

# To be an Effective and Responsible Servant Leader: Conference President Webinar 2 Goals

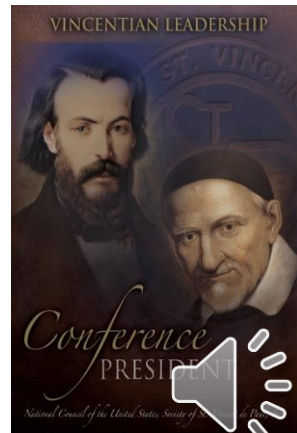


## A Leader's Prayer

Leadership is hard to define. Lord, let us be the ones to define it with justice.

Leadership is like a handful of water. Lord, let us be the people to share it with those who thirst.

Leadership is not about watching and correcting. Lord, let us remember it is about listening and connecting.



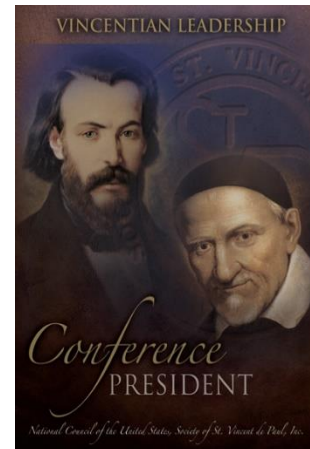
# To be an Effective and Responsible Servant Leader: Conference President Webinar 2 Goals



## A Leader's Prayer (continued)

Leadership is not about telling people what to do. Lord, let us find out what people want.

Leadership is less about the love of power, and more about the power of love.



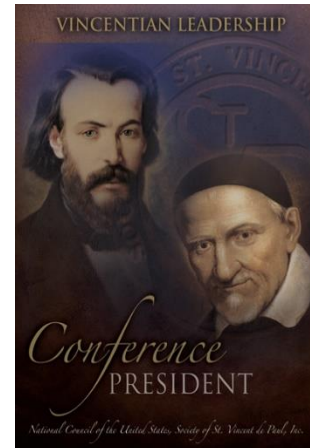
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## A Leader's Prayer (continued)

Lord, as we continue to undertake the role of leader let us be affirmed by the servant leadership we witness in your son Jesus. Let us walk in the path He has set and let those who will, follow.

Let our greatest passion be compassion. Our greatest strength love. Our greatest victory the reward of peace. In leading let us never fail to follow. In loving let us never fail. Amen.



# CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

## Webinar 1



### **Seven Duties of Conference Presidents**

- Commitment
- Comprehension
- Communication
- Cultivation
- Collaboration
- Chairperson
- Contributions/Compliance



See pp. 6-8 Vincentian Leadership:  
Guidelines for Conference President



# Adaptation to a Changing World (Rule: Part 1, 1.6)



“Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. It seeks to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. It gives priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society.”





# Your 5 Goals

- Goal # 1 Formation/Training
- Goal # 2 Work for Your Conference as a Servant Leader
- Goal # 3 Your Team
- Goal # 4 Your Spiritual Advisor
- Goal # 5 Your members
- See pp. 26-27 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President





## Formation of Members Rule: Part 1, 3.12

- “It is essential that the Society continually **promote the formation and training** of its members and Officers, in order to deepen their knowledge of the Society and their spirituality, improve the sensitivity, quality and efficiency of their service to the poor and help them be aware of the benefits, resources and opportunities that are available for the poor. The Society also offers members higher training in order to better help to raise the cultural and social level of those who request this support.”



