**Sister Paule Freeburg, D.C.**
Presenter Bio

Sr. Paule Freeburg, D.C., Spiritual Director for the Western Region, National Society of St. Vincent de Paul, will guide us in our exploration of the birth of the Vincentian Family - The Origin of the Confraternities or the Associations of Charity. The Vincentian Family is a group of charities that share a common Vincentian heritage to serve the poor and marginalized. The Ladies of Charity is one of the earliest members of the Vincentian Family.

Founded by St. Vincent de Paul, patron of all charity, the Ladies of Charity responded to the needs of the poor in 17th century France. Together with St. Louise de Marillac, they went quietly about their tasks, seeking no recognition, satisfied with the knowledge that they were serving Christ in the person of the poor.

The Ladies of Charity, since their origin, have possessed the charism of their founder, daily prayer and personal service to the poor. That same Vincentian spirit characterizes the Association today. It asks the personal gift of self, time, devotion, sacrifices, and perseverance in the effort to bring dignity to each person and to respond with compassion to every human misery.

Sister Paule Freeburg has an extensive background with the religious education of both children and adults. Though not raised Catholic, she became one during her undergraduate years. A few years later, she took her new faith one step further by becoming a nun, joining the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. She was inspired while watching a community of sisters in Santa Barbara work with developmentally disabled children. "I saw in them a profound respect for the dignity of human beings," she said. She took her vows in 1971 and then went to Gonzaga University to earn a master’s in theology