



## Simple Spiritual Reflection

*The following spiritual reflections focus on our Vincentian lives, both at a personal level and as members of the Society. They delve, among others, into our common bond in serving others; relationships with our neighbours-in-need and with one another; our journey together toward holiness; and the SSVP mission and selected guiding principles and fundamental characteristics.*

*Conference and Councils may consider using them in their future regular meeting.*

### Being Ready to His Presence

*Jesus said to the disciples: "Know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." (Luke 12.39-40)*

Msgr. Owen Keenan, the St. Patrick's Church (Brampton, Ontario) pastor in his Oct. 25, 2023 Daily TV Mass homily highlighted the following:

*The Lord invites us to be alert to His presence so we are not distracted by many things that steal from us our proper humanity, that steal from us our relationship of love with the Lord, that steal from us the grace we need. What we best thought of as attractions, they distract us from that which really matters. That we are so numbed by the amount of options, and the noise, the lights and all of the rest of it, that really it's like as we look back, where did the time go? Our time has been stolen from us. And so, while there's an appropriate place for recreation and an appropriate place for television and all the rest, let's not allow the evil one to steal our time. Let's use it wisely. And recognize Christ when He comes.*

Of the two options given to the slave, Msgr. Keenan pointed we can either do what we want since the master won't notice, and said: *That unless we know who God is as our Creator, unless we know who He is, and devote our time, space, energy and prayer to Him, we won't know who we are. We lose the sense of ourselves, our humanity, our goodness and of our call to discipleship.* Or we can act on what the Master wants and be prepared, as he continued: *That the Lord invites us to be people of prayer, to have our hearts, mind, time and energy open to His presence since He is looking for ways to bless us and inviting us to be ready to serve. After all, it is in giving that we receive, in serving that we open ourselves up to love.*

### Reflection Questions

1. How can you be prudent stewards of time? How do you focus in a world with too many attractions and distractions?
2. What changes would you like to see in yourself this year?

**Let us pray...** Thank you Lord for this new year and the opportunity to start again. Please liberate us from our hold of distractions and worldly concerns. May we focus on what really matters toward drawing us close to You.

*Jose I. Torres, Chair National Spirituality Committee*

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