

V E T E R A MONIMENTA

A. P. Charam

May 2022

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



Western Region Assembly

Opening Mass (ZOOM)

Tuesday 5/10, 10:30 AM

Western Region Assembly

Event Agenda, Page 6 (ZOOM)

Wednesday 5/11 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Thursday 5/12 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Friday 5/13 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Saturday 5/14 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday 5/17, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Meeting

Spirituality and Formation Committee

Tuesday 5/17, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday 6/14, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Meeting

Spirituality and Formation Committee

Tuesday 6/14, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Meeting

District Council Meeting

Saturday 6/18, 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Feast of the Sacred Heart

Friday 6/24. All Day

Vincentian Recognition Event

Saturday 7/16, 5 PM - 7 PM

Bob Liles Corner

JUST ASK

Last month I drove to LA to do a one day 100-mile bicycle ride with my best friend. It was the 50th anniversary of the first time that he rode 100 miles in one day. Back then I only rode the first 25 miles with him and then rode back home. I had bought my first ten speed just a month prior to his ride and was not strong enough to ride 100 miles. But cycling completely changed my life and has been my dominant pastime for the last 50 years. I started off doing 100-mile rides, moved up to 200 miles and finally 300 miles in one day. I have done everything from racing against Greg LeMond, three-time winner of the Tour de France, to riding up the tallest mountains in France and Italy.

Why am I mentioning this? Because it all started due to my friend asking me to go on a bike ride with him. As I look back at my life, I noticed that almost all the major changes in my life occurred when someone personally asked me to do something. 26 years ago, my neighbor asked me to join the Knights of Columbus. I ended up being financial secretary and newsletter editor for about 15 years and my family helped in almost every activity that they did. Then about 16 years ago someone asked me if I could hand out bags of food for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. That really changed my life. My life's biggest change was not when someone asked me to do something, but it was 43 years ago when I asked a girl to have dinner with me. We have now been married for 42 years. Asking her out to dinner was one of the hardest things that I have ever done in my life, but the best thing that I ever did.

Bob Liles Corner (Just Ask cont.)

Has your life changed due to someone asking you to do something? When are you going to ask someone to join the Society? Speaking from the pulpit at every Mass is nice, but not as effective as asking someone that you know. As much as I love the Knights, SVDP is different, and it means a lot more to me. Being a member of the Society is special and very rewarding and has changed my life forever. I pray that you feel the same way. I know that every conference can use another person that will do home visits or work in their pantry. Ask. I am not good at asking people to do things. Blessed Frederic Ozanam was a natural. On vacation he would visit a city and when he left that city would have a new conference. I pray that I get the skill that Frederic had to convince people to join the Society.

Change someone's life for the better. Ask them to join the Society.

Thank You

A Heartfelt “Thank you” to All Our Vincentians

We have missed the smiles, hugs and face-to-face encounters with our Contra Costa Vincentians BUT that will soon change. Mark your calendars for our Vincentian Appreciation Event on Saturday, July 16, from 5 -7 pm at St. Stephen Church in Walnut Creek. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

We will be celebrating our 58th Anniversary of serving Contra Costa County's neighbors in need but, more importantly, we will be celebrating YOU! Vincentians are the backbone of our Society and because of your dedication and service, we are able to help feed, clothe, shelter, and heal our neighbors in need in the county. Special Vincentian recognitions, including the elite Top Hat award, will be presented to honorees during the festivities.

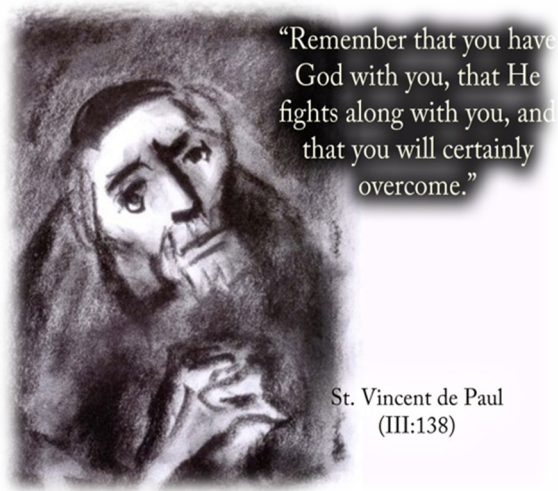
Watch your e-mail for details on how to nominate a devoted Vincentian for these special recognitions. We'll also be sending out information on how to RSVP for this free event but please Save the Date now so we can see you there.

During these past couple of years, our vocation to serve those in need and see the face of Christ in them has been strengthened by the growing numbers of local residents needing our help. Vincentians did not shy away from the call for help, they embraced the opportunity to serve our community and now is our time to say THANK YOU!

