

## SKETCH OF THE LIFE

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# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, THE MODERN APOSTLE OF CHARITY.

(FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.)

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Many have heard of St. Vincent de Paul, but few perhaps have any idea of the magnitude of his claim to the gratitude and reverence of mankind. A brief and very imperfect outline of a life of eighty-five years spent in the constant exercise of every virtue which can adorn humanity may not be without interest. Vincent was the son of a peasant; he was born at Pouy, in the south of France, in 1576; his early years were spent in caring for the cattle on his father's farm. As he grew up he manifested a capacity for learning, and was placed in a small grammar school in a friars' convent. His studies were continued at Toulouse and Saragossa. To obtain the means to finish his education he opened a school in the neighborhood of Toulouse, and completed his course in the university of that city. He was ordained priest in 1600. A few years later, while on the Mediterranean, he was taken prisoner by African pirates and carried to Barbary, where he was sold to a fisherman and then to a physician, who took a great fancy to him, and did his best to convert him to Mohammedanism. On the death of the physician, Vincent was again sold to a renegade Christian, a quasi Mormon, who had three wives, one of whom, a Turkish woman, went often to the field where Vincent was working and asked him to sing pious songs for her edification. She was much impressed by his saintly demeanor, and reproached her husband so vehemently for his base apostacy, that the