



Congregation of the Mission
of Saint Vincent de Paul

Novena of St. Vincent de Paul for Migrants and Refugees

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Day 1



More than
500,000
people

crossed the dense Darien jungle in a single year; 1 in 5 were children exposed to extreme conditions and human trafficking networks.

(Source: UNICEF / International Organization for Migration - IOM)

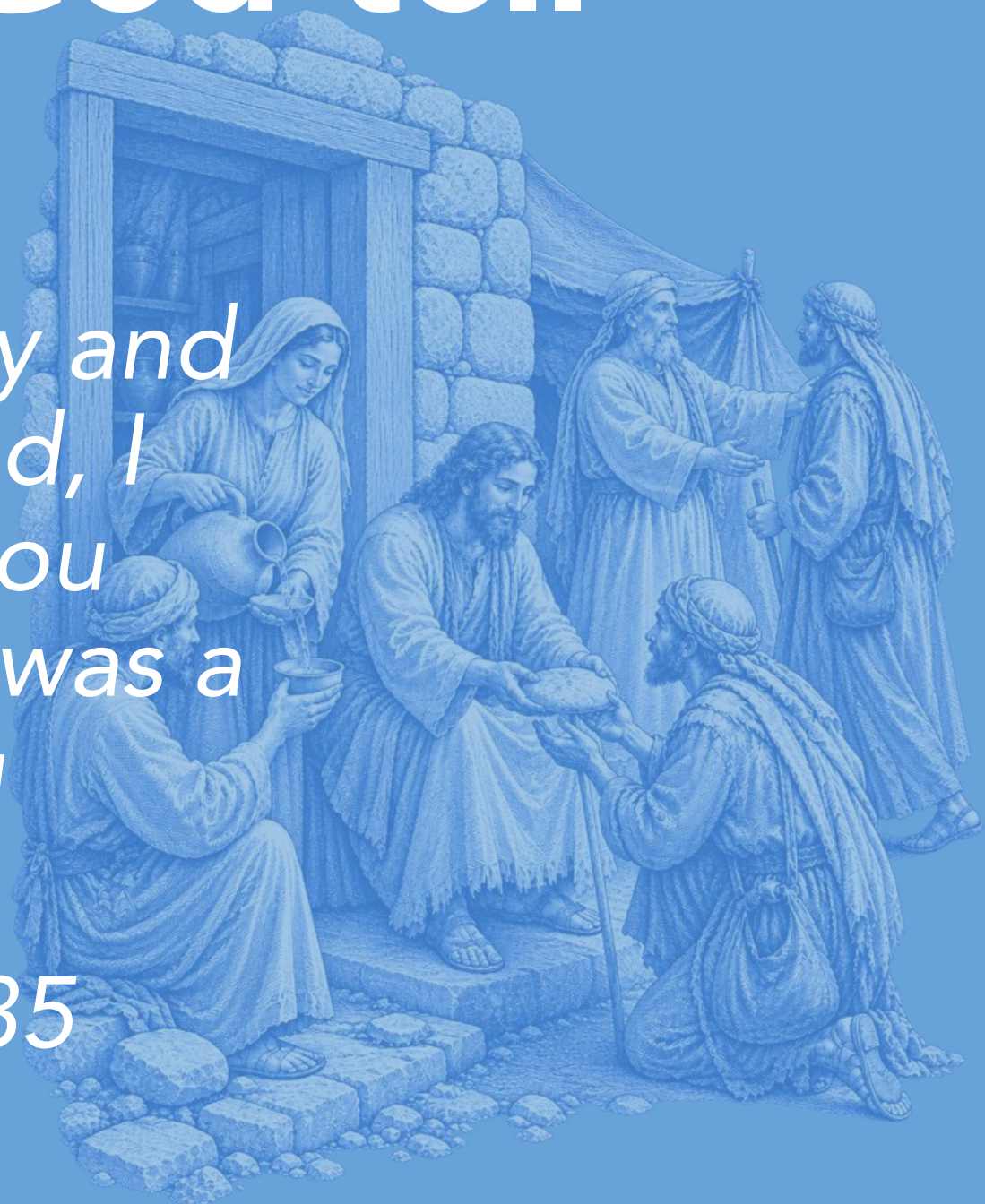
Sometimes the reality of this jungle seems overwhelming, but community prayer knows no borders or impenetrable vegetation: today your prayers become a real refuge and strength for those walking in the darkness.

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

What does the word of God tell us?

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

— Matthew 25:35



Jesus not only taught about welcoming; He Himself lived the exile in Egypt alongside the Holy Family. In the children and families who walk exhausted through the Darien jungle, the Vincentian tradition reminds us that we serve the suffering Christ Himself.



**Let us remember
what St. Vincent
taught us:**

*"We must not judge
the poor or the
strangers by their
appearance, but look at
them in the light of
faith. In them you will
see the living image of
the Lord."*

Let us pray for
*the migrants and
refugees in the Darien
Gap between Colombia
and Panama, especially
for the children crossing
this dangerous path,
risking their lives.*



- *For the protection of the children and families crossing the jungle, that they may find medical help, physical security, and freedom from the abuses of organized crime.*
- *For the migrants who have already crossed the path, that they may work for a dignified life; for their countries of origin, that stability may return; and for the host nations, that they may open their doors and integrate those most in need.*
- *For our own hearts: that they may overcome fear and indifference, and open themselves to the inventive and fraternal charity taught by St. Vincent.*

**Our Father... Hail
Mary... Glory Be...**



The Pope has told us:

"To integrate is to avoid that second shipwreck."

For reflection:

Am I willing to let this prayer transform my indifference and make me see the living face of Christ in every migrant brother or sister?

Final Prayer for Everyday

Lord Jesus, who experienced the fatigue of the road and the lack of a home, look upon our migrant brothers and sisters.

Through the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul, grant them protection on the journey and strength in the trial.

Make us instruments of your charity, capable of transforming prayer into concrete gestures of welcome and integration.

Amen.

Day 2





The border between
Mexico and the United
States is classified as the
deadliest land migration
route in the world,
routinely recording more
than

680 deaths
and disappearances
annually in deserts
and rivers.

