

Reflection Wednesday Week 25 St Vincent de Paul 2023

He was born in Aquitaine and became a priest. He devoted his whole life to the service of the poor. He founded a congregation of priests for missionary work, groups of laymen to help paupers and galley-slaves, and, with St Louise de Marillac, the Sisters of Charity.

St Vincent inspired our founder, Emmanuel d'Alzon in his work to help the poor and neglected. In fact, the father of one of his followers played an important role in help found the St Vincent De Paul society. Emmanuel d'Alzon came from one of the richest families in France but chose to live very simply. During his training for the priesthood whenever he looked rather dishevelled his mother would buy him new sets of clothes. A few weeks later his mother saw him wearing the same old clothes and asked why. He replied that others had more need of them than he did.

Even at this early stage in his life he looked on those around him, as Jesus did, seeing them as sheep without a shepherd.

- *“If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts.*
- *Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another.*
- *We should spend as much time in thanking God for his benefits as we do in asking him for them.*
- *We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God.*
- *I will always welcome joyfully any opportunity that comes my way to be of service to you*
- *God allows us to give rise to the practice of two beautiful virtues: perseverance, which leads us to attain the goal, and constancy, which helps us to overcome difficulties.*
- *We must love our neighbour as being made in the image of God and as an object of His love.*