

St Vincent de Paul (1581-1660) Vincent was born in the village of Pouy in France. He is known as the patron of Catholic charities for his apostolic work among the poor and the marginalized. He founded the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians), and with the help of St. Louise de Marillac founded also the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity.



First Reading: (Zech 8:1-8) The word of the Lord of hosts came to me, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath. Thus says the Lord: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts, the holy mountain. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says the Lord of hosts: If it is marvellous in the sight of the remnant of this people in these days, should it also be marvellous in my sight, says the Lord of hosts? Thus says the Lord of hosts: Behold, I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; and I will bring them to dwell

in the midst of Jerusalem; and they shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness."

Ps 101:16-21, 29, 22-23

R./ The Lord shall build up Zion again and appear in all his glory.

Gospel: (Lk 9:46-50) An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. But when Jesus perceived the thought of their hearts, he took a child and put him by his side, and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me; for he who is least among you all is the one who is great." John answered, "Master, we saw a man casting out demons in your name, and we forbade him, because he does not follow with us." But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid him; for he that is not against you is for you.

REFLECTION

The disciples were not free from the temptation of placing oneself as the greatest. The traits of this tendency is seen in the world in varying degrees. As an answer to this temptation Jesus presents a child. A little child offers nothing to make itself great. Even when it has nothing to offer Jesus is asking all to receive such a child. **The attitude of receiving a child without any gain is the sign of greatness.** Accept each other without any expectation and experience the greatness before the Lord.