



# Advent Mary

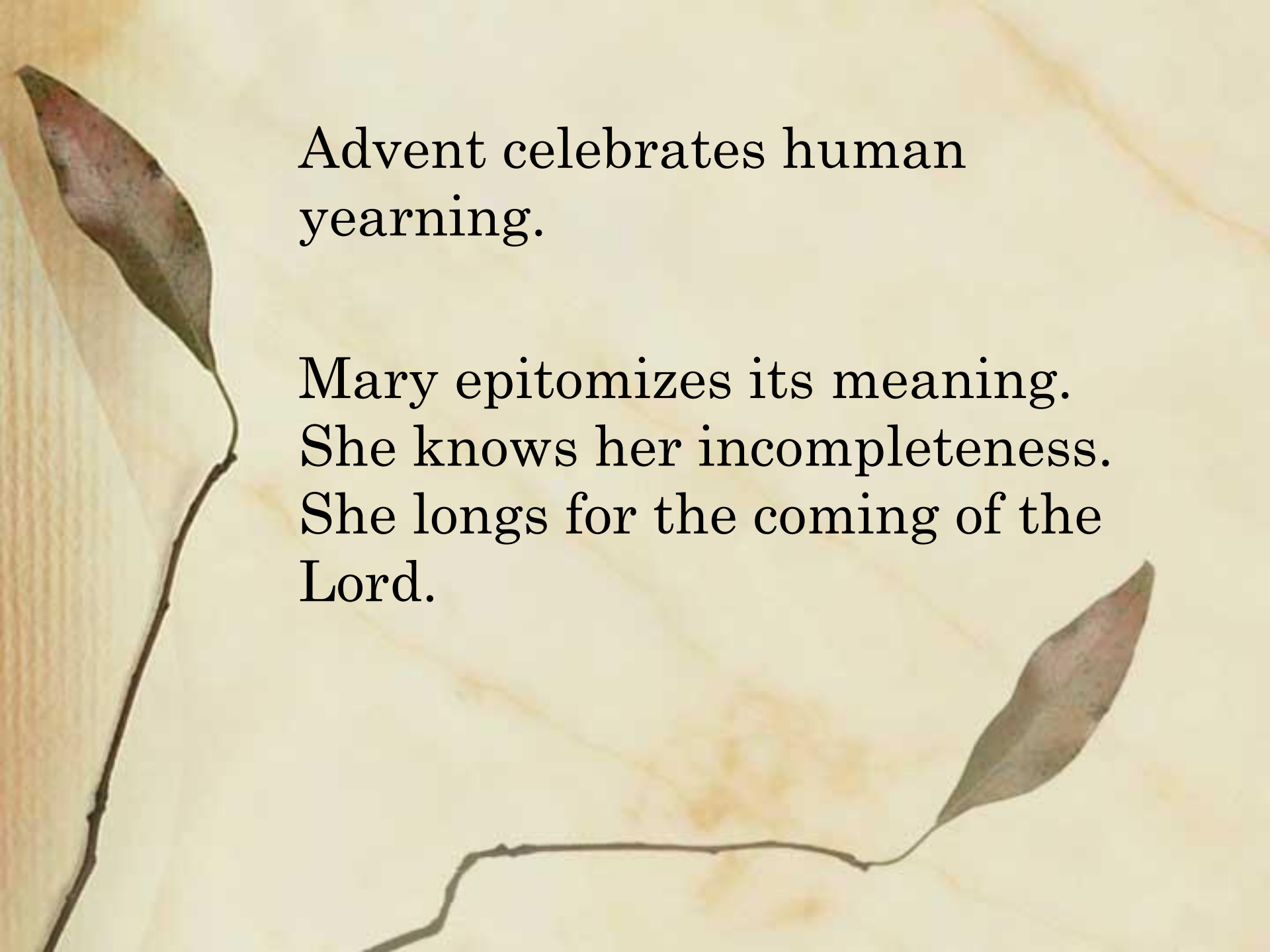
A Reflection  
by Robert P. Maloney,  
C.M.






# Humility

There is an Advent spirit in the heart of every person. It is one of longing, of yearning for a fulfillment that somehow lies beyond ourselves.





Advent celebrates human  
yearning.

Mary epitomizes its meaning.  
She knows her incompleteness.  
She longs for the coming of the  
Lord.




Vincent saw humility not just as an interior virtue that would help us toward personal perfection; he described it as a missionary virtue that is utterly necessary in the service of the poor.






