

Praxis

Praxis expresses how the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be lived in the world.

Praxis goes beyond theological concepts, doctrine, and the ritualization of reality. Jesus' life and the stories and metaphors in the Gospel, based on human and natural observations, are about serving and healing others.

Dominican priest and theologian Gustavo Gutiérrez wrote:

"To be followers of Jesus requires that we walk with and be committed to the poor; when we do, we experience an encounter with the Lord who is simultaneously hidden in the faces of the poor."

Vincentian Spirituality is not a doctrine, but an encounter. An encounter not with Christ seen in a vision, but with Christ who lives in the poor. The Lord is not hidden in these encounters; the Lord is revealed in these encounters.

St. Vincent de Paul tells us that he had truly found Christ – he heard Christ's voice in the suffering humanity of the poor, he found Christ, he saw Christ in the "other."

The essence of Vincentian Spirituality is an encounter with Christ in the poor; to "leave God for God," to bring the Kingdom of God which exists within each of us into the world by following Jesus, walking in the Lord's steps, and doing as He did; placing oneself at the service of the vulnerable members of society.

The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as ransom for many.

Praxis is embodied in our Vincentian Spirituality, Vincentian Charism and Virtues, indeed, our Servant Leader model.