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.
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.
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.
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
Servant Leadership

- John 13: 3-17
- Matthew 20: 20-28
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

- God’s Will
- Why?
- Mission
- How?
- Virtues
- What?
- Vision

From Mystic Leadership
By Eduardo Marquez
Our Primary Purpose

Cardinal
- Prudence
- Justice
- Temperance
- Fortitude

Theological
- Faith
- Hope
- Love/Charity

Vincentian
- Simplicity
- Humility
- Selflessness
- Gentleness
- Zeal
Characteristics of Servant Leaders

- Listening
- Empathy
- Healing
- Awareness
- Persuasion
- Conceptualization
- Foresight
- Stewardship
- Commitment to growth
- 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
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
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)
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.
“...members are always invited to comment as a means of sharing their faith...”

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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.
“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.
“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
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
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.