(Source: Missing Migrants
Project / IOM)

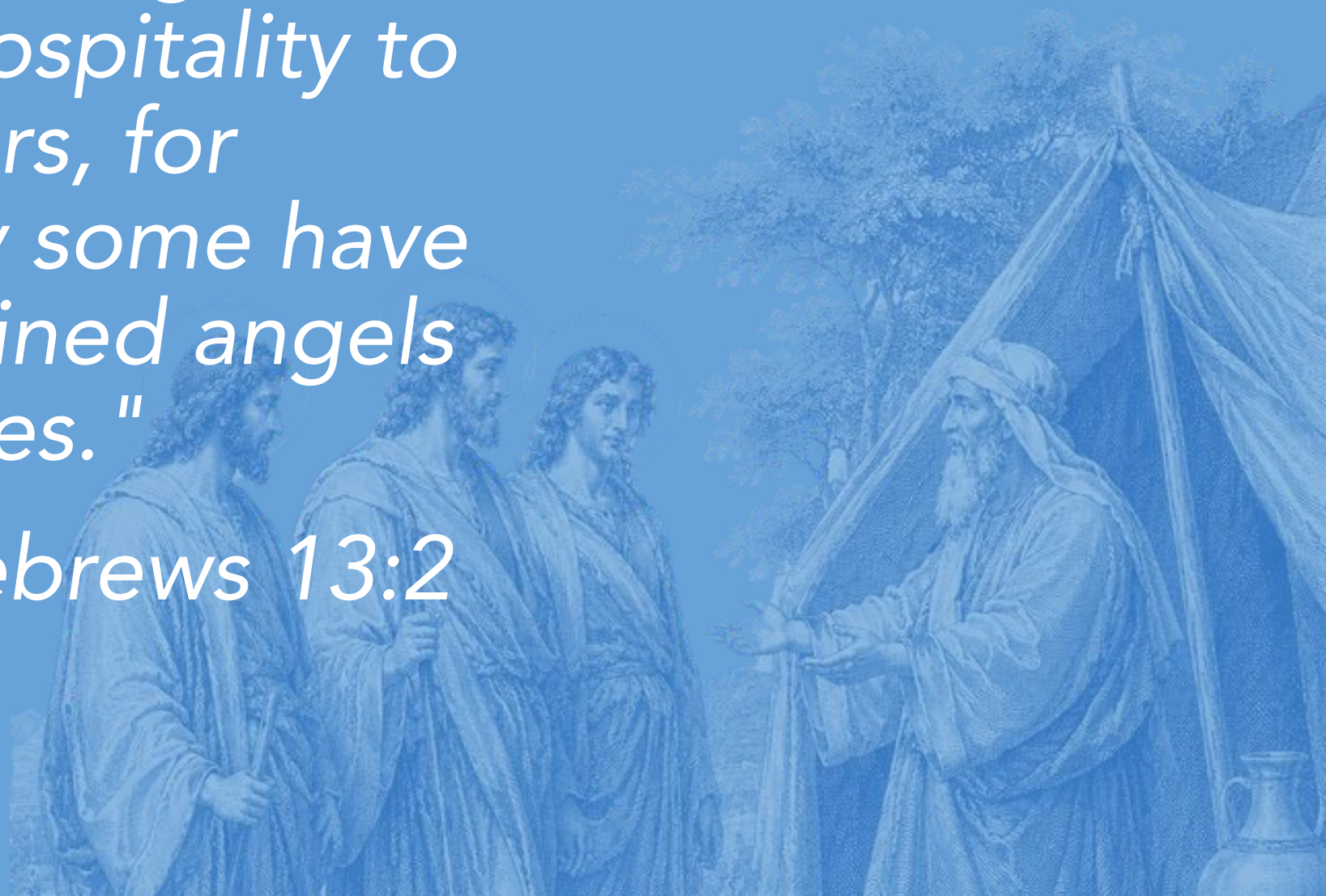
Faced with the harshness
of the desert and the
threat of violence,
community prayer tears
down invisible walls:
today your intentions
accompany the weary
steps of those seeking
protection and dignity in
the north.

† In the name of
the Father, and of
the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

What does the word of God tell us?

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

— Hebrews 13:2



Welcoming the stranger is not a simple act of courtesy, but an authentic encounter with the sacred. In the deserts and border crossings, every human being crying out for help surpasses all earthly labels and carries a divine dignity. In the Vincentian vision, hospitality consists of discovering the face of God in the traveler, turning every humble gesture of welcome into a true experience of salvation.



Let us remember what St. Vincent taught us:

"I understand very well that it is much to be feared, as you say, that by giving asylum in your house to so many refugees, you will soon see yourselves plundered by the soldiers. But it would be a pity if, because of that danger, you refused to practice a virtue as beautiful as charity."

Let us pray for
*the migrants transiting the
corridors of Mexico toward
the northern border, exposed
to kidnapping, extortion by
criminal networks, and the
extreme temperatures of the
desert.*



- *For the life and integrity of the brothers and sisters crossing rivers and deserts, that they may be preserved from organized crime and violence.*
- *For those who have reached their destination, that they may find decent employment and fair treatment; for their countries of origin, that they may overcome poverty; and for receiving countries, that they may legislate with a humanitarian spirit.*
- *For our own hearts: that we may become a voice of denunciation against injustices and a close refuge for those in need.*

**Our Father... Hail
Mary... Glory Be...**



The Pope has told us:

"Dear migrants: before saying any other word to you, I want to bow before your dignity. You are not numbers or files. You are people with a family and a home left behind; with dreams that no one has the right to despise."

For reflection:

Do I usually look at people on the move as mere numbers, news, or debates, or am I willing to bow before the sacred dignity of their stories, their families, and their dreams?

Final Prayer for Everyday

Lord Jesus, who experienced the fatigue of the road and the lack of a home, look upon our migrant brothers and sisters.

Through the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul, grant them protection on the journey and strength in the trial.

Make us instruments of your charity, capable of transforming prayer into concrete gestures of welcome and integration.

Amen.

Day 3



More than **22,000 people**

have perished or disappeared in
the waters of the Central
Mediterranean since 2014, making
it the deadliest maritime route on
the planet.

(Source: United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees -
UNHCR)



Faced with the silence
of the ocean and the
tragedy of oblivion,
faith summons us to an
act of transcendent
intercession: today our
united voices cry out to
Heaven for the lives of
those navigating adrift.

**† In the name of
the Father, and of
the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

What does the word of God tell us?

"Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

— 1 Peter 4:9-10



Authentic hospitality consists not only in opening a door or a border, but in widening the heart to welcome without reservation or complaint. For the Vincentian tradition, the gifts and resources we possess are not privileges to hoard, but sacred goods entrusted by God to alleviate the suffering of those who have lost everything. Welcoming a brother or sister on the move with promptness, respect, and joy is not a favor we grant; it is faithfully administering the love and grace that God pours out on all humanity.