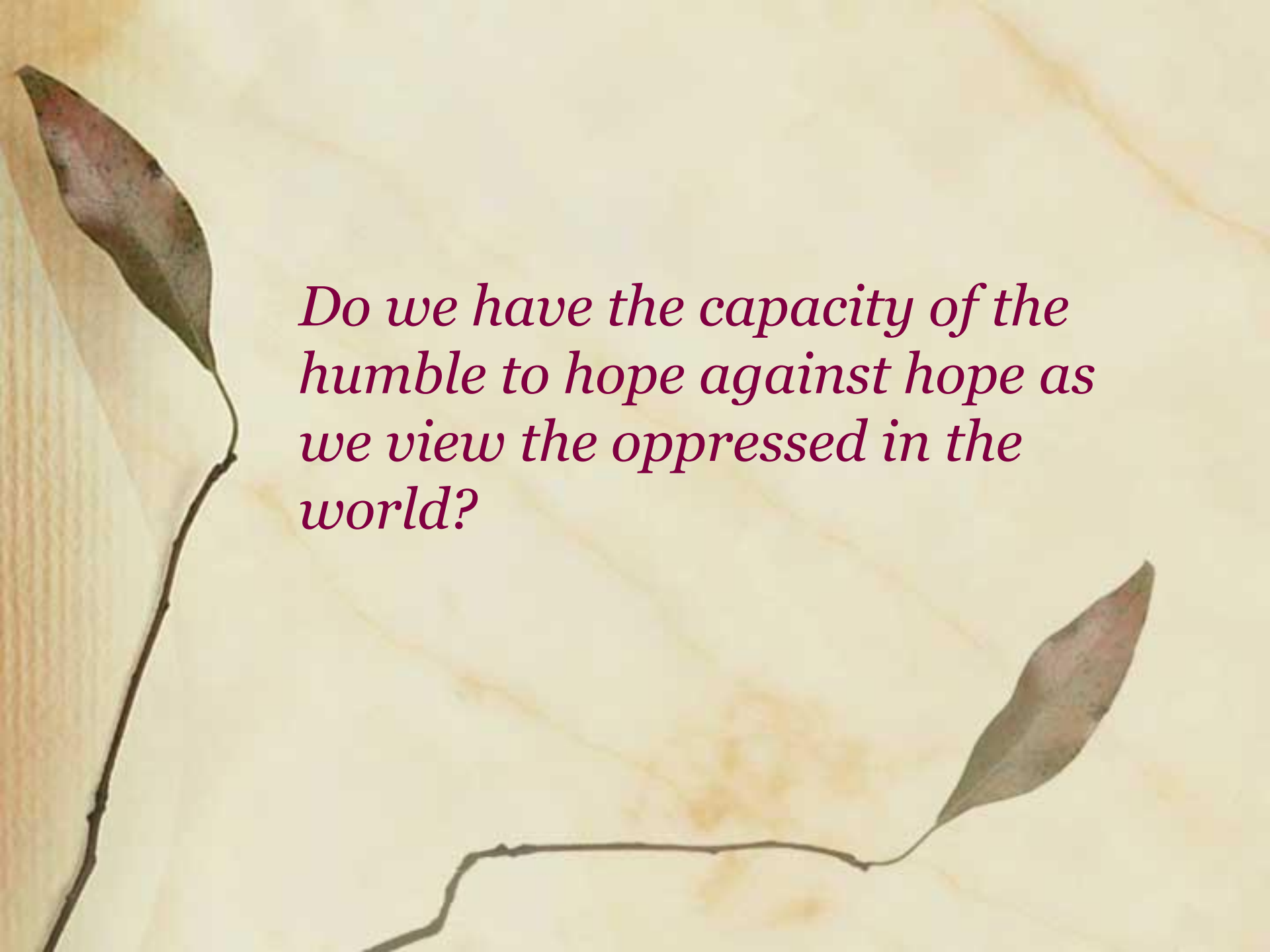
Two Advent reflections  
on humility:



