



Pallottine Missionary Sisters

The love of Christ Impels Us

Jesus Christ, Apostle of the Eternal Father

St. Vincent Pallotti often referred to Jesus as “Apostle of the Eternal Father”. A large part of St. Vincent’s spirituality focused on the ministry of Jesus and his own personal desire to die to self and be transformed into the image of Christ. In fact, St. Vincent desired this for everyone for the sake of their salvation.

“My God, through Your mercy, destroy my hardness of heart. Grant me and everyone, together with all the priests, the gift of imitating Your Son Jesus, who, as the Good Shepherd, goes in search of the lost sheep. My God, mercy; most holy Mary, mercy.”
(Opere Complete, III, 176)

Jesus was sent by the Eternal Father so that the promises of the Old Testament could be fulfilled and we would be able to experience God’s mercy and love. Jesus was the Good News, and is, the Good News. His apostolic ministry involved teaching a new way of living the law.

“Jesus Christ is the true Apostle of the Eternal Father. He is the only one sent by the Father to repair the glory of His offended majesty and to redeem the human race. (OO CC, III, 139)

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Mt 5:17)

The life of Jesus was led by acts of mercy, charity, forgiveness, compassion and prayer. In our own efforts to be apostles, Vincent encouraged all people to live out these same virtues.

“We ought to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, the Apostle of the Eternal Father. His life, which was his apostolate, is for all of us the exemplary Apostolate. And since all are called, or better, obliged to imitate Jesus Christ, so all, according to their conditions and state in life, are called to the Apostolate.” (OO CC III, 142)

Finally, scripture tells us that Jesus relied on prayer and his relationship with his Father during his time of ministry. St. Vincent reminds us that if we truly desire to imitate Jesus to the best of our ability we must also rely on our Heavenly Father through prayer.

“Our Lord Jesus Christ, before beginning to preach His heavenly doctrine for our spiritual welfare, retired into the desert where He prayed and fasted for forty days. Here He went so far in humbling Himself that He even permitted the devil to tempt Him three times.

Our of love for Our Lord Jesus Christ, we must strive to imitate Him:

- 1. By love of solitude,*
- 2. By a life of prayer,*
- 3. By a life of mortification,*
- 4. By a life of deep humility and confidence in God.*

(OO CC III, 52)

As apostles of Jesus, let us pray that we can respond, as Jesus would have, in whatever daily situations we encounter.