**Let us remember
what St. Vincent
taught us:**

*“Would there be no way
to gather them together
to console and instruct
them? They do not
understand our language
and I see them as
abandoned; this is what
grieves me most and
produces a feeling of
compassion for them.”*

Oremos por...

Let us pray for the thousands of men, women, and children who risk their lives in the waters of the Central Mediterranean, and for those who suffer torture in detention centers before embarking.



- For the protection and timely rescue of boats in distress, and for the immediate end of abuses and arbitrary detentions on the transit coasts.
- For the survivors who manage to reach Europe, that they may find a welcome free of discrimination; and for the nations of origin, that social peace may be reborn.
- For our community: that the fire of the Vincentian charism may impel us to defend the inviolability of all human life.

**Our Father... Hail
Mary... Glory Be...**

The Pope has told us:

"We cannot get used to counting the dead. Human dignity has no passport nor does it lose value when crossing a border."

For reflection:

Have I allowed habit to anesthetize my capacity to grieve over so many lost lives, or do I recognize that the sacred dignity of each person is worth exactly the same before God, regardless of their origin, border, or passport?



Final Prayer for Everyday

Lord Jesus, who experienced the fatigue of the road and the lack of a home, look upon our migrant brothers and sisters.

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Make us instruments of your charity, capable of transforming prayer into concrete gestures of welcome and integration.

Amen.

Day 4



It is estimated that more than

**300,000
migrants**

from the Horn of Africa cross
annually into Yemen,
traversing a country plunged
into a devastating armed
conflict to try to survive.

(Source: UNHCR / IOM)



Even in the midst of
lands marked by war,
divine providence
manifests itself where
there are hearts that
pray: today our prayer
becomes shade and rest
for the travelers of the
desert.

**† In the name of
the Father, and of
the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

What does the word of God tell us?

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God."

— Matthew 5:9



Working for peace is not a passive desire, but a courageous action that protects life where violence seeks to extinguish it. Those traversing war-torn territories are not just fleeing conflict; they are tireless seekers of peace and a safe future for their families. For the Vincentian tradition, being artisans of peace means stepping out of our comfort zones to accompany and defend those exposed to crossfire, remembering that in the face of the one who suffers the horror of weapons, the highest calling of every child of God is revealed.



Let us remember what St. Vincent taught us:

“The end to which you must tend is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ, the servant of the poor, in children to honor his infancy, in the needy poor, as in the Name of Jesus and like those poor people you assisted when they came to take refuge in Paris because of the wars. This is how you must be ready to serve the poor in all the places where you are sent.”

Let us pray for

the Ethiopian and Somali migrants transiting the Red Sea route and Yemen, exposed to malnutrition, thirst, and armed violence without access to humanitarian aid.



- For the physical preservation and vital sustenance of those traversing open war zones in the Arabian Peninsula.
- For those who manage to reach their destination, that they may not be exploited in informal work; and for an end to the crises that expel families from the Horn of Africa.
- For ourselves: that we may recognize in the service of the helpless the *raison d'être* of our Christian faith.

**Our Father... Hail
Mary... Glory Be...**

The Pope has told us:

“No one should be forced to leave, nor be exploited or mistreated because of their need or their status as a foreigner. Above all, human dignity must be preserved.”

For reflection:

In what way do I commit myself to defending the inalienable dignity of those who have had to leave everything, avoiding being an accomplice—by action, word, or indifference—in the exploitation and mistreatment of the foreigner?



Final Prayer for Everyday

Lord Jesus, who experienced the fatigue of the road and the lack of a home, look upon our migrant brothers and sisters.

Through the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul, grant them protection on the journey and strength in the trial.

Make us instruments of your charity, capable of transforming prayer into concrete gestures of welcome and integration.

Amen.

Día 5



The conflict in Sudan and
instability in the Sahel have
caused the forced
displacement of more than

10 million people

creating one of the most severe
humanitarian crises of the
century.

(Source: UN High Commissioner
for Human Rights)



The magnitude of
famine and war cries
out to heaven, but
hope sustained by
faith does not retreat:
today we unite as a
human family to
support peoples
stripped of
everything.

**† In the name of
the Father, and
of the Son, and
of the Holy
Spirit. Amen.**

What does the word of God tell us?

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

— Matthew 11:28



Jesus does not offer abstract consolation; his invitation is a real embrace for those who bear on their shoulders the unbearable weight of war, dispossession, and hunger. On the routes of Sudan and the Sahel, millions of people walk exhausted, stripped of all refuge and without a safe place to lay their heads. For the Vincentian tradition, being the «rest» that Christ promises demands not being distant spectators, but becoming hands that support, bread that feeds, and the fraternal presence that restores dignity to the exhausted.



Let us remember what St. Vincent taught us:

"An unfortunate gentleman is forced by war, by plague, by the burning of his houses, or by another misfortune, to take flight and retreat elsewhere. If in the remnants of his fortune, someone is found who offers to serve him, to serve him indeed, to help him transport his belongings; what a consolation for him in his misfortune!"

Let us pray for

the displaced families in the Sahel and Sudan suffering violence, the dispossession of their lands, and extreme levels of food and child insecurity.



- For the cessation of armed hostilities in the region and that humanitarian corridors may remain open to bring food and medicine.
- For families in refugee camps, that they may recover their dignity and home; and for neighboring countries, that they may receive the necessary international aid.
- For our community: that we may cultivate that 'inventiveness of charity' capable of transforming structures of injustice.

