

St. Vincent de Paul model of servant leadership



"It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in Me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God"
(Galatians 2:20)

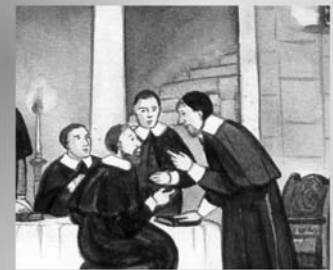
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Who is
St. Vincent de Paul
to you?



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St. Vincent de Paul

*for the love of Christ
and the poor was a -*

- *visionary innovator,*
- *model collaborator,*
- *successful fundraiser,*
- *careful manager*
- *holy mentor*



St. Vincent de Paul *Is a Model of Servant Leadership*



*"It was not you who chose me, but I who
chose you and appointed you to go and
bear fruit that will remain..."*

(John 15: 16)

Servant Leaders

- Embrace their Vocation to Serve
- Identify and Mentor Leaders
- Build a Community of Service
- Raise Funds to Support the Mission
- Stay Grounded in the Vocation



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Discovering A Vocation by the Providence of God

**The Poor
Will Teach Us**

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Living Our Vincentian Vocation

Reflect on our Rule (2.2)

*Vincentians are called to journey
together towards holiness...*

*They draw nearer to Christ, serving
Him in the poor and one another.*



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*Vincentians are called to journey
together towards holiness...*

*They draw nearer to Christ, serving
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Why did you choose to be of service to people in need?

What have you learned from your contact with people
living in poverty?

How have they effected your spiritual life?

“The poor suffer less from a lack of generosity than from a lack of organization.”



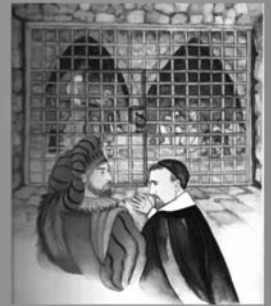
The Charity Organized by Vincent

Ministry to Galley Slaves

Appointed chaplain to the French Galleys - 1619

a position he will hold for the rest of his life

Works to reform prisons



The Charity Organized by Vincent

Dedicated to the Rural Poor

Organizes missions to rural poor bringing spiritual renewal and charitable aid.

Founds Ladies of Charity, Congregation of the Mission and Daughters of Charity.



The Charity Organized by Vincent

Foundling Home & Orphanages

Vincent & Louis begins work with foundlings in Louise's house January 1638.
(Over 300 abandoned babies a year were saved.)

January 1640 expand the efforts, took charge of La Couche (public orphanage of Paris)



Vincent Identified and Mentored Leaders

*for their spiritual growth
and to advance his projects*



Servant Leaders Recruit and Mentor

Why did you
choose me?

Why did you
choose me?

3.11 Presidents as servant leaders



Following Christ's example, the Presidents at all levels of the Society endeavor to be **servant leaders**. They provide an encouraging atmosphere in which **the talents, capacities and spiritual charism of the members are identified, developed** and put to the service of the poor and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

"Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd."

- Matt. 9:36

- Who recruited you to step into a leadership role? Why did you accept?
- Who were your mentors and role models? Remember them and pray for them.
- Have you encouraged others to take a leadership position as part of their vocation to serve? Remember them and pray for them.

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The Charity Organized by Vincent

Aid to War Refugees

The Fronde creates desperate conditions in France
Aid to the Lorraine (1639 - 1647)
Aid to Picardy & Champagne (1650 – 1657)

Fed and clothed thousands



The Charity Organized by Vincent

Elder Hostel

Hospital of the Holy Name of Jesus
for retired poor tradesmen & women
(1654)





The Charity Organized by Vincent

Ransom of Christian Slaves in North Africa

Began mission at request of Louis XIII in 1642

Estimated population
20,000 in Algeria and
6,000 in Tunis

Congregation of the Mission acquired the French consulates in Tunisia and Algeria (1645 -1646).



Building Communities of Service

**Don't Ask Too
Much of Us**

the Challenge of Servant Leadership

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Much of Us**

Building Communities of Service



3.9 Subsidiarity and freedom of action

In exercising this freedom of action to face the challenge of poverty in their area, Vincentians feel called to pray together for guidance and strength and for that creative imagination which is the promised gift of the Holy Spirit...

3.10 Democracy

All decisions are made by consensus after the necessary prayer, reflection and consultation. The democratic spirit is fundamental at all levels of the Society ...

Leadership and Discernment:



How do you balance obtaining group consensus while still advancing the mission & vision?

How often have you said to yourself "I'll never manage"?

What do you find helpful when that happens?

Vincent's Expenses



"we should not tempt God who ... does not want you to make a superfluous expenditure and then to entrust yourselves to His Providence."

Letter 2915

Servant Leaders Participate in Fundraising

It Costs a Lot to Make Soup

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Vincent's Expenses for the Orphanages

Foundlings Orphanage
annually cost over
\$1,600,000 to operate

Income from city 1,200 livres

Income from crown lands – 4000

Ann of Austria – 8000 from revenues
of the 'great farm'



Vincent's Expenses for War Refugees

Aid to the Lorraine
(1639 - 1647) over \$64 million
plus food & goods

Aid to Picardy & Champagne
(1650 – 1657) over \$18 million

Served hundreds of refugees
in Paris



Successful Fundraiser

Aid to the Lorraine
(1639 - 1647) Over \$64 million
-much bravely delivered by
Br. Mathieu Regnard
Queen Ann loved to hear of his
adventures and contributed

Received \$1,800,000 from Louis XIII

Baron Gaston de Renty took up
fundraising for the cause.



Raised Funds for An Elder Hostel

Gift of \$5,000,000 by a rich burger for
project of Vincent's choice.

He proposes a hostel for retired poor
tradesmen & women Hospital of the Holy
Name of Jesus (1654).





Vincent's Expenses for Ransoming Captives

Rescuing Christian slaves
in North Africa costs over
\$55,000,000



Louis XIII donated \$400,000 to begin Vincent's efforts to ransom Christian hostages .



Servant Leaders Participate in Fundraising

Are you willing to represent the needs of the poor
to people who have the resources to help financially?

Do you consider this a part of your vocation?

What do you have to offer those donors who share
in our mission of service?

Servant Leaders
Stay Grounded in their Vocation

The Heart
of the Matter

The Heart
of the Matter

For you to consider:

Has your relationship with the poor changed after you took on a leadership role?

What do you do to keep grounded in your vocation and the mission of the Society?



Trust in the Providence of God

“Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you. Trust him and, following his example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith.

You will see everything will go well.”
(letter to Marc Coglee, Dec. 4, 1650, IV pg 115)



Let Us Pray for Our Vincentian Leaders

Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you.

Trust him and following his example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith, and you will see everything go well. Your responsibilities, which are many, will continue to grow but believe and trust that he will not leave a heavy burden on your back without sustaining you. He will be your strength as well as your reward for the extraordinary services you render to the Society and to the poor.

(from the commissioning ceremony for a president)



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