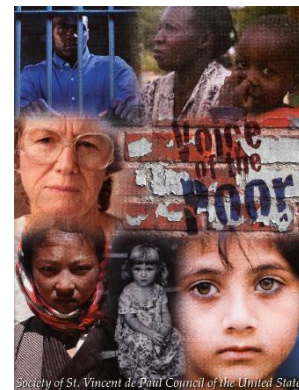
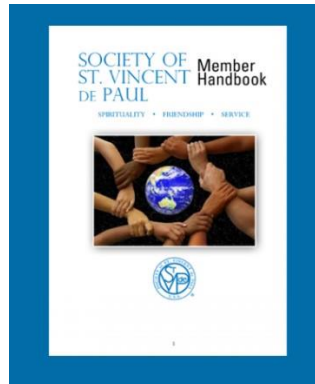
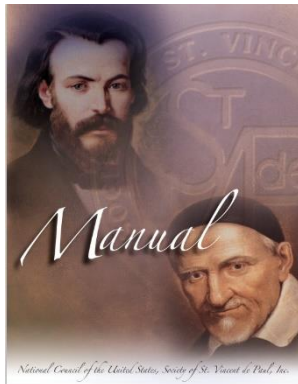
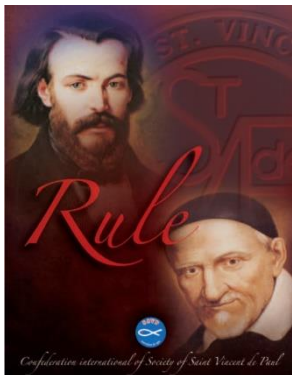




# Goal # 1 Formation/Training

1. Instill in your members the Mission, Values, and the Essential Elements of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
2. Encourage them to become more knowledgeable members in order to better serve those in need.
3. Form, train, and mentor members who would make good Presidents when your term is up.

See pp. 28-30 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President





# Serving in Hope



**MODULE I: OUR VINCENTIAN VOCATION**

**MODULE II: OUR VINCENTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

**MODULE III: OUR VINCENTIAN HERITAGE**

**MODULE IV: OUR VINCENTIAN MISSION**

**MODULE V: OUR VINCENTIAN RULE**

**MODULE VI: OUR VINCENTIAN CONFERENCE**

**MODULE VII: OUR VINCENTIAN HOME VISIT**



**Our National Council  
supports Regions, Councils,  
and Conferences by  
providing:**

**National Vehicle  
Donation  
Program**

**Grants**

**Name Recognition**

**Friends of the Poor®  
Walks & Runs**

**Advice on Taxes, Fundraising,  
Governance**



**Spiritual Materials**

Serving in Hope  
Vincentian Reflections  
Vincentian Celebrations  
Ozanam Orientation  
Spiritual Advisor Training

**And More!**



**National Office of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul**



## Goal # 2 Work for Your Conference as a Servant Leader



1. Look constantly at the needs in your area.
2. Discuss the needs in your Conference and with others outside the Conference.
3. Formulate plans to meet these needs and put these plans into action.

See pp. 31-37 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President





# Person to Person Service

- The Home Visit
- Special Works
- Systemic Change Programs

## Rule Part 1: 1.2 The Vincentian Vocation

The vocation of the Society's members, who are called Vincentians, is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. Members show their commitment through person-to-person contact. Vincentians serve in hope.

# The Home Visit



Frédéric Ozanam, in his academic robes, performing a home visit. Painting by Gary Schumer.

*Courtesy of the Association of the Miraculous Medal,  
Perryville, Missouri*





# Some Types of Poverty

- Material Poverty
- Informational Poverty
- Social Poverty

See pp. 31-32 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for  
Conference President



There is no worse material  
poverty, I am keen to  
stress, than the poverty  
which prevents people from  
earning their bread and  
deprives them of the dignity  
of work.

Pope Francis

  
[www.idlehearts.com](http://www.idlehearts.com)







## Some Other Types of Poverty

### **Situational Poverty:**

Poverty due to temporary circumstances

### **Life-long Challenges:**

Poverty due to long-term illness or disability

### **Generational Poverty:**

Poverty over two or more generations

***What is most common in your community?***



# Poverty is not Easy



## *The Tyranny of the moment*

**No food for the weekend**

**Rent is past due**

**Utility Shutoff Notice**

**The baby is coughing**

**Aunt Sue can't pick  
up Jimmy today**

***The car broke down  
again***

- No time or energy for learning new skills
- Eventually, long-term planning skills are affected