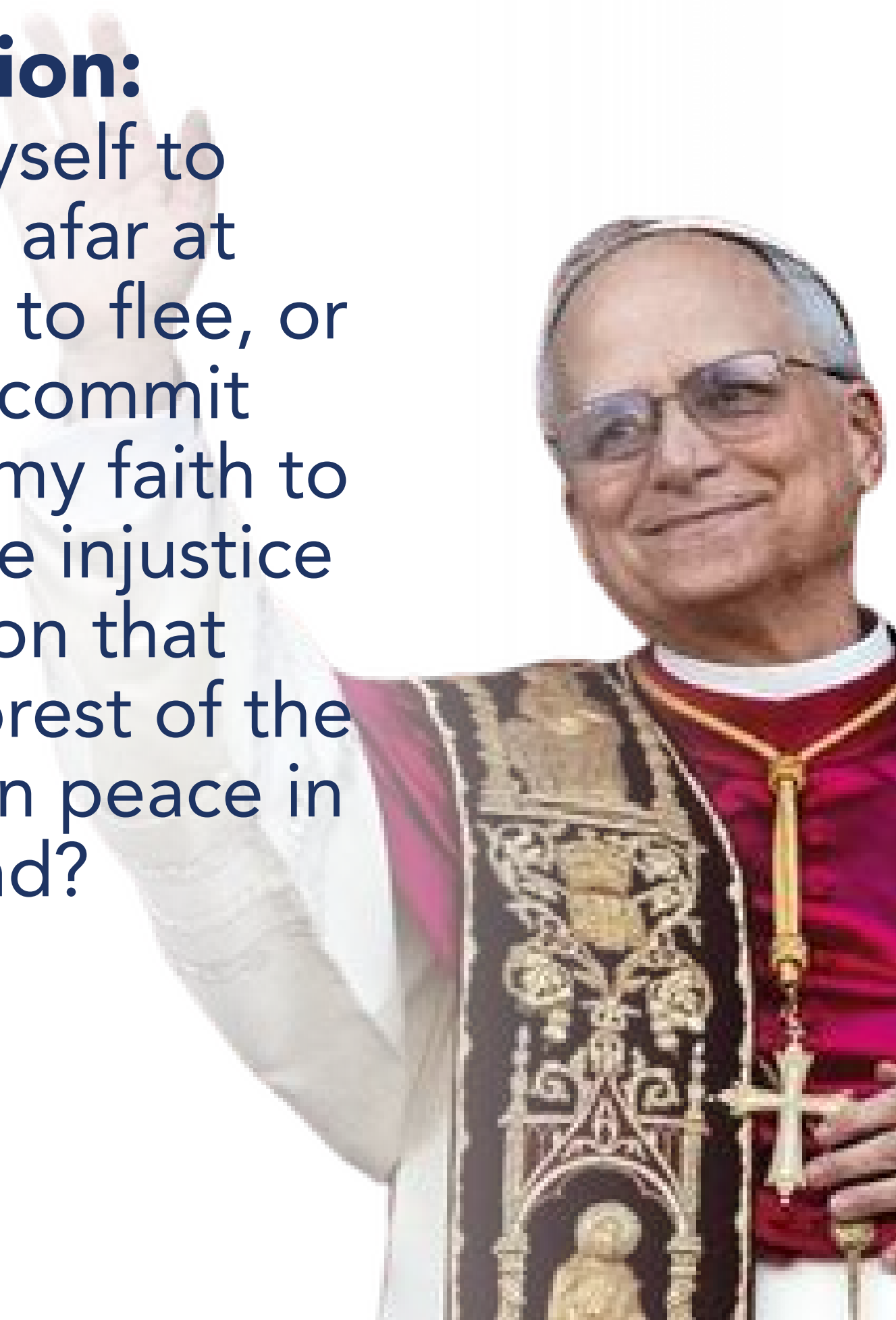
**Our Father... Hail
Mary... Glory Be...**

The Pope has told us:

"While there is a right to seek refuge when life is threatened, there is also the right not to have to migrate: the right to remain in one's own home without hunger, without war, without persecution, without violence, without the land becoming uninhabitable, without corruption stealing the bread of the poor, without weapons destroying the future of children."

For reflection:

Do I limit myself to looking from afar at those forced to flee, or do I actively commit myself from my faith to denounce the injustice and corruption that strip the poorest of the right to live in peace in their own land?



Final Prayer for Everyday

Lord Jesus, who experienced the fatigue of the road and the lack of a home, look upon our migrant brothers and sisters.

Through the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul, grant them protection on the journey and strength in the trial.

Make us instruments of your charity, capable of transforming prayer into concrete gestures of welcome and integration.

Amen.

Día 6



Nearly
2000 people

lose their lives each year
trying to cross the Atlantic
Ocean in precarious boats
(cayucos) from the coasts
of West Africa.

(Source: International
Organization for
Migration - IOM)



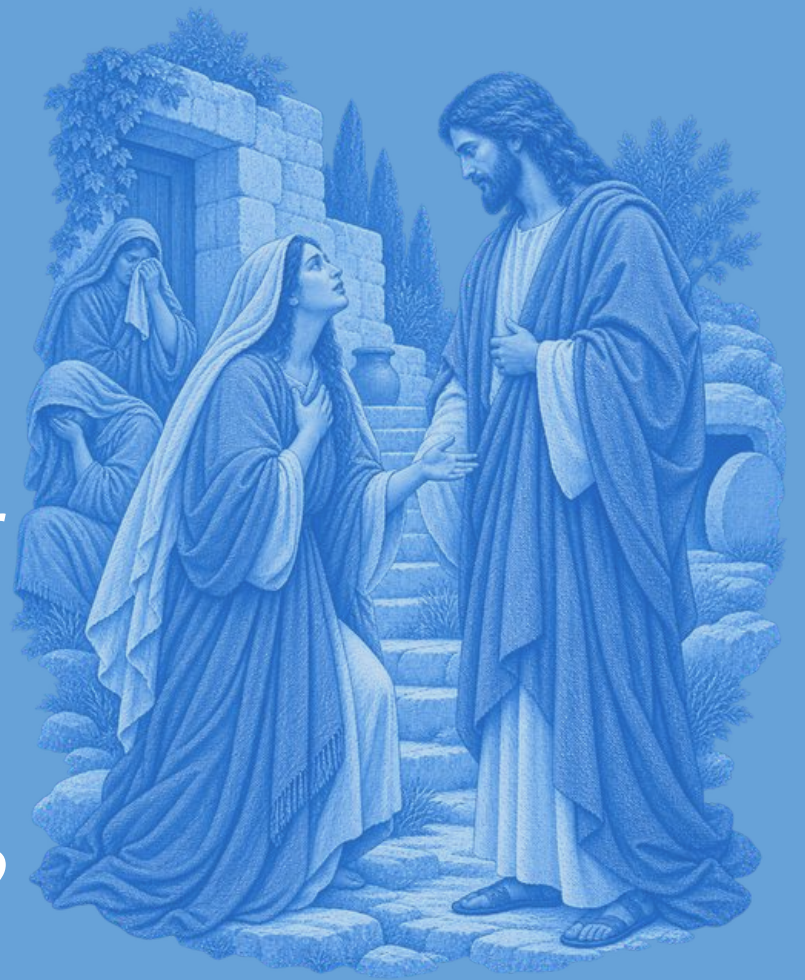
Over the immensity of the ocean, where human help is slow to arrive, faith builds spiritual bridges: today we raise our prayer for the lives suspended in the waves of the Atlantic.

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

What does the word of God tell us?

"Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.'"

— John 11:21-22



Martha's cry resonates today in the pain of the families waiting on the shore, expecting news of their loved ones swallowed by the ocean. Faced with the tragedy of lives lost at sea, faith does not deny the darkness of mourning, but neither does it surrender to despair: it sustains a stubborn faith in the God of life. For the Vincentian tradition, that faith "even now" commits us not to be late with help, turning prayer into an active presence that consoles the one who weeps and rescues the one who is shipwrecked.



