September 27th: Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest

Gospel text (*Mt* 9:35-38): Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few”

Fr. Joan CASALS
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Today, in memory of Saint Vincent de Paul, poor among the poor, we are urged to consider our surroundings to become aware of the social, spiritual, economic needs and problems that surround us. "Church going forth" to the strictest and most serious existential peripheries, as Pope Francis asks us: “I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.”

It is absolutely necessary that we sympathize with ourselves and others in so many miseries that frequently invade us: fear, persecution, lack of food or love ... Leaving us to be poor and making us poor to be at the service of God in the poorer, which, according to the charisma of St. Vincent de Paul, "must always be our masters and lords." They represent the Christ himself, who chose to be poor. Always from a renewed spirit of our soul to overcome the discouragement and disenchantment that in so many moments affects us. In this way we will overcome the sad and dejected image that is repeated in our times and in so many places, even in the lives of those who call ourselves Christians, almost as "sheep without a shepherd", to be able to be born again to the love of God, "for the salvation and comfort of all” as Saint Vincent de Paul asks us.

We must voluntarily put ourselves at the service of others; "The harvest is abundant" (Mt 9:37). The charity of Jesus Christ compels us in the work of redemption that He began, offering his life on the Cross for the salvation of all. We workers are few, but with this love we are called to do what charity asks us.