



# Servant Leadership

An Essential Part of Our Vincentian Vocation

# Opening Prayer



**Noble Saint Vincent de Paul,  
beloved servant of the poor,  
may we follow your example and do good  
works  
among those whom society has  
abandoned,  
enslaved, or forgotten.**



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# Opening Prayer



**Inspire us to feed the hungry,  
to love a child,  
to provide comfort and medicine to the sick,  
to clothe those whose garments are  
threadbare,  
and to offer hope and our Lord's words  
to all who need respite.**



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# Opening Prayer



**Pray for us to our beloved God  
that we may commit ourselves selflessly  
to doing the same charitable acts  
that you did all your life,  
and intercede with Him  
that we may have the favor of His guidance  
and strength and love upon this important  
and meaningful work.**



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# The Rule is Our Way



*“Take your Rule seriously. All the parts of it. But especially the parts that call you to pray and grow closer to Christ. This Rule is a great gift precisely because it keeps you from becoming mere social workers. You are followers of Christ.*

*And this Rule is your Way.”*

Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, CM

Could our

**Rule**

*be rewritten*

just from observing  
*your*

**Conference**





# What is Servant Leadership?

And am I Called?

# What is a leader?



# LARGE and in CHARGE



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# Servant Leadership



- John 13: 3-17
- Matthew 20: 20-28
- Luke 22: 24-30

# small and for all

# Large vs. Small



This is not so for those who seek contradictions and contempt.



They look upon themselves as the servants of their brethren.

# Our Vincentian Leadership Model



1. Do those served grow as persons?
2. Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants?
3. What is the effect on the least privileged in society; will they benefit, or, at least, not be further deprived?

# Vincentian Servant Leadership



*From Mystic Leadership*  
By Eduardo Marquez



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# Our Primary Purpose



## Cardinal

- Prudence
- Justice
- Temperance
- Fortitude

## Theological

- Faith
- Hope
- Love/Charity

αγάπη

## Vincentian

- Simplicity
- Humility
- Selflessness
- Gentleness
- Zeal

# Characteristics of Servant Leaders



Listening

Conceptualization

Empathy

Foresight

Healing

Stewardship

Awareness

Commitment to growth

Persuasion

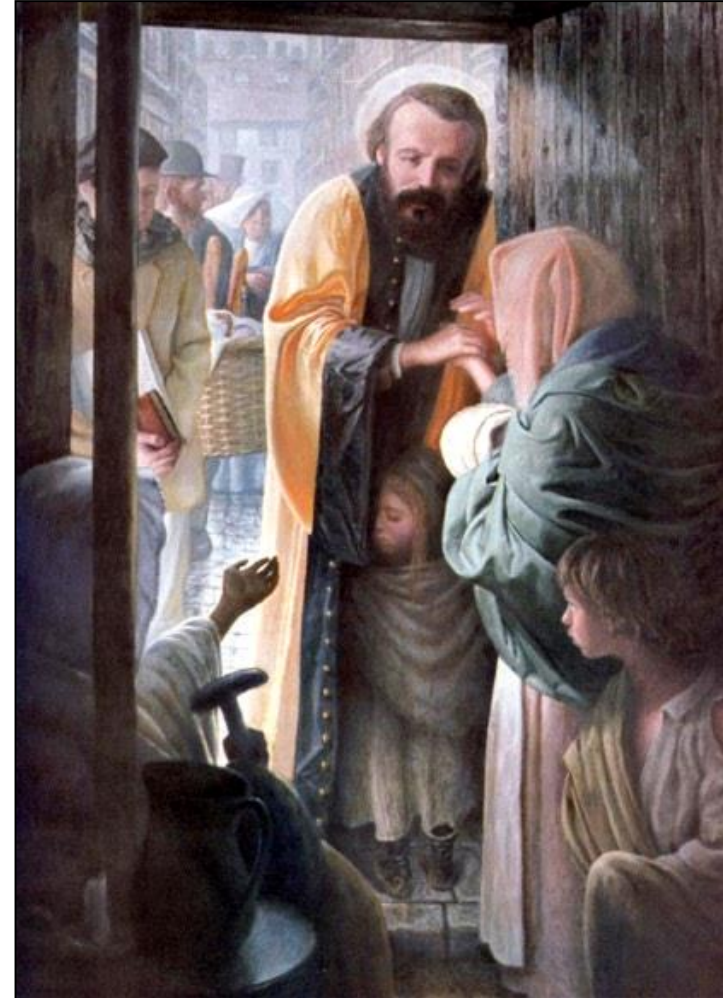
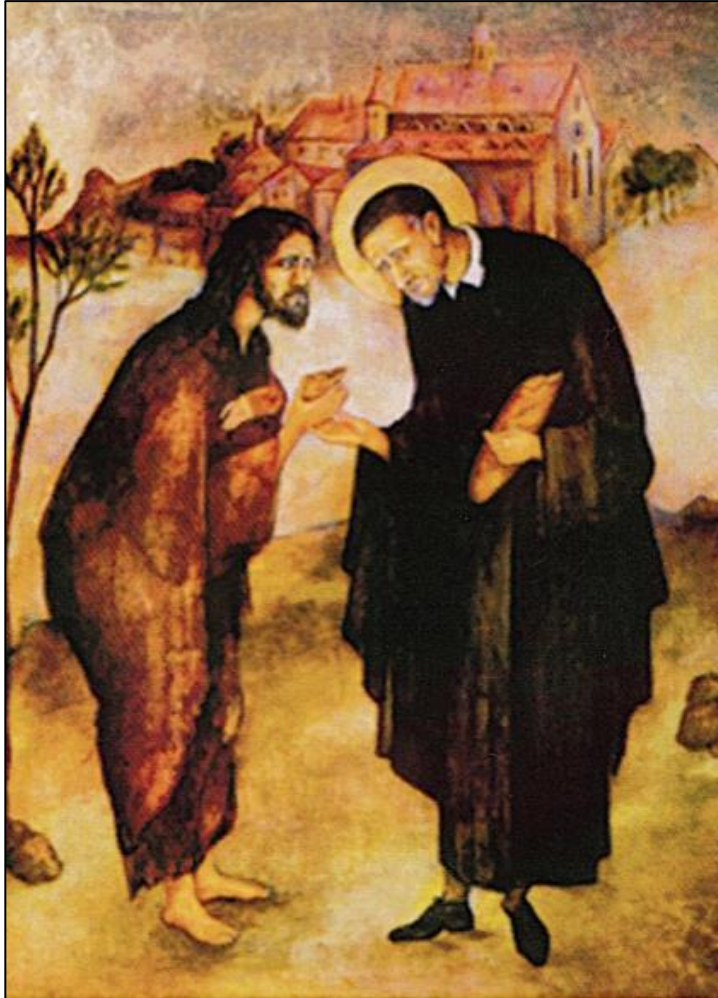
Building community

