St. Vincent Ferrer
April 5

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1350–1419 • Spain

St. Vincent Ferrer preached about Jesus to all who would listen. He became a Dominican at an early age and first preached in the city of Barcelona. The city was suffering from a terrible famine, and he did his best to serve the poor and hungry. He predicted that ships would come soon bringing grain so that the city would not starve. Many people doubted Vincent's words. But that very evening, two ships full of grain arrived. Vincent's prediction had come true, and so, many more people began to listen to Vincent preach the Word of God.

During Vincent's lifetime, the Church was divided because it didn't know who the true pope was. Vincent moved to France and tried to heal this division. But he was unsuccessful and grew tired. He realized that he was not supposed to be involved in Church politics. He wanted to go back to preaching to all those who would listen.

While Vincent was still in France, he fell ill to a sudden fever. Vincent was so sick, he thought he would die. Jesus appeared to him in a vision, along with St. Dominic—the founder of his order—and St. Francis, two saints who were great preachers. Jesus healed the dying Vincent of his fever, and Vincent felt the strength return to his body. Vincent knew that Jesus had cured him for a great mission. He must go out and preach to others so they could be sorry for their sins and receive God's mercy.

For twenty years Vincent traveled all through Europe, preaching to believers and non-believers alike. He told them that they must repent of their sins and give their hearts to Christ. This was the only way that they would be with Jesus in heaven someday. Many miracles accompanied Vincent's preaching. He healed the sick, and, even though he spoke only Spanish, people of all languages could understand what Vincent said.

Whenever Vincent traveled, he went by foot instead of on a horse. Because he was humble, he wore poor clothes. At night he slept on a mat on the floor, and during the day he fasted, eating only one full meal a day. Vincent often tended to sick children. He did all of these things out of love for God. Through his preaching and example, he converted thousands and thousands of souls to Jesus until his death.

St. Vincent, help me speak about Jesus to all who will listen!