Seeing him in Every person we meet

Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'The sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the Sabbath; so the Son of God is lord even of the sabbath'. (Mark 2:27-28)

In his Daily TV Mass homily on January 20, 2026, Fr. Vijai Amirtharaj, CSC, of the Archdiocese of Toronto reminded *God challenges us as He did with the Pharisees to look beyond what is visible to the naked eyes, and see the in-dwelling of Him in every person whom we encounter on our journey through life.* He reflected, *it is not always easy for us, and easily said than done. We all have moments when we tend to judge, when we make assumptions about others.*

At times when we struggle with treating and serving others this way, Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) pointed to an encounter with God's love bringing us to the authenticity of serving others. He wrote, *it makes us more human, indeed more human in that it liberates as from narrow self-absorption, A culture of encounter means learning to find Jesus in the faces of others, in their voices, in their pleas.*

Encounters through home visits, especially those to same families and individuals most in need, allow us to forge greater bond with them and to be in deeper knowledge and joy of what God directs us to. As bearers of His compassion and love, Vincentians should always welcome them.

Reflection Questions

1. How can you unblock yourselves from judging others? How can you be more authentic in your relationship with our neighbours-in need?
2. When and how did you find Him in your encounters with our neighbours-in-need?
3. How do encounters with those in need nourish and enrich your spiritual life, our journey together toward holiness?

Let us pray… Heavenly Father, set our hearts and minds to Your working in our lives and in the lives of those we meet. Mold us – through people and situations – into Your design for us individually, into Your likeness and image. Grant us wisdom and courage to work for the salvation of those in poverty and experiencing injustice. Amen.

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For those interested in contributing spiritual reflections, please email jose.torres@rogers.com. Also, for reflections that may be used in your group meeting's spirituality segment, please check out: Monthly Reflections - Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - National Council of Canada