

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 10, 2024

### Gospel: (John 3:14-21)

Jesus said to Nicodemus: *“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have life.”* For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God...Whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

### Reflection:

Jesus is the One raised up and by whom we are saved, we only must gaze on him and believe in him. The light of Christ enables us to see; seeing is believing. But we can only come to the light and believe if we “live in the truth” which is expressed in good works. Light and faith are gifts, and we demonstrate that we accept these gifts when we do good works. God demonstrates great love for us by sending the Son to be lifted up on the Cross and then raising him to eternal life. We demonstrate our great love for God by doing good works. Our good works: reaching out to others, doing our daily tasks for our family with love and care, working professionally and honestly, acting justly and charitably, then our way of being is “lifted up.” This is how we live in the truth, so that our works may be clearly seen as done in God. (Living Liturgy, p.90)

### Vincentian Meditation:

In the Manual for the Society we read: On the occasion of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the canonization of St. Vincent de Paul, Pope John Paul II quoted the famous historian of Christian spirituality, Henri Bremond, about Vincent de Paul: “It was not love for men that led him to sanctity; rather it was sanctity that made him truly and effectively charitable; it was not the poor that gave him to God, but, on the contrary, God gave him to the poor.” God acts in the same way in the lives of all Vincentians. Holiness makes them truly and effectively charitable. It is God who gives them to the poor. (US Manual of the SVDP, p.53)

### Discussion: (*Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence*)

**How have you found that it is “God who gave you to the poor?”**

### Closing Prayer:

Jesus, you urge us to take up our cross, and so we pray:

**-Jesus, we turn to you.**

For the grace to love life and faith into our families,

**-Jesus, we turn to you.**

For the grace to have “God send us to the poor,”

**-Jesus, we turn to you. Amen**