1. Humility is  
the ground for great confidence.

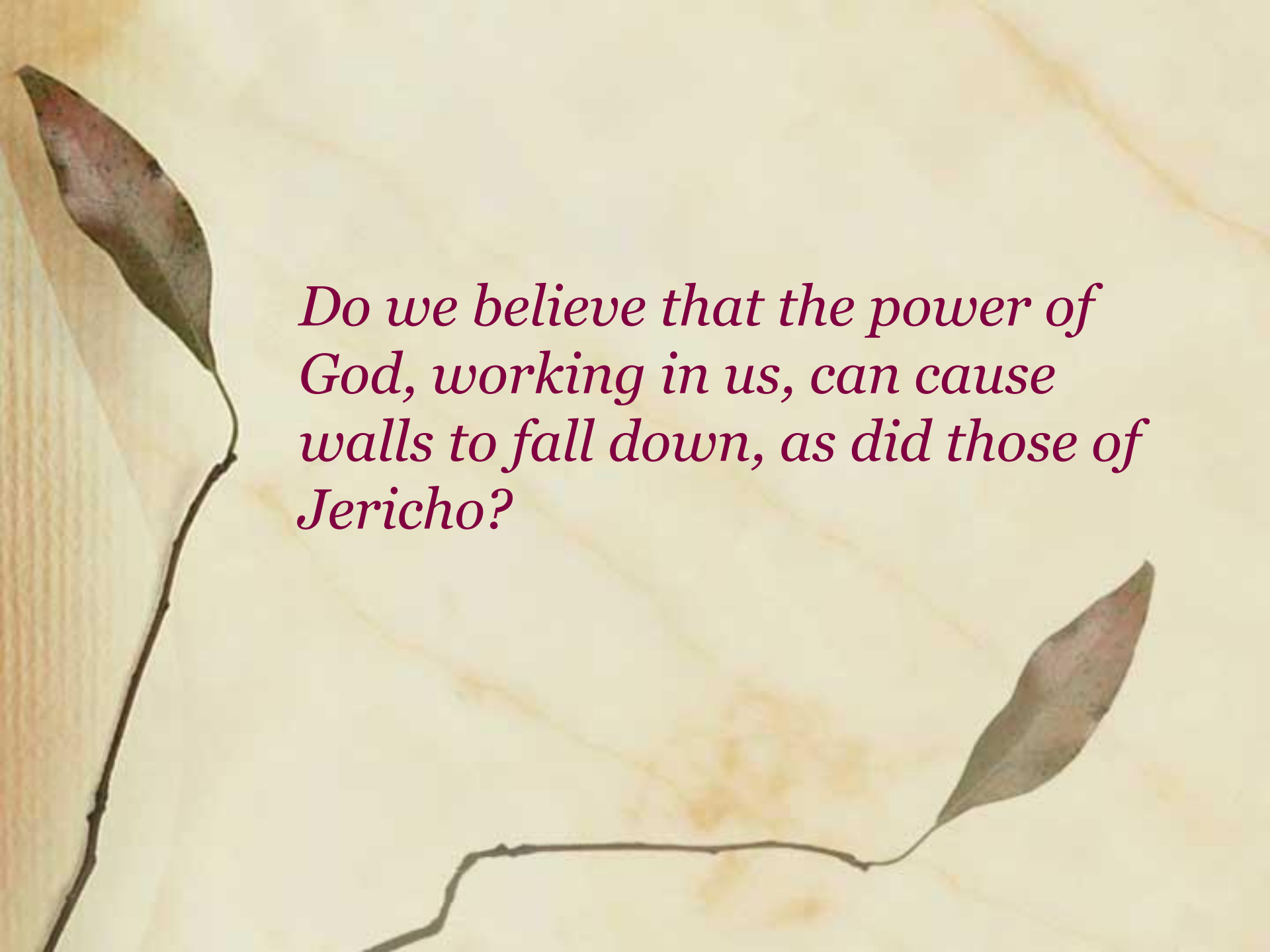


The humble recognize their own  
gifts and their own limitations.


A dried branch with two leaves is positioned on the left side of the image, extending horizontally across the middle. The background is a light, textured surface with subtle, warm-toned patterns. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

*Do we have the capacity of the  
humble to hope against hope as  
we view the oppressed in the  
world?*




A dried, pressed leaf is shown against a light, textured background. The leaf is dark brown and elongated, with a prominent vein running down its center. It is attached to a thin, dark stem that curves across the frame. The background has a subtle, marbled pattern in shades of cream and light brown.