# Discussion



- My Servant Leader Role Models
  - What virtues did they model best?
  - What “Servant Leader Characteristics”?
- Whose role model am I?

# Our Role Models



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# Servant Leadership and the Rule

The Rule is Our Way

# Servant Leadership in the Rule



## Rule, Part III, Statute 12: Servant Leadership Positions

For a specific period of time the Society chooses qualified members for the various Council and Conference leadership positions who will carry out their tasks with the same dedication with which they work within their own Conference.

**Elected by secret ballot**

**Full slate of officers required**

**Term limited (President only)**

# Conference Leadership



**President**



**Vice President**



**Treasurer**



**Secretary**



**Other Officers  
Committee Chairs  
Special Works**



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# Servant Leadership in the Rule



## Rule, Part III, Statute 11: Servant Leadership

*Leadership positions in the Society, at any level, are always to be accepted as service to Christ, the members, and the poor. Servant Leadership is done in imitation of Jesus who said: “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mk 10:45)*



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# Servant Leadership in the Rule



**Rule, Part III, Statute 11: Servant Leadership**

**Follow Gospels and Rule**

**Not to be served, but to serve**

**Fulfill Conference decisions**

# Decision-making



## Rule, Part III, Statute 16: Subsidiarity and Democracy

*To ensure democracy in the Society decisions are often made by consensus. Consensus decision-making requires that everyone agree with a decision, not just a majority as occurs in majority-rule processes. In consensus-based processes, people must work together to develop an agreement that is good enough, though not necessarily perfect. **In rare circumstances, if consensus cannot be reached, the decision may be put to a vote.***

# Discussion



- What steps can I take to call more Members to Servant Leadership?
- How can I foster consensus in place of voting to make Conference decisions?

# Our Conference Meetings



*“The Conference  
meets less to  
conduct business  
than to celebrate  
and deepen its unity  
for essentially spiritual  
reasons.”*



# Servant Leadership in the Rule



## Rule, Part I, Article 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 charisms of the members are identified, developed and put to the service of the poor and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The President of the Conference or Council will have **special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality***

# Spirituality



“...members are always invited to comment as a means of sharing their faith...”



