Th­e Congregation of the Mission  
In order that he might better respond to a wide variety of needs, St. Vincent de Paul brought  
together as many people as he could, rich and poor, humble and powerful, and used every means  
to inspire in them a sensitivity to the poor, who are the privileged image of Christ. He moved  
them to help the poor directly and indirectly (Constitutions of the Congregation of the Mission,  
Introduction, p.19).

The purpose of the Congregation of the Mission is to follow Christ evangelizing the poor. This  
purpose is achieved when, faithful to St. Vincent, the members individually and collectively: (1)  
make every effort to put on the spirit of Christ himself (Common Rules I:3) in order to acquire  
a holiness appropriate to their vocation (Common Rules XII:13); (2) work at evangelizing the  
poor, especially the more abandoned; (3) help the clergy and laity in their formation and lead  
them to a fuller participation in the evangelization of the poor (Constitutions, #1).  
From the time of its founder, the members of the Congregation of the Mission recognized that  
they had been called by God to continue the mission of evangelizing those persons who are  
poor.

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