

St. Vincent Ferrer

Angel of the Judgment and Glory of the Dominicans
(1350-1419)



*Et vidi alterum angelum volantem per medium cæli,
habentem Evangelium æternum, ut evangelizaret sedentibus super terram,
et super omnem gentem, et tribum, et linguam, et populum. Dicens magna voce:*

Timete Dominum, et date illi honorem, quia venit hora judicii ejus.

(Apoc 14:6-7)



Contents of the Set of Three Audio CDs

CD #1 - Angel of the Judgment, His Life and Times

- Track 01 - 01A-Angel of the Judgment
- Track 02 - 02A-Historical Context
- Track 03 - 03A-His Early Years
- Track 04 - 04A-Training in the School of St. Dominic
- Track 05 - 05A-The Babylonian Captivity (of the Papacy)
- Track 06 - 06A-The Great Western Schism
- Track 07 - 07A-The Conversion of the Jews

CD#2 - Glory of the Dominicans, His Divine and Apostolic Mission

- Track 01 - 08B-Legatus Soteri Christi
- Track 02 - 09B-Angel of the Apocalypse
- Track 03 - 10B-Vincent's Unique Apostolate
- Track 04 - 11B-Ferrer's Ambulatory Company
- Track 05 - 12B-His Theological Virtues
- Track 06 - 13B-His Prophetic Spirit
- Track 07 - 14B-St. Vincent Thamaturgus
- Track 08 - 15B-Apostolic Journeys

CD#3 - Angel of the Apocalypse, His Spirituality and Wisdom

- Track 01 - 16C-Conversion of the Moors
- Track 02 - 17C-The End of the Great Schism
- Track 03 - 18C-Entrance Into Glory
- Track 04 - 19C-His Spirituality, Jesus and Mary
- Track 05 - 20C-Treatise on the Spiritual Life
- Track 06 - 21C-St. Vincent's Lists of Spiritual Wisdom
- Track 07 - 22C-Sermon on the End Times
- Track 08 - 23C-A Saint for Our Times
- Track 09 - 24C-Prayer to St. Vincent Ferrer

Prayer to honor St. Vincent Ferrer

The heavenly Father, the Ruler of all nations, *
Sent, when the evening of the world came on, *
A new prophet, Vincent, the teacher of Christian people. *
He announces to men the approach of God's judgment.

Fear God and give Him honor, *
This is his favorite exclamation, *
The time is at hand for His judgment, *
Which all men shall see with their eyes.

Treading in the arduous path of Christ, *
And shunning earthly pleasures, *
He convinced men of the truth, *
And put to flight the darkness of error.

He gave light to the countries of the West, *
And his name was proclaimed throughout the world. *
There passes not an hour of his day, *
Wherein he does not some good deed.

His doctrines were more welcome than sunlight. *
His word was more ardent than fire. *
He spent the night with the sacred Scriptures, *
Wakeful in contemplation and study.

In the morn, like to a fair star, *
He shines with a wondrous ray of wisdom. *
At evening, he has a saving remedy *
For every kind of disease.

He inflames the minds of his hearers *
By the words of eternal life: *
He inspires the hearts of men *
With a love of heavenly gifts.

Sublimely does he treat of virtues, *
Teaching men how to bridle every vice. *
Eager crowds follow him, *
When he preaches his divine doctrines.

St. Vincent Ferrer, blessed with light prophetic, *
Spoke admirably of the end of the world: *
Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell, *
Thus preached the Angel of Judgment.

St. Vincent Ferrer, glorious son of St. Dominic, *
He set as the sun, in the west, *
And surrounded by a troop of angels, *
He ascended to the bright mansions of heaven. *

Let us pray: O God, who didst vouchsafe to glorify Thy Church by the merits and preaching of blessed Vincent Ferrer, Thy Confessor: grant us Thy servants that we may be taught by his example, and delivered by his patronage from all adversities. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Saint's Motto:

*"Whatever you do,
think not of yourself,
but of God."*



Timeline of St. Vincent Ferrer's Life

- 1.23.1350 Born in Valencia, Spain, the 4th of 8 children to William Ferrer & Constanca Miguel. Baptized that same day and christened Vincent by the parish priest.
- 1357 Enters the clerical state at age 7 and receives an ecclesiastical benefice.
- 1362-67 Begins philosophical studies at age 12, theology at age 14, master of both by 17.
- 2.2.1367 Enters as a novice with the Order of Preachers in Valencia, Spain.
- 2.6.1368 At age 18, makes his solemn profession as a Dominican.
- 1370-72 Teaches philosophy in Lérida, the most famous university in Catalonia.
- 1372-75 Studies in Barcelona to master the Sacred Scriptures; becomes proficient in Hebrew. As a deacon, is assigned an active apostolate of *preaching* and teaching.
- 1377-78 Studies under the Dominicans in France: Toulouse and Paris.
- 1381 Vincent is ordained a priest of God Most High by Cardinal Pedro deLuna. Elected prior of the Dominican convent in Valencia (held this office briefly).
- 1381-85 Teaches theology at the cathedral in Valencia, Spain.
- 1388 Completes his Sacred Doctorate in Theology at Lérida. Receives the doctorate cap from the hands of Cardinal Pedro deLuna.
- 1390 Cardinal deLuna, papal legate, enlists the service of Vincent, who continues an avid preaching apostolate. Vincent converts the Jewish Rabbi Solomon ha-Levi, who is baptized Pablo de Santa Maria and later becomes Bishop of Burgos.
- 1391 Jewish revolts threatened civil stability in Spain. Vincent helps quell the violence and converts thousands of Jews.
- 1391-96 Serves as confessor to Queen Yolande of Aragon and Councilor of State and Grand Almoner to King John I of Aragon; continues to preach throughout Spain.