**Let us remember
what St. Vincent
taught us:**

*"When we have spent
everything for Our Lord
and have nothing left,
we will leave the key
under the door and
withdraw."*

Let us pray for
*the young people and
families boarding
precarious cayucos on the
Atlantic Route from
Senegal, Mauritania, and
Morocco, fighting against
dehydration and oceanic
drift.*



- *For the protection and timely rescue of sailors on the high seas, and that medical assistance may not be lacking at the time of disembarkation.*
- *For the survivors, that they may find a just and fraternal welcome in the receiving society; and for the lasting development of their communities of origin.*
- *For our own lives: that the work of our hands may always be oriented toward defending the most vulnerable.*

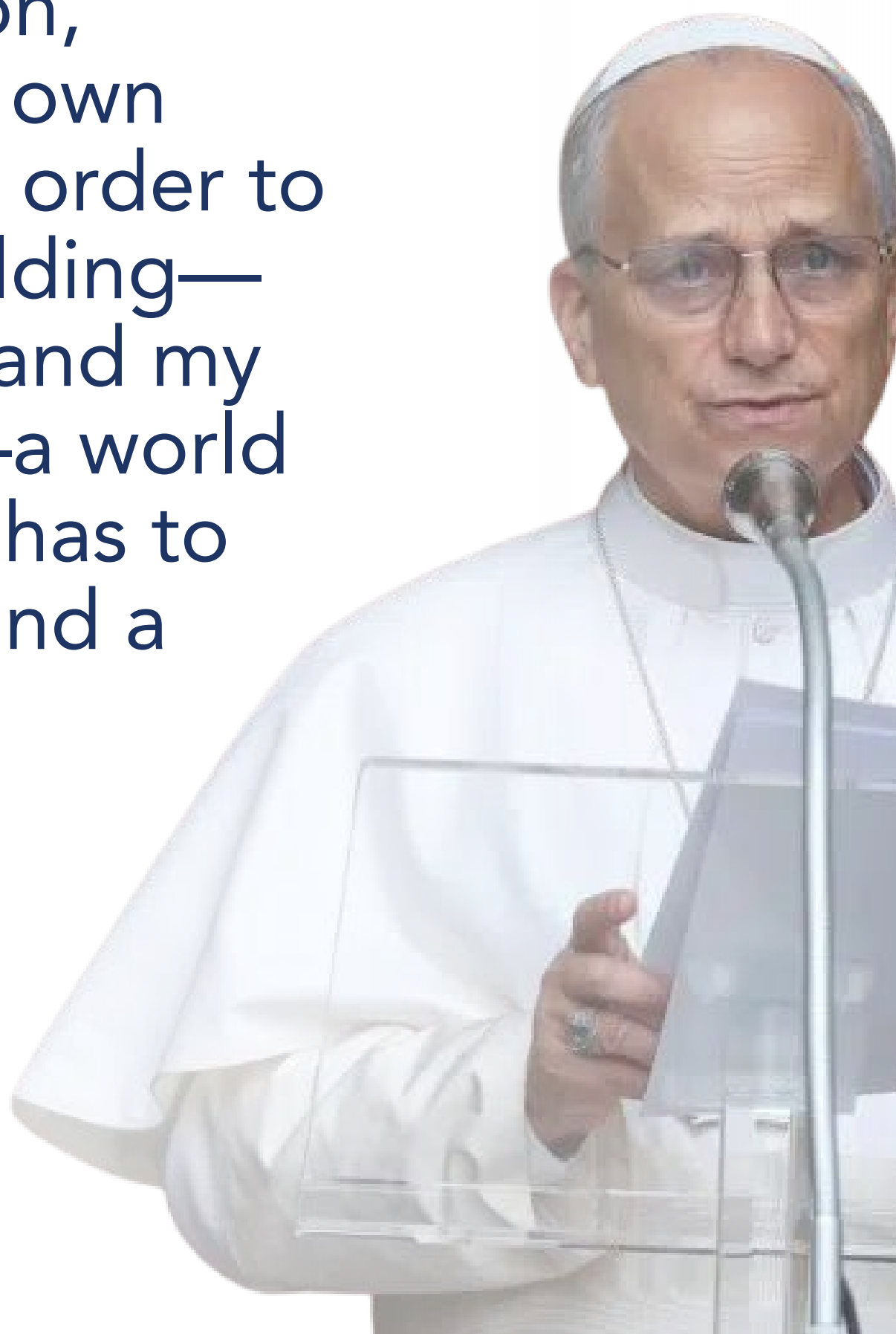
**Our Father... Hail
Mary... Glory Be...**

The Pope has told us:

“Every boat that arrives brings not only migrants; it brings with it a question: what world have we built, if so many brothers and sisters have to risk death to seek life?”

For reflection:

Am I willing to let myself be confronted by this question, examining my own indifference in order to commit to building—from my faith and my daily actions—a world where no one has to risk death to find a dignified life?



Final Prayer for Everyday

Lord Jesus, who experienced the fatigue of the road and the lack of a home, look upon our migrant brothers and sisters.

Through the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul, grant them protection on the journey and strength in the trial.

Make us instruments of your charity, capable of transforming prayer into concrete gestures of welcome and integration.

Amen.

Día 7



Approximately
1 in 7 people

from the Rohingya
community attempting the
sea crossing dies or
disappears, making it one of
the deadliest routes
proportionally.

(Source: UNHCR /
United Nations)



Even when statelessness seeks to erase a human being's name and citizenship, God knows each of His children: today we pray that justice and dignity may be restored to this people.

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

What does the word of God tell us?

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus."

— Philipians 2:4-5

In a world tempted to retreat into its own interests and indifferences, the Word shakes us to widen our gaze. To have the mind of Christ Jesus means to grieve with those who, like the Rohingya people, have been stripped of their homeland and left adrift at sea. For the Vincentian tradition, to love is not passive empathy: it is stripping ourselves of comfort to make the dignity of the persecuted and stateless brother our own priority and commitment.



**Let us remember
what St. Vincent
taught us:**

*"To be always ready to
lend a hand and to give
them all kinds of help
and consolation in their
greatest sorrows and
miseries."*

Let us pray for

the Rohingya people and for the stateless people fleeing across the Bay of Bengal, especially for the women and children suffering persecution and rejection at sea.