*Do we believe that the power of  
God, working in us, can cause  
walls to fall down, as did those of  
Jericho?*



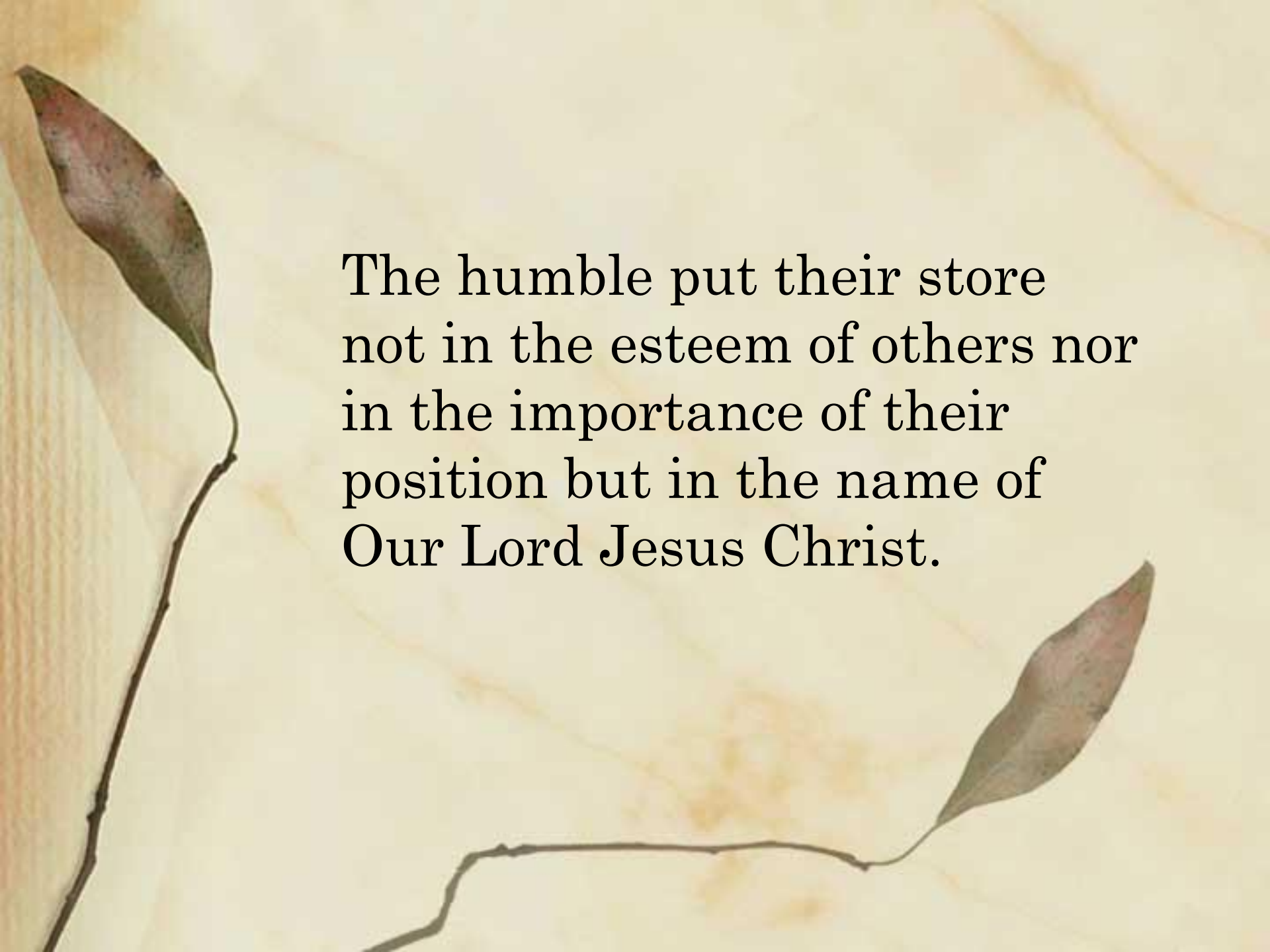
*Are we humble enough to  
believe that he who is mighty  
can do great things?*




2. Humility is the ground of enormous freedom.




The humble enjoy  
great liberty,  
great mobility.



The humble put their store  
not in the esteem of others nor  
in the importance of their  
position but in the name of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ.


A dried, brown leaf is attached to a thin, dark stem. The leaf is positioned in the upper left corner of the frame. The stem extends downwards and then horizontally across the lower part of the image. The background is a light, textured surface with subtle, warm-toned patterns, possibly marbled paper or a similar material. The overall composition is simple and evocative, suggesting themes of movement, transition, or spiritual journey.


*Can we, like the poor in spirit,  
move freely where the Lord  
calls us?*



*Remember Mary and Joseph:  
“Mary set out, proceeding in haste  
into the hill country.” (Lk1:39)*

*“Joseph got up and took the child  
and his mother and left that night  
for Egypt.” (Mt 2:14)*





For the full text of this letter and  
Fr. Maloney's other writings visit the  
[Vincentian Encyclopedia](#)

Adapted from text by  
Gail Rieth, RSM

c. 2006