- 9.28.1394 Cardinal deLuna is elected as Pope Benedict XIII (antipope Avignon line).
- 1396 Benedict XIII appoints Vincent his confessor and Apostolic Penitentiary.
- 10.3.1396 Vincent lies on his deathbed for twelve days. He is visited by Our Lord, St. Francis and St. Dominic. He is miraculously healed and receives the sacred mission as preacher of the Judgment – the Angel of the Apocalypse.
- July 1398 Benedict XIII rejects a council in Paris’ advice to resign as pope.
- 11.25.1398 Benedict XIII entrusts Vincent with full apostolic authority, *Legatus Soteri Christi*. This authority is accepted by every papal claimant and Council.
- 1399-1419 From age 49-69, St. Vincent travels throughout Western Europe, reconciling enemies, performing miracles, teaching virtue, and preaching the impending terrible Judgment.
- 1405 A council in Genoa is unsuccessful in healing the papal schism.
- 1406 Granada’s sultan asks him to preach to the Moors in his kingdom; thousands convert.
- 1407 King Henry IV invites Vincent to preach in England, Scotland, and Ireland.
- 1408 Benedict XIII again rejects a council at Perpignan’s advice to resign as pope.
- 9.17.1409 Officiates Nuptial Mass of Martin II the Elder, King of Aragon & Margarita de Pratz. Vincent makes a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Montserrat and visits Manresa.
- 1410 King Martin II dies. Aragon is ripe for civil war and suffers a two year interregnum.
- 1412 At Salamanca, he raises a dead woman to life that she might testify to his apostolate. Directs the Compromise at Caspe to crown Ferdinand I the Just as King of Aragon (not James II Count of Urgel). Ferdinand helps bring unity to all Spain and to the Church.
- 1414 Council [Debates] of Tortosa for the conversion of the Jewish Nation. St. Vincent spends several years preaching in Spain and converting more than 200,000 Jews.
- 1415 Yet again, Benedict XIII refuses to resign as per the advice of another council at Perpignan. St. Vincent falls dangerously ill but is miraculously healed by Christ.
- 1.6.1416 King Ferdinand of Aragon heeds Vincent and ends his allegiance to the Avignon Pope.
- 1416 Vincent travels throughout Europe gathering support for the Council of Constance.
- 1417-19 The Duke of Brittany invites him to preach in his land and King Henry V invites him to preach in Normandy. He spends the two final years of his life there.
- Nov 1417 The Council of Constance elects Pope Martin V. The Great Western Schism ends. St. Vincent preaches the sermon of thanksgiving.
- 4.5.1419** St. Vincent Ferrer dies in Vannes, Brittany.
Through his intercession, innumerable miracles follow his death.
- 6.29.1455 St. Vincent is canonized by Pope Calixtus III.
873 of his miracles are investigated and authenticated in the *Acta Sanctorum*.
- 1458 Pope Pius II issues the bull of the canonization for St. Vincent Ferrer.
- 9.6.1637 Translation of his relics, which were found after being ‘lost’ for 47 years.

Tradition has sanctioned those pictures of the saint which represent him with an angel’s wings, the Trumpet of Judgment in his hand, and the text on which he preached so often: “*Fear God, and give Him honor, for the Day of Judgment is at hand*” (Apoc 14:7).

Spiritual Wisdom and Counsel from St. Vincent Ferrer

taken from his *Treatise on The Spiritual Life*

Dispositions with regard to God:

- 1) Love Him with an active and ardent love.
- 2) Fear Him above all things.
- 3) Render Him the honor and respect due to Him.
- 4) Have a persevering zeal in His service.
- 5) Thanksgiving.
- 6) A prompt and fervent obedience.
- 7) A relish for heavenly things.



Dispositions with regard to self:

- 1) Humble yourself at the sight of your faults and imperfections.
- 2) Weep with bitter sorrow over the sins you have committed.
- 3) Long to be despised, humbled and trodden underfoot by all mankind, as the most miserable and corrupt of creatures.
- 4) Subject your body to the most rigorous mortifications and desire to inflict still greater austerities.
- 5) Bear an irreconcilable hatred to sin and the sources and evil inclinations from which it springs.
- 6) Watch unceasingly over your senses, all your actions, and the powers of your soul, that you may be always disposed to virtue and good works.
- 7) Observe in all things the rules of perfect moderation.

