanity.

Through these meditations one plunges into and is submerged in the depths of the soul of the Saint and one comes to know the depth of his faith, the strength of his charity, of his continuous prayer and above all else, of his humility and his infinite trust in God.

The title: **GOD, the INFINITE LOVE.**

There is no more beautiful attribute that one could give to God than that of **LOVE**, for Vincent God is not only Love but he is also **INFINITE LOVE**. He made of the Infinite a style of life.

Frequently he pauses and becomes aware of his existence:

“Who am I before you, my god, and You, day and night, whether I am awake or asleep, whether I think of You, or whether I do not think of You, notwithstanding my ingratitude and sins, with Infinite Love, You always think of me so as to destroy my unworthiness and transform me in You?” (OCC X, 472).

There are many other of his expressions which are written in the “Lumi” (volume X of the complete writings of St. Vincent which contains his spiritual diary), and which spring readily to mind:

“I would love God with an infinite love...I would multiply the works infinitely... Oh love, love, infinite love... infinite Mercy... infinite tenderness and wisdom...”

The preface to the book ‘God, the Infinite Love’, written also by St. Vincent, leads us as it were by the hand to observe the preciousness of life and of each and every thing which God has placed at our disposal.

We read:

“Nobody is capable of profiting from a precious object if he or she does not know its value and the benefit which can accrue from it for oneself and for others; therefore we who are privileged to have the gift of faith amongst so many millions of persons, we need to know or at least to remember according to the illuminations of faith, the infinite love and the infinite mercy with which God has created us and keeps us in being, with which he has redeemed us and sanctified us with the grace of holy Baptism, and if we have lost baptismal grace through sin, God himself who time and time again has been offended by us, sanctifies us again with the sacrament of penance, and he further fills us with his gifts in the sacrament of confirmation, and above all else he sanctifies us with the Holy Eucharist because with infinite love he wishes to glorify us for all of eternity”.

By simply meditating quietly on this presentation one becomes aware of the horizon of his infinite contemplation.

Vincent had truly understood the preciousness of life and of salvation.

Who knows the number of times he took time to contemplate creation together with the mystery of redemption.

The number of times he touched with his hands the sanctifying activity of the Spirit in his “to be among the people”.

He repeats and he repeats again, he stresses and he invents new expressions in order to highlight the preciousness of God’s Infinite Love and of his infinite mercy towards all of humanity.

How many occasions of grace God preparing for us!

Being with Vincent it almost seems as if we are seeing with his eyes the **“guile of God”** in order to save humanity.

Often, this reality leads him to cry out:

You are crazed by Love, oh my infinite mercy...

... oh, my God, I do not understand, I feel your infinite love and your mercy, but I do not understand it, and I forget it at each moment (OCCC XIII, 144).

Vincent leads us to see the sacraments as very special instruments in the hands of God for our salvation and to receive them as such. Everything which was done with Love for us by Him who is Infinite Love.

In the preface Vincent writes: “...in these few pages we will recall those truths of faith which are contained in the Apostles’ Creed...and because

God has done all with love and moved by his infinite mercy for us, ...thus will we pray these prayers in order to know and to recall the infinite love and the infinite mercy of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

The pages which follow are, in effect, meditations and prayers which arise out of his heart and reach into ours so that we in turn reflect them into the hearts of those with whom we are in contact.

Vincent concludes:

“Blessed are those fathers of families, and those Superiors of homes for the sick, residential schools and communities of every kind who in common prayer ...will unite with us in this pious exercise of faith”.

Yes indeed, we are blessed, we will be blessed if this abundance of grace does not fall in vain, blessed are we if we are capable of receiving it and pouring it out in the world of the apostolate.

I would like to conclude by expressing a wish that all, and principally myself, profit from this opportunity to enter into the catechetical and apostolic experience of St. Vincent which is expressed in this text and to make it our own by incarnating it in our daily lives so that it be an instrument of evangelization and of conversion.

Concluding prayer

Let us make the desire of St. Vincent our own and pray together with him:

“My Jesus, communicate to me and to all

All of your Love!

May the universe be all Love.

Fill all things.

May I and all persons

live immersed in Love.

My God, all Love,

in everything Love.

My Jesus,

the proof of the love that you want from me

is that it save souls:

give me all of your life,

all of your energy

in order to bring all people to your Heart. Amen”. (OCCC X,676)