Adapted from: *Bridges to Sustainable Communities*; p. 63



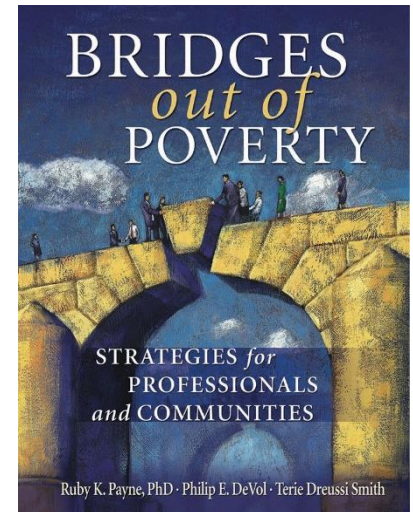
# Poverty is not just about money...



**Poverty can be defined as a “lack of resources.”**

For instance:

- Financial
- Skills
- Education
- Social Connections
- Role Models
- Support Systems
- Health
- And more ...



Adapted from: *Bridges Out of Poverty*;  
by Ruby Payne et. al.; 2001.



what are other  
words for  
non-judgmental?

open-minded, unbiased,  
unprejudiced, prejudice-free,  
accepting, non-partisan,  
neutral, non-aligned



 Thesaurus.plus

**American Manual, pp. 64-65**



# What Can WE as a Conference Do?



- Understand what types of poverty occur in your community
- Acknowledge the “tyranny of the moment”
- Learn more about poverty & systemic change
- Study *Serving in Hope Module IV*
- Experience “*If Not Me, Then Who*” by Donna Beegle



# If Not Me, Then Who? Empowering Our Neighbor



Seven 90 minute modules written by Donna Beegle especially for Vincentians.

Includes videos, activities, Facilitator and Participant's Guides.

An interactive study to

- Better understand the challenges faced by the people we serve.
- Reflect on what you believe about poverty and the people who live in it.



[Communication Across Barriers – SVDP USA \(ssvpusa.org\)](http://ssvpusa.org)



# ENDING POVERTY

One Person,



One Neighborhood



One Community At A Time







## Quote from St. Louise de Marillac

*“As for your conduct toward the poor, may you never take the attitude of merely getting the task done. You must show them affection; serving them from the heart; inquiring of them what they might need; speaking to them gently and compassionately.”*

*Louise de Marillac*



# Meetings of the Vincentian Members Rule:

## Part 1, 3.3



“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.”

## Goal # 3 Your Team



Your officers will assist you in important ways so that the Conference is a genuine community of faith and love, prayer and action.

See pp. 38-40 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President



# A Conference President is never a one-man, or one- woman, band.



CBR001863 [RF] © www.visualphotos.com



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# Officers

- Vice President(s)
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Spiritual Advisor



See pp. 39 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for  
Conference President





## ***Ideas for Delegating Conference Responsibilities***

Every active conference member should have his or her own special responsibility. This increases involvement and it spreads the work around. Every conference is unique, so your responsibilities will be unique too. Here's some ideas:

