do justice • love tenderly • walk humbly with God Micah 6:8

January 23, 2025

We begin all of our prayer in the presence of our loving Creator; because we are all created in the very image and likeness of God!

## As a Christian community, we know this:

### **Everyone should be treated fairly!**

## Daily reflection:

(Vincent de Paul Conferences, Vol 9, #27, p. 206—7)

In August of 1646 Saint Vincent proclaimed the importance of "The Practice of Mutual Respect and Gentleness" as follows: "It pleases God and our neighbor; it's imitating Jesus Christ, who was full of gentleness...there's no gentleness without respect and without gentleness we have no charity. Respect and gentleness foster peace. Works done in a spirit of gentleness and peace are much more pleasing to God. If we fail to show others respect and gentleness, it's a sign that we have no love for them."

# Daily call to action:

The first *missionary* endeavor of Vincent DePaul was a sermon preached in the village of Folleville in 1617. This event was precipitated by the stark realization that poor country folk in France were not receiving the physical and spiritual care that was available in the more prosperous cities. It reflected the belief that people experiencing poverty were somehow "less than" others. Vincent would spend the rest of his days responding to the following: "How many souls are being lost! How can this be remedied?"

#### Intercessions/ our prayer for our world:

That leaders around the world, in our country, and in our own city will treat all people fairly.

For migrant families, that they will find good jobs and safe places to live.

For an end to war, racism, and discrimination.

For all of us, that we will recognize and appreciate each other's gifts and talents.

**Blessing:** (the prayer of Aaron over the people of God: Num. 6:23b–26)

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

May the Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

And we say together with all of the people of God:

Amen.