Dispositions with regard to our neighbor:

- 1) Sympathize with him in his afflictions and misfortunes as if they were your own.
- 2) Rejoice in his prosperity as your own.
- 3) Bear with his defects, suffer patiently what is disagreeable in him, and pardon readily his offenses.
- 4) Act with sweetness and affability towards all men, wish them well, and show by your words and actions the sincerity of this desire.
- 5) Prefer others to yourself; have a humble and sincere regard for your brethren.
- 6) Live in peace and concord with all mankind, as far as you are able and according to God.
- 7) Be ready to lay down your life for the salvation of your brethren.

Dispositions with regard to the world:

- 1) Consider yourself a stranger on earth, so that whatever you possess may appear to you to belong to others rather than to yourself and that you may feel no attachment to it.
- 2) Regard a superabundance of things for your own use as hurtful to you as the subtlest poison.
- 3) Accustom yourself, in the use of things that *are* necessary, to always feel the effects of poverty and want.
- 4) Shun the pomp of the rich and powerful ones of the earth, without however disdaining them, and to let it be your glory to associate with the poor.

Motives to excite us to perfection:

- 1) Consider how God deserves to be loved and honored on account of His goodness, wisdom, and numberless other perfections.
- 2) Reflect upon the contempt, the ignominy, the poverty, the sorrows and the bitter Passion which our Lord was pleased to suffer out of love for you.
- 3) Consider the purity of life and the perfection to which the Law of God obliges you.
- 4) Call to mind the infinite multitudes of God's benefits, the temporal and spiritual blessings which He dispenses to His creatures and you in particular.
- 5) Endeavor to penetrate the magnificence of the reward and glory of Heaven.
- 6) Consider how great and noble virtue is in itself and how vile and dishonorable vice is.
- 7) Reflect on the sublime and perfect lives of the Saints.
- 8) Penetrate the number and enormity of the sins you have committed against God.
- 9) Remember how you are surrounded on every side with danger and temptation, how the devil, the world, and the flesh seek to compass your destruction.
- 10) Think of the severity of God's Judgment.
- 11) Meditate on the shortness of life and your inevitable (often unexpected) Death.
- 12) Never dwell on the good you have already done, but make every effort to attain the highest state of perfection.
- 13) Purify your heart from sin, and aspire to become more and more perfect, lest God, finding in you some hidden sin, should justly abandon you.
- 14) Call frequently to mind the torments and pains of the damned and the eternity of Hell.

Do not content yourself with simply passing these over in your mind, but you must strive to identify them with the affections of your heart and the movements of your will.

On the perfection which is necessary to him who serves God in the spiritual life:

- 1) A clear and perfect knowledge of your faults and weaknesses.
- 2) Courageously do battle with your evil inclinations.
- 3) Have a great fear for the sins you have committed against God.
- 4) Have a constant dread of your frailty, lest you fall again into the same disorders.
- 5) Subject all your bodily senses to an exact and rigorous discipline.
- 6) Have great fortitude and an invincible patience in temptation and adversity.
- 7) Courageously shun the society of persons and whatever else may be, not just an occasion of sin, but even of imperfection or want of resolution in the spiritual life.
- 8) Bear in yourself the Cross of Jesus Christ: [i] mortify the passions, [ii] renounce all temporal goods, [iii] no longer love relatives with the affection of mere flesh and blood, and [iv] despise yourself and abhor yourself as much as possible.
- 9) Preserve a constant remembrance of all the benefits you have received from God.
- 10) Pass the day and night in prayer.
- 11) Continually experience the holy delights which are found in God.
- 12) Burn with an ardent desire for the exaltation of our holy Faith.
- 13) Feel for the necessities of your neighbors with all goodness and mercy.
- 14) Render perpetual thanks to God with your whole heart.
- 15) Having done all that is here prescribed, esteem it little and say: "Lord, my God, I am nothing, I am capable of myself of nothing but evil; I have never served Thee as I ought, and I confess that I am but an unprofitable servant" (Lk 7:10).

Europe during the life of St. Vincent Ferrer



The Great Western Schism (1378-1417)

Rome

Urban VI (1378-1389)
Boniface IX (1389-1404)
Innocent VII (1404-1406)
Gregory XII (1406-1415)

Avignon (*antipopes*)

Clement VII (1378-1394)
Benedict XIII (1394-1423)

Pisa (*antipopes*)

Alexander V (1409-1410)
John XXIII (1410-1415)

Ecumenical Council of Constance (1414-1417)

This Council accepts Gregory XII's resignation, deposes John XXIII, excommunicates Benedict XIII (1417), and then elects a pope to end the schism and unify Christendom.
Pope Martin V (1417-1431)

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"Extra Ecclesiam Nulla Salus"