<b>President</b>	Coordinate overall activities of the Conference.
<b>Vice-President(s)</b>	Assume duties of President when President is not available. Can also chair a committee or project.
<b>Secretary</b>	Notify members of meetings, take minutes, and handle correspondence.
<b>Treasurer</b>	Handle conference finances. Work with Secretary on Annual Report.
<b>Spiritual Advisor</b>	Prepare and lead prayer, spiritual reading and reflection at each meeting. Plan retreats etc.
<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	Takes minutes when secretary is unavailable.
<b>Assistant Spiritual Advisor</b>	Lead reflections when Spiritual Advisor is unavailable. Help plan retreats and celebrations.
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Assists treasurer with some portion of bookkeeping and making payments. For instance, if you pay utility bills at a kiosk, perhaps a second person could do that.
<b>Pastoral Council Representative</b>	Represent Conference on the Pastoral Council.
<b>Youth Liaison</b>	Coordinate parish youth activities in support of the Conference, work with Religious Ed staff.
<b>Initial Contact with Friends in Need</b>	Take phone calls, get contact info and the nature of the request. This may be a rotating responsibility.
<b>Home Visit Scheduler</b>	Match up requests with available home visit teams. This may be a rotating responsibility.
<b>Home Visit Captain</b>	Work with new home visitors, set up training, ensure procedures are up-to-date
<b>Food Supply Coordinator</b>	Coordinate food gathering to ensure adequate supplies are on hand.
<b>Food Storage Coordinator</b>	Set up and maintain storage for food in a safe and organized fashion.
<b>Food Bag/Box Committee Chair</b>	Organize people to pack food for delivery to those in need. If you have a walk-in food bank or food pantry, there will be additional roles.
<b>Conference Records Coordinator</b>	Maintains records of people helped.
<b>Members Portal Coordinator</b>	Assist President by updating National membership database and providing members with up-to-date lists of member contact information.
<b>Conference Hospitality Coordinator</b>	Coordinate ministering to Conference members when needed – get-well cards, sympathy cards, assistance for those who are ill.
<b>Recruitment Chair</b>	Organize annual (or more often!) recruiting efforts. Take potential new members out for coffee.
<b>Sunday Bulletin Correspondent</b>	Let the parish know what is going on via regular bulletin announcements.
<b>Reminder Calls</b>	Call every member two or three days before meeting and leave a message.
<b>XXX Project Chair</b>	Chair of a project such as Thanksgiving Baskets, Christmas Gift Tree, Bundle Sunday, Donut Sales, Prison Outreach, etc.
<b>Resource Collector</b>	Keeps referral sheets and resources up-to-date and available for members and those in need.
<b>Voice of the Poor Chair</b>	Keeps track of Council Voice of the Poor activities and brings issues to the Conference for consideration.
<b>Information Liaison</b>	Reads and reports in conference meetings on the e-Gazette, VOP newsletter, etc.

## Part I, 3.11 Presidents as servant leaders

*“The President of the Conference or Council will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.”*







## Goal # 4 Your Spiritual Advisor

1. Your spiritual advisor is an essential member of you Conference and she/he will assist you in centering the Conference in our mission, vision, and values.
2. It is important to have your spiritual advisor trained so that she/he can be a vital member of the Conference.

See pp. 41-42 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for  
Conference President



# Spiritual Advisor



## Top Two Resources :

- Spiritual Advisor Handbook top resource for SAs
- “Walking the Vincentian Pathway: Conference Planner”





# Spiritual Advisor

## Other Important Resources:

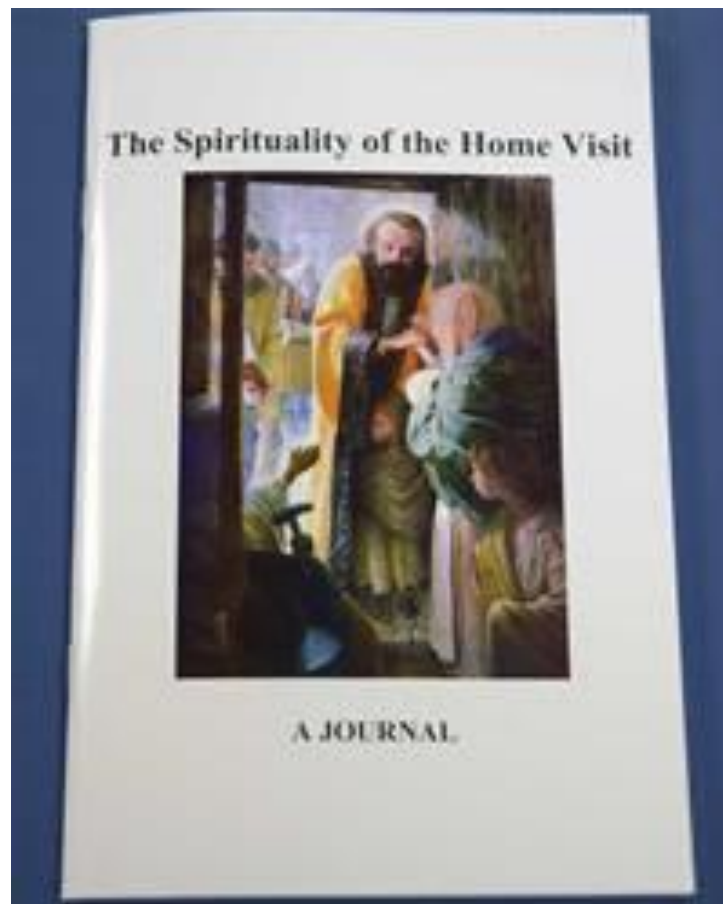
- **Vincentian Reflections** (Cycle A-B-C): This important resource is to be used for Prayer, Reflection and Sharing at Conference Meetings (Based on the Sunday Scripture readings and Vincentian Feasts). Also available FREE on [www.ssvpusa.org](http://www.ssvpusa.org)
- **Vincentian Celebrations:** Rituals and Ceremonies Prayer services for Annual Commitments, Commissioning, Funerals, etc. Liturgies for our Founders, and other resource information.

