

Spring 1999

## September 27 Vincent de Paul

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### Recommended Citation

Humphreys, Deborah S.C. (1999) "September 27 Vincent de Paul," *Vincentian Heritage Journal*: Vol. 20 : Iss. 1 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://via.library.depaul.edu/vhj/vol20/iss1/9>

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**september 27 vincent de paul**

BY

DEBORAH L. HUMPHREYS, S.C.

tell me all about this –  
daughters, dancing away, gliding  
along the cobbled road  
to a promised paradise, an aisle  
    facing an altar, a dream to be  
willing and faithful as Abraham

now tell me how it is  
your soul burns  
but not your feet, even through  
inflamed calluses and the street  
though a quiet *rue*, is slick  
with rain, spit and piss

dare you ask permission  
to beg hospitality  
the shelter of the homeless  
the instruction of the unschooled  
and grasp at the same hopes  
the least of the coin

**Cordiality, properly speaking, is the effect of that charity which one has in one's heart.**

*(Saint Vincent de Paul,  
conference to the Daughters of Charity, 2 June 1658)*