- *For the preservation of the lives of the Rohingya people in maritime crossings and the end of ethnic and religious persecution.*
- *For the recognition of their fundamental rights, access to education and health in refugee camps and countries of asylum.*
- *For our own spiritual transformation: that we may learn to look at the excluded with the respect and devotion that St. Vincent taught us.*

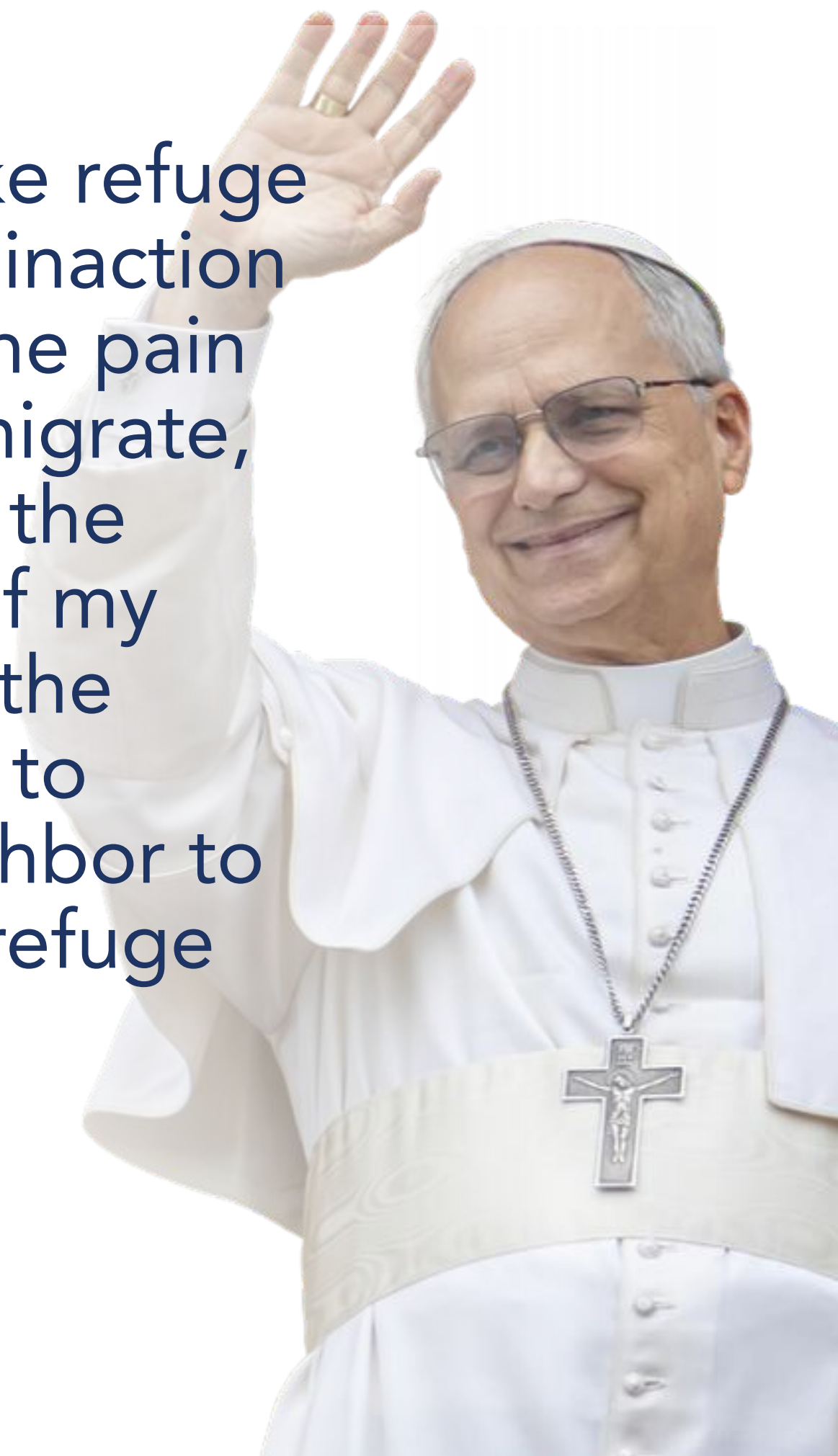
**Our Father... Hail
Mary... Glory Be...**

The Pope has told us:

“Love is always in freedom and freedom is in choices. There are also those who choose not to become neighbors and those who decide not to decide. The dead in this sea are victims either of decisions taken or of decisions omitted.”

For reflection:

Do I usually take refuge in neutrality or inaction in the face of the pain of those who migrate, or do I assume the responsibility of my faith by taking the active decision to become a neighbor to those seeking refuge and dignity?



Final Prayer for Everyday

Lord Jesus, who experienced the fatigue of the road and the lack of a home, look upon our migrant brothers and sisters.

Through the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul, grant them protection on the journey and strength in the trial.

Make us instruments of your charity, capable of transforming prayer into concrete gestures of welcome and integration.

Amen.

Día 8



Hundreds of thousands
of refugees on the
Balkan Route suffer
violent pushbacks and
sub-zero temperatures
in winter; up to

60% of children

in these camps present
severe psychological
trauma.

(Source: UNICEF /
Doctors Without Borders)

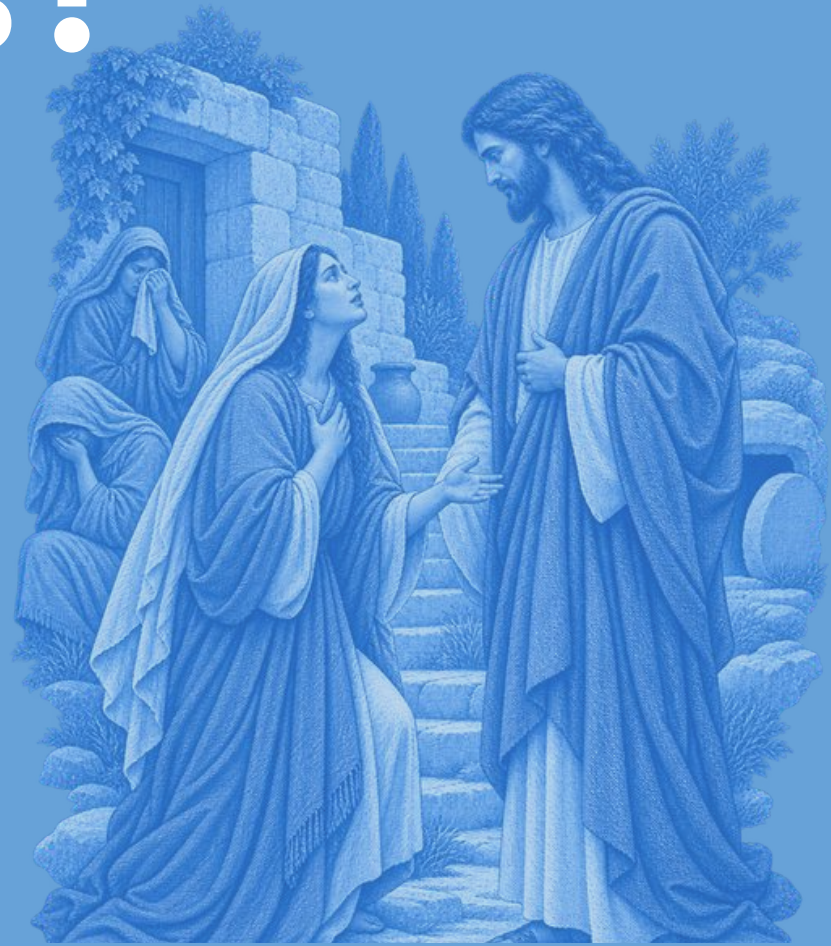
The cold of the mountains and the rigidity of border controls cannot freeze the charity of Christ: today our community prayer becomes shelter and support for families in transit.