# Spiritual Advisor



## Additional Resources:

- *The Spirituality of the Home Visit: A Journal*



# Spiritual Advisor



## Other Additional Resources (continued):

- *Faces of Holiness: Portraits of some Saints in the Vincentian Family* by Father Robert P. Maloney
- *Mystic of Charity* by Father Robert P. Maloney
- *A New Century Dawns* by Father Robert P. Maloney
- *Tis a Gift to be Simple* by Father Robert P. Maloney
- *Turn Everything to Love* by Father Robert P. Maloney
- *A Heart of Fire: Apostolic Reflection with Rosalie Rendu*
- *Vincentian Meditations I and II* by Father Tom McKenna



For all resources see pp. 29-30 Vincentian Leadership:  
Guidelines for Conference President

# The Journey together towards holiness

## Rule: Part 1, 2.2



Vincentians are called **to journey together towards holiness**, because true holiness is perfection of love, which is central to their vocation and the source of its fruitfulness. They aspire to burn with the love of God as revealed by Christ and to deepen their own faith and fidelity. **Vincentians are aware of their own brokenness and need for God's grace.** They seek His glory, not their own. Their ideal is to help relieve suffering for love alone, without thinking of any reward or advantage for themselves.



## Goal # 5 Your members

1. Regularly invite people to join the Society so that you will have sufficient members to do all that your Conference wants to achieve.
2. Strive for diversity in culture, gender, and age.

See pp. 43-45 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for  
Conference President





How could you include:

- Both people who work during the day and people who can't drive at night?
- Families and younger people?
- People who talk with God in a language other than English?



What strengths might these people bring to our Conference?