WEEKLY REFLECTION	SERVING IN HOPE	APOSTOLIC REFLECTION
Free download Read & Reflect	Formation Vincentian Pathway	Personal Corporate



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# Friendship



## **3.3 Meetings of the Vincentian members**

The members meet as brothers and sisters with Christ in the midst of them, in Conferences that are genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action. Spiritual bonds and friendship between members are essential, as is the common mission to help the poor and marginalized. The entire Society is a true and unique worldwide Community of Vincentian friends.

# Friendship



***“The session is nearly always concerned with business, it seems long.”***

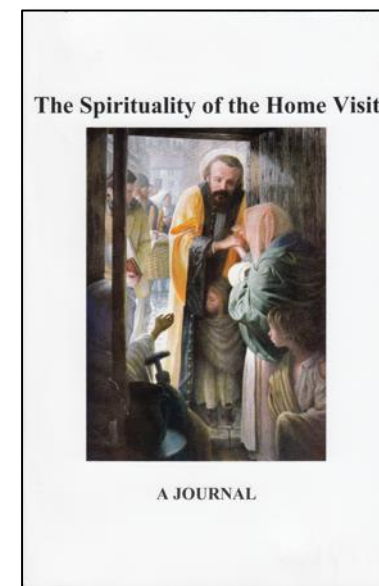
The friendship that unites us with each other unites us with our neighbors in need.

# Service



“Members who personally encounter the needy individual or family are assumed to have a special insight into the best way to give help.”

**Neighbor  
Friend  
Brother/Sister**



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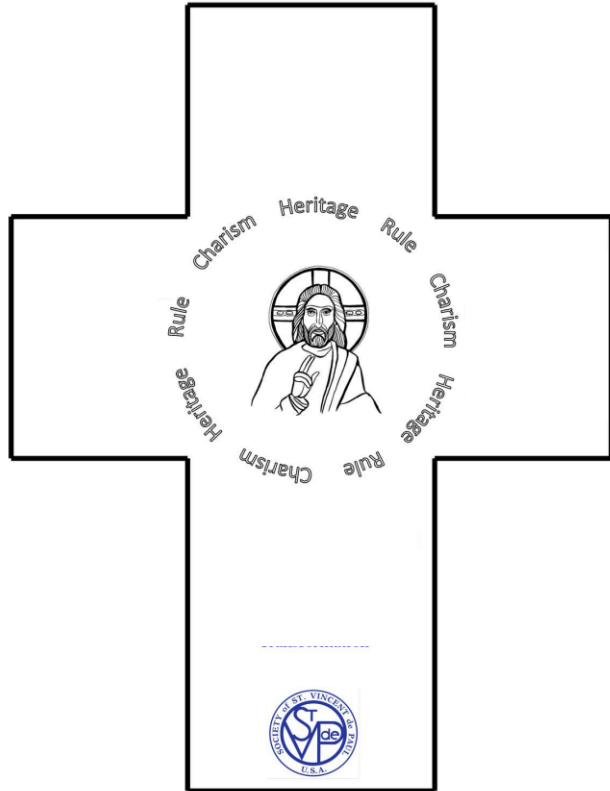
# Walking the Vincentian Pathway

Servant Leadership is Essential

# The Vincentian Pathway



***Based On the Essential Elements  
and Servant Leadership***



- **Spirituality:** Will Root You in a Clear Understanding of the Vincentian Spirituality Which Underlies Your Vincentian Vocation.
- **Friendship:** Will Provide You With the Ways to Gather the Support, Advice and Encouragement You Need for Your Vincentian Journey.
- **Service:** Will Guide You to See Exciting New Ways to Serve With a Vincentian Heart, So That You Will Be Able to Strengthen and Deepen Your Current Service.
- **Servant Leadership:** Will Lead You to Become a True Vincentian Servant Leader in the Spirit of Jesus and Our Founders.

# Walking the Pathway...



**Helps Us Be Better Vincentians By Living Our Rule**

## **THE VINCENTIAN PATHWAY:**

- Helps Create a Vincentian Heart By Forming Your Mind and Attitude Into a Vincentian Way of Thinking and Acting.
- Develops Your Vincentian Vocation By Preparing You for Many and Different Roles that God May Call You to Assume Throughout Your Vincentian Life.
- Is Not Walked in a Sequential Manner, But the Holy Spirit Will Lead You and Your Conference in a Unique Way. Indeed, Your Vincentian Heart Will Be in a Process, Over and Over, of:
  - Discovering
  - Deepening
  - Discerning
  - Developing



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# Questions?

## Answers!

# Closing Prayer



**Heavenly Father,**

**Inspired by Your servants Blessed Frederic and  
Saint Vincent**



**May we bear witness to Your compassionate  
and liberating love**

**By serving Your poor cheerfully,**

**And each other humbly,**

**On our path towards Holiness in union with you,  
Lord Jesus.**