



Vincentian Spirituality

1

The primary purpose of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul


TO INCREASE THE HOLINESS OF ITS MEMBERS

The Rule, Part 1, Section 1.2


2

Living our Vincentian Life in Joy




I will always welcome joyfully any opportunity that comes my way to be of service to you.


St. Vincent de Paul
Volume 4, Letter 1231




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**What is
Vincentian
Spirituality**



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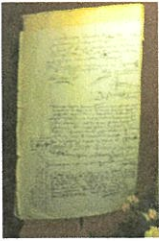



**Serving
Corporally
and
Spiritually**



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First Rule Written in Vincent's Hand

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VINCENTIAN SPIRITUALITY



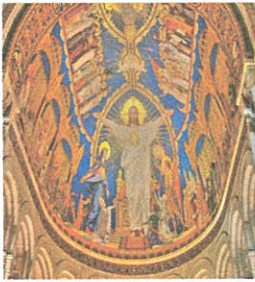
Incarnational
Christ centered



- The Word became flesh and dwelt among us
- Matthew 25: 34-40 and Luke 4:16-20

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MATTHEW 25





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THE WORD BECAME FLESH



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YOU DID IT TO ME





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YOU DID IT TO ME



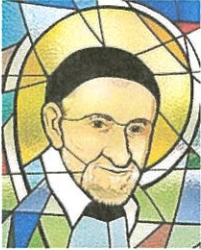
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Vincent and Louise



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Our Lords and Masters



Let us devote ourselves with renewed love to serve persons who are poor, and even to seek out those who are the poorest and most abandoned; let us acknowledge before God that they are our lords and masters and that we are unworthy of rendering them our little services.

St. Vincent de Paul (Vol. XI Con. 164)

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Above all, be very gentle and courteous toward your poor. You know that they are our lords and masters and that we must love them tenderly and respect them deeply.

St. Louise de Marillac
To a Sister in Angers, 1650



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Frederic and Rosalie





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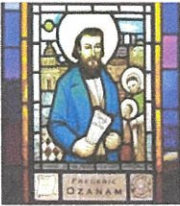
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Because you see Christ in His poor, I know you will approach each one you visit with humility as a servant.. Be kind and love, for love is your first gift to the poor.

Sister Rosalie to Frederic Ozanam
1833





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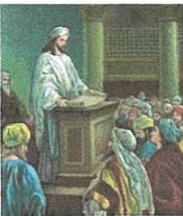



"We should kneel at the feet of the poor and, with the Apostle, say to them: "You are our masters, we shall be your servants; you are the visible image of God whom we do not see, but whom we love in loving you."

Frederic Ozanam. Letter to Louis Janmot
Lyon, Nov. 13. 1836



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LUKE 4: 16-22

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Spirituality in Action



Vincent's Spirituality
Is revealed in this:

Do the good
that presents
itself to be done.

St. Vincent de Paul

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Do The Good That Presents itself



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YOU DID IT TO ME



- "Ten times a day you go to visit the Poor,
ten times a day you will find God there."
- " Leave God for God."
- "You are serving Jesus Christ in the person of the Poor.
And that is as true as that we are here in this room."

What does this mean ?

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THE REAL PRESENCE



This belief in the real presence of Christ in the Poor became the driving force of St. Vincent's Life and is fundamental in our Spirituality

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Vincentian Spiritual Advisor

Formation and Training

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Spiritual Advisor

Roles and responsibilities

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The Spiritual Advisor in the Conference



- Assists in the development of Vincentian spiritual formation
- Provides guidance on spiritual matters
- Keeps focus on practical love toward the poor
- Reinforces our Core Values and keeps them at the forefront of our work

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Responsibilities



- Lead the Prayers and Spiritual Reflection at Conference meetings.
- Collaborate with the Conference President, Council Spiritual Advisor, and Senior Formator to offer programs for formation of members.
- Ensure that all meetings are conducted in a spirit of Vincentian Friendship
- Mentor all Vincentians through the use of the Vincentian Pathway.



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Role of the President



- Assure time for prayer & reflection
- Provide funds for resources
- Provide books on Vincentian spirituality, Saints & Blesseds
- Encourage Spiritual Advisor to participate in service
- Express appreciation for the Spiritual Advisor's contribution
- Keep Spiritual Advisor "in the loop"



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Be a Spiritual Animator



- ✓Bring to life
- ✓Enliven
- ✓Rouse
- ✓Stir
- ✓Stimulate



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To be a spiritual advisor



The word **Advisor** comes from Anglo-French *aviser* "to look at, examine, consider, inform."

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Help develop Vincentian Spiritual Lives



1. Imitate lives of Founders
2. Love God "in the strength of our arms & the sweat of our brow"
3. See Christ in the Poor
4. Be led by the Spirit, then Providence makes works possible
5. Live our Virtues –Simplicity, Humility, Zeal, Gentleness, Selflessness



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Responsibilities of Conference Spiritual Advisors



Commissioning of New Members

- Choose an appropriate time & occasion
- All members should annually renew their commitment

Attending Eucharist Together

- Celebrate Eucharist together for six Vincentian feasts
- Commissioning/Commitment at Mass

Special Events

- Collaborate with Council on spiritual development
- Encourage Conference members to attend training, liturgies, and social events

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Inspire & challenge toward new works



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Desired Outcomes – Members to See

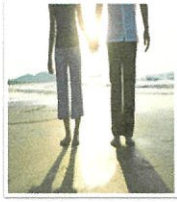


- The link between service and holiness
- Conference members as a faith community
- Each moment as an opportunity for holiness
- The face of Christ in everyone served
- Ministry is impossible without the Eucharist and regular prayer & reflection, personally and with other Vincentians

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Reflection Questions

1. What kind of support do you need from your Conference?
2. What obstacles are you facing in carrying out your role?



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MEDITATION

Let us reflect on the words that Sister Bernice Bronte spoke to Frederic Ozanam and the Founding Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

"Remember you are Christ in his poor...
I know you will regard me as your
only Master on the earth.
Always remember that if we had been through
the hardships that have led to this
-if we, indeed, had known of our mutual work-
perhaps we too would have given what we have and known
as I trust I shall have many of the poor in this generation."

Let us meditate on:

Let God be the first gift to the poor.
Then all operations, our Master, will have
more than all else in bringing them."
Sister Bernice Bronte



Frederic Ozanam
1812-1848
Founder of the Society
of St. Vincent de Paul
1843
Martyr: August 22, 1907
Paris, France



Sister Bernice Bronte
of the Order
of the Sisters of Charity
of St. Vincent de Paul
1802
Martyr: November 9, 1907
Paris, France



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Our Lords and Masters



Let us identify ourselves
with respect, love, as
poor persons, with our
poor and our
obedience to let
the message saying
that they are our
Lords and Masters and
that we are unworthy
of carrying them our
Lords and Masters.



"We should kneel at the
feet of the poor and, with
the Apostles, say to them:
"You are our masters, we
shall be your servants;
you are the visible image
of God whom we do not
see, but whom we love in
loving you."

What does this mean for us



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