

# St. Vincent of Paul,

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Of the incalculably great number of eminently good Christians, whose sanctity has adorned the Church, and whose labors have enlightened and improved the world, none can be said to have a better claim to the reverence and gratitude of mankind than Vincent of Paul. In the Church's long catalogue of honored names, there is not one that has not been illustrated by the most heroic deeds; but, whilst all have bequeathed to succeeding ages, the sweet memories of their stainless lives, whilst the odour of their virtues throughout all time, ascends, like fragrant incense, and even, as a rich propitiatory offering to the dwelling place of infinite mercy, there is no Saint, who by his numerous and enduring works of Charity, has more completely realized the fundamental precept of the law,—that law of grace and love, which wills not that any should ever be excluded from its favor, or forbidden to participate in the full measure of its redemption.

Vincent of Paul had not yet passed the age, at which the occupations, the amusements, the frivolities of childhood, engross the whole being, when he gave proof of qualities which merited for him the blessing of education. It was not until his latent genius became to a certain extent manifest to his intelligent father, that those sacrifices were resolved on, which prepared for the apostleship of truth, one of its ablest champions.

As if conscious of his destiny, Vincent pursued with ardour, those studies from which minds of the highest order have ever sought guidance as well as knowledge, and in due time, obeying the call of Heaven, he joined the ranks of the Christian Priesthood.

And now, a Priest for ever, according to an order more holy than that of Aaron, he will hasten to set forth, with giant power, upon his great career. But no. Like the richest metal that is reserved for the