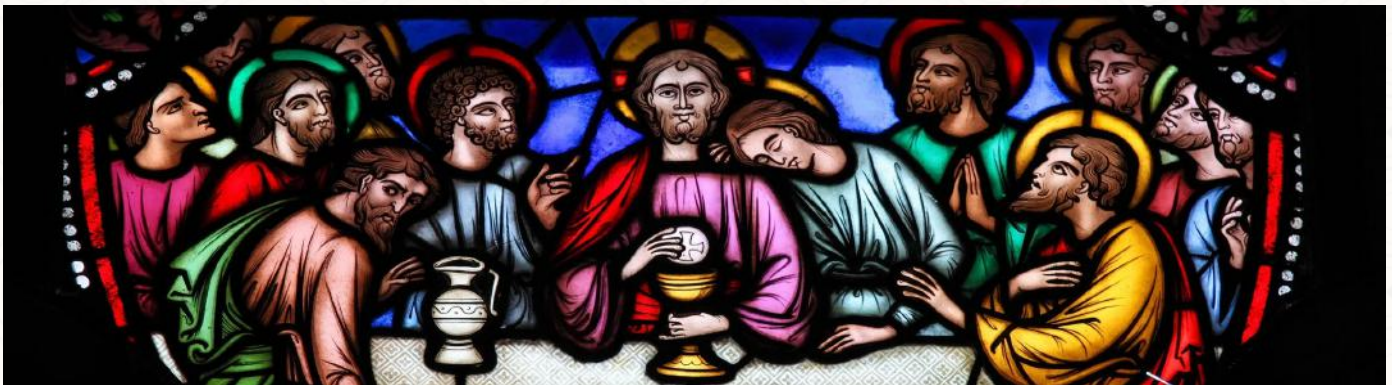


FRIDAY

Zeal

Commandments:

4. Honor your father and mother.



“Zeal is LOVE on fire” to use the phrase often associated with St. Vincent. This ZEAL is an especially important virtue today because we can so easily become what Pope Francis calls, “elegant Catholics.” Where we say our prayers, go to mass, follow the rules—but forget that all of that is secondary to what matters most: BECOMING CHRIST FOR OTHERS! God first, Neighbor second, and then Me. Third.

Zeal is a burning love that moves us to act boldly for God and our neighbors.

"NEVER BE LACKING IN ZEAL, BUT KEEP YOUR SPIRITUAL FERVOR, SERVING THE LORD." (Romans 12:11)

The 4th commandment, honoring father and mother, teaches us to respect those entrusted with authority and care, but zeal takes us further: to pour ourselves out in service, charity, and evangelization. Zeal energizes us to seek justice, to defend the dignity of the poor, to teach the ignorant, and to build up the Body of Christ. It guards against mediocrity, stirring us to live our faith with fervor, generosity, and joyful sacrifice.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Do I honor and respect my parents, elders, and mentors?
- Have I become an elegant Catholic and not attended to my call of serving others or supporting causes that help the poor?
- Have I let myself fall into spiritual lukewarmness - neglecting to nurture and grow in my faith and relationship with the Lord?
- What is stealing my joy and enthusiasm of life?