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

What does the word of God tell us?

"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me."

— Matthew 18:5



On the Balkan route, where thousands of children and families face extreme cold, fear, and the helplessness of closed borders, Jesus' words resonate with sacred urgency. The "little ones" are not only children wounded by war, but all the vulnerable reduced to insignificance by the indifference of the world. For the Vincentian tradition, welcome is not mere humanitarian aid, but a true encounter with the Lord. By offering shelter and dignity to those out in the elements, it is Christ Himself whom we receive in our home and in our heart.



**Let us remember
what St. Vincent
taught us:**

*“It is certain that the
Lord will pour out his
blessing, because in his
own words He assures
that those who assist
the poor will hear said
with his sweet and
amiable voice: Come,
blessed of my Father.”*

Let us pray for

the refugees traveling the Balkan Route and the Eastern Mediterranean, trapped by winter, closed borders, and lack of psychological and medical care.



- *For protection against the inclemency of the weather, the cessation of summary pushbacks, and the emotional healing of traumatized children.*
- *For the definitive end of wars in their nations of origin, and for agile and fair asylum systems in receiving countries.*
- *For our faith: that it may not grow numb to the pain of others and may stand firm in the defense of human rights.*

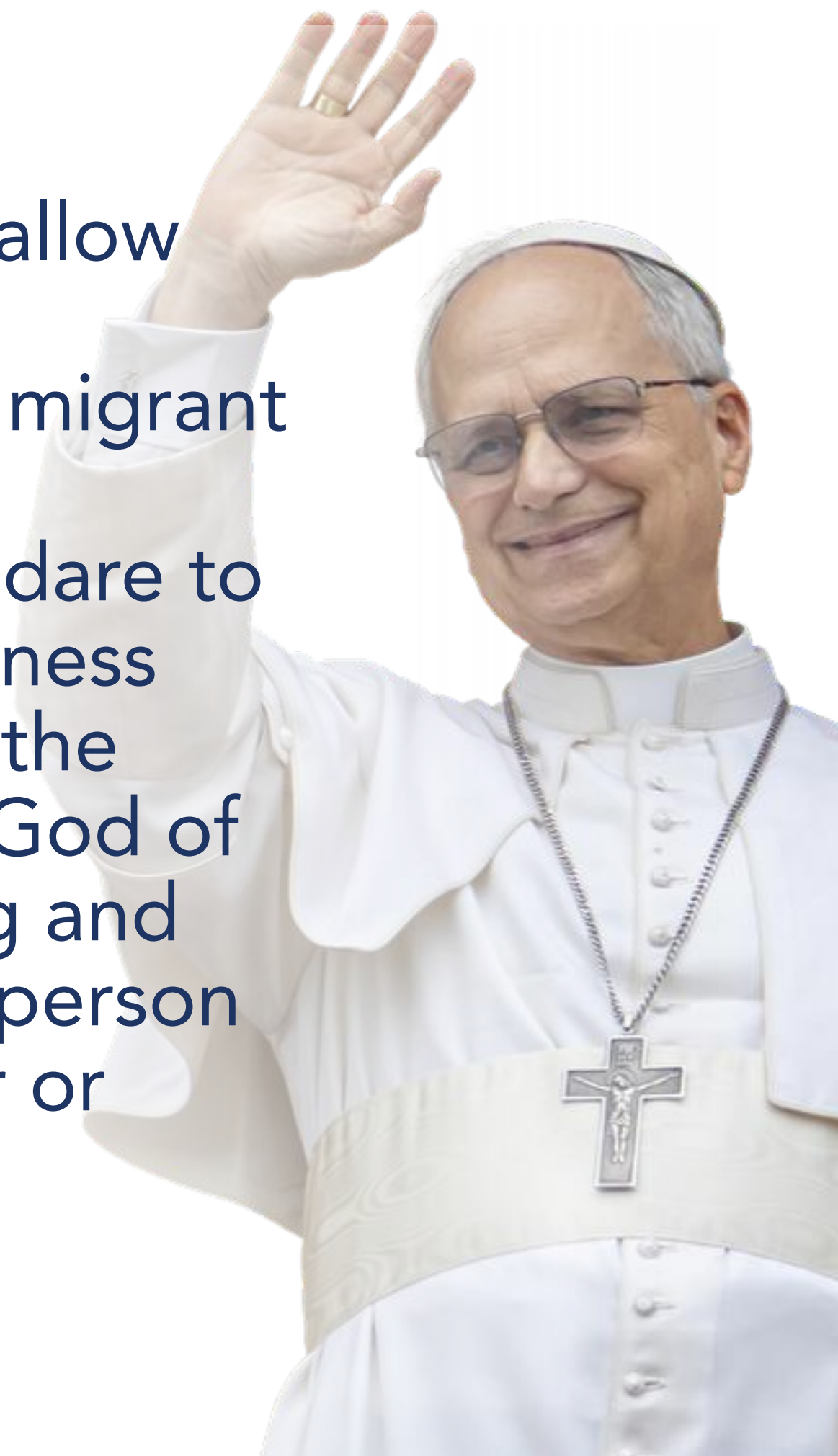
**Our Father... Hail
Mary... Glory Be...**

The Pope has told us:

“Increasingly inhuman measures are being adopted—even politically celebrated—to treat those ‘undesirables’ as if they were garbage and not human beings. Christianity, on the other hand, refers to the God of love, who makes us all brothers and sisters and asks us to live as brothers and sisters.”