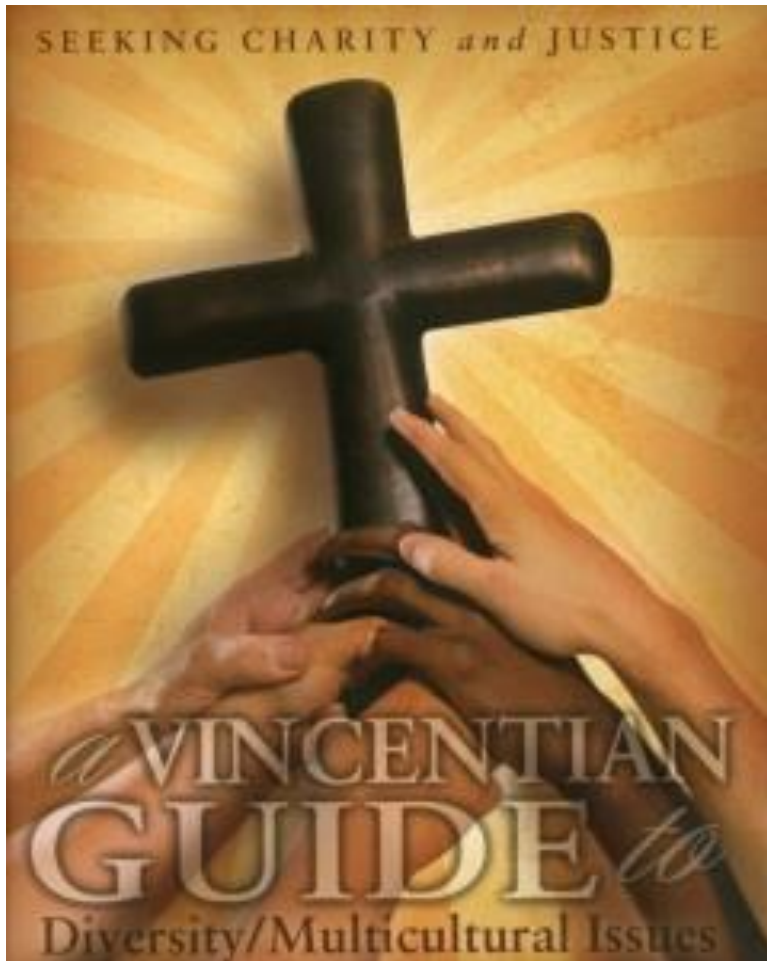


*“Our members ... are drawn from every ethnic and cultural background, age group and economic level.”*  
- Identity Statement



*Are we offering everyone in our parish  
the opportunity to grow spiritually with us?*





[Outreach – St. Vincent de Paul USA Member Site \(ssvpusa.org\)](http://ssvpusa.org)

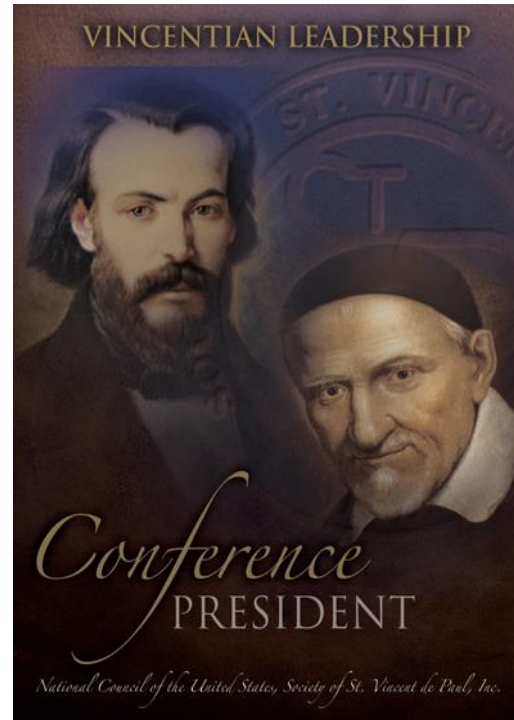
# Growth and Revitalization



[Growth & Revitalization – St. Vincent de Paul USA Member Site \(ssvpusa.org\)](http://ssvpusa.org)

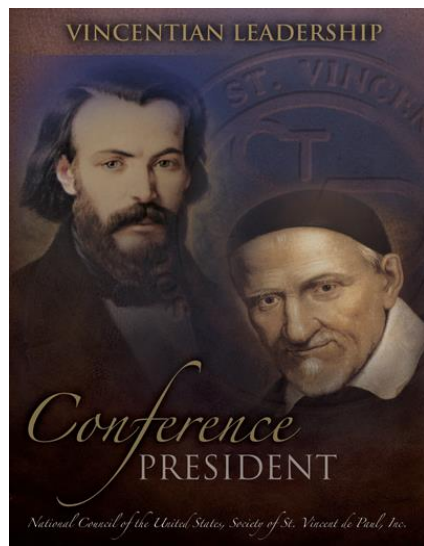






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# Questions/Discussion



If you are viewing this on a live webinar with a facilitator, you will be instructed on how to ask any questions you may have.

If you are not viewing this as a part of a live webinar, please refer any questions you may have to Tim Williams, National Director of Formation at:

Tim Williams [twilliams@svdpusa.org](mailto:twilliams@svdpusa.org)

Thank you and God Bless!