For reflection:

Do I sometimes allow speeches that dehumanize the migrant to influence my position, or do I dare to uphold with firmness and consistency the mandate of the God of love, recognizing and defending each person as a true brother or sister?



Final Prayer for Everyday

Lord Jesus, who experienced the fatigue of the road and the lack of a home, look upon our migrant brothers and sisters.

Through the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul, grant them protection on the journey and strength in the trial.

Make us instruments of your charity, capable of transforming prayer into concrete gestures of welcome and integration.

Amen.

Día 9



More than
7.7 million

people have left Venezuela
in one of the largest human
mobility crises on the
planet; thousands of them
travel on foot distances
exceeding 1,000 km
through freezing Andean
paramós.

(Source: R4V Platform / UNHCR)



Along the roads and mountain ranges of South America, faith reminds us that no step is taken alone: we conclude this novena by entrusting the Andean roads to divine Providence.

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

What does the word of God tell us?

"Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God."

— 3 John 5-6



Serving those who are passing through is not an extraordinary favor, but the acid test of our fidelity to the Gospel. In the thousands of "walkers" who cross the cold Andean paramós on foot, God invites us to concrete charity: to be the outstretched hand, the coat, and the food that restores their strength. For the Vincentian tradition, helping the stranger to continue their journey «in a manner worthy of God» means recognizing that their journey is sacred, ensuring that no one must advance through life deprived of respect, human warmth, and hope.



**Let us remember
what St. Vincent
taught us:**

*"The exact duty of
charity consists in doing
to everyone what we
reasonably would like
them to do to us. Do I
really do to my
neighbor what I desire
from him?"*

Let us pray for

the Venezuelan brothers and sisters and South American migrants who walk the roads of the Andean Corridor, facing the high mountain cold, physical exhaustion, and discrimination.



- *For physical health, adequate shelter, and protection on the roads for all the "walkers" of the Andean region.*
- *For the prompt economic and social recovery of their countries of origin, and for the end of xenophobia in the South American cities that receive them.*
- *For our own lives: that this Novena to St. Vincent de Paul may blossom into concrete commitments of welcome, integration, and effective love toward the brother or sister in need.*

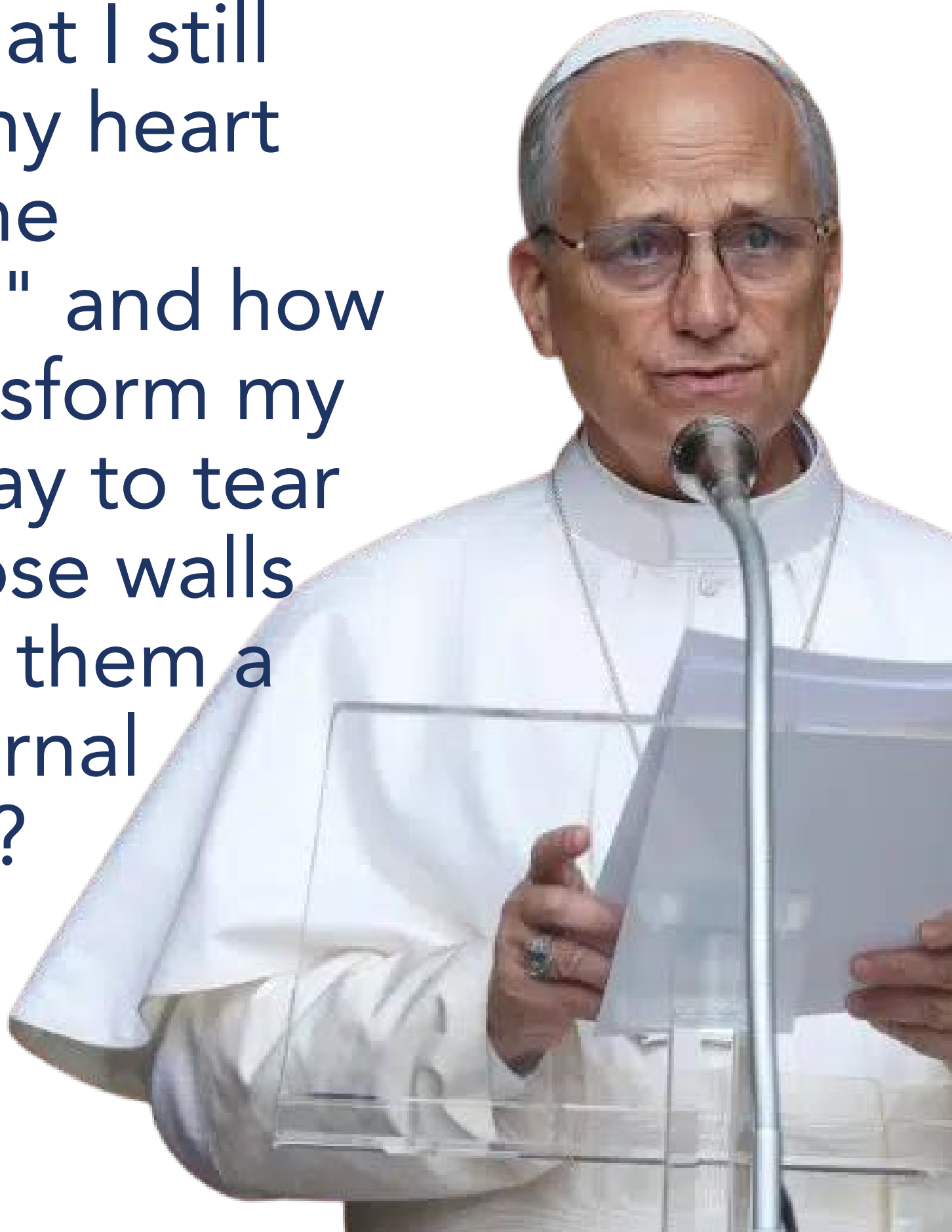
**Our Father... Hail
Mary... Glory Be...**

The Pope has told us:

"The most difficult barriers to tear down are not always made of stone. Sometimes they are in our gaze, or in fear, or in indifference."

For reflection:

What are those invisible barriers of fear, prejudice, or apathy that I still keep in my heart toward the "walkers," and how can I transform my gaze today to tear down those walls and offer them a true fraternal welcome?



Final Prayer for Everyday

Lord Jesus, who experienced the fatigue of the road and the lack of a home, look upon our migrant brothers and sisters.

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Make us instruments of your charity, capable of transforming prayer into concrete gestures of welcome and integration.

Amen.



Congregation of the **Mission**
of Saint Vincent de Paul