Blessings,

Claudia L. Ramirez

Executive Director and Vincentian



CIRCULAR LETTER - Another excerpt from the Circular Letter from the President General International, Renato Lima de Oliveira

3.5. Conference: A Holy Place

In the last few months, due to the health crisis affecting us all, we have seen how people have taken refuge at home, within their own world, in their own lives, having little or no contact with neighbors. Perhaps fear of death and lack of trust in Divine Providence explain this behavior. This “shutting up to protect oneself”, while necessary, has consequences. Many people, even now, are only slowly returning to normality, still full of fears and doubts. Many still resist any return to routine activities, such as work or study.

Just as everyone must get back to normal, so the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul cannot remain stuck in time and space, since those in need depend so much on the charitable work of the Conferences, and the hundreds of Vincentian support services, such as care homes for the elderly, and nurseries. As Pope Francis exhorts us, we must not be afraid (Matt 14, 22-33), because God is at our side.

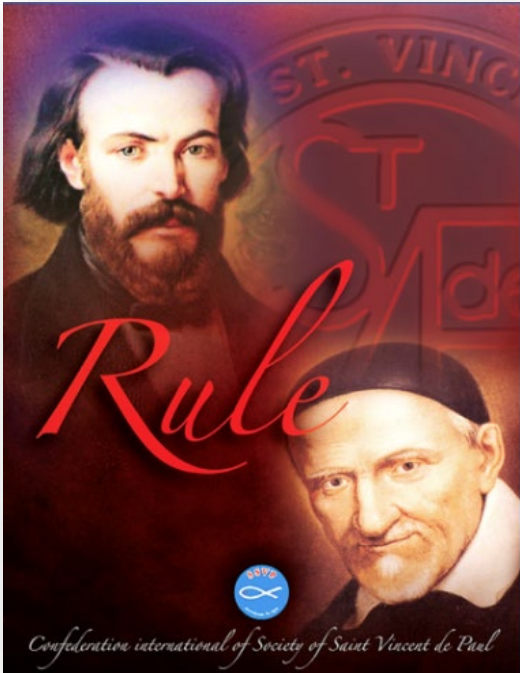
Of those who have been given much, through the countless blessings we have received, much will be demanded (Lk 12, 42-48). God expects much of us, the members, now more than ever, as the consequences of the pandemic, as well as so many tragic deaths, are disastrous for the whole mankind: incalculable losses in schooling, increased mental and psychological illness, spiritual remoteness from God, chaotic information coming from the media, increased deprivation, and hunger, among other things.

How can we, as members, use vain excuses not to return to the Conference meetings? Are we clinging to our earthly, mortal life, or do we really believe in the power of God and the wonderful works he achieves in our lives or through us, as tools in his divine hands?

Do we really believe that the Conference is a place of holiness, faith, service, prayer, where friendship is shared and grows? Are we exercising true charity, or are we content with virtual charity? “Christianity without contact with those who suffer is a Christianity unable to touch the flesh of Christ”, warned Pope Francis on Twitter, on the feast of St Vincent de Paul, 27 September last year.

We must return! Of course, we take the protective and medical steps needed, following all the protocols set by the health authorities, but we must return.

We take care not to be accused of all that we do not want, particularly when we are responsible before God: egoism, individualism, greed and laziness. We have to strengthen our Conferences, so that we will reach Heaven.



RULE 2.1

2.VINCENTIAN SPIRITUALITY & VOCATION

Faith in Christ and the Life of Grace

“Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God” (Rom. 5,1-2).

2.1 Love in Union with Christ

Convinced of the truth of the Apostle St. Paul's words, Vincentians seek to draw closer to Christ. They hope that someday it will be no longer they who love, but Christ who loves through them (Gal 2,20 "... I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God”), and that even now, in their caring, the poor may catch a glimpse of God's great love for them.

Hope

Conference

When Steve asked me to write something for the newsletter, I thought I would say something about the importance of filling out the Hope Conference paperwork. Well, as I pondered what I would write my thoughts turned to the word timeliness; not sure why. As I researched the meaning, one click of the mouse led to another and was led (I believe by the Holy Spirit) to this article.

~ Dominick Scibilia, Hope Conference

Time Poverty

Published on September 3, 2013

by Gabrielle Emanuel of Michigan Radio.

Time is a limited commodity for everyone. The rich, the poor, and everyone in between can be over scheduled and overtired.

Living with time poverty and living in ‘actual’ poverty are different things. But time poverty is especially hard if you also struggle with material poverty. Society and social programs are not particularly accommodating.

Being poor is time-consuming

A common image of the poor is that they have ‘nothing but time,’ but this is a stereotype. Many people living in poverty actually face extreme time pressure because money and time are linked resources.

When you have money, you can use it to save time. Dishwashers, washing machines, cleaners, cooks, and babysitters are all part of the vast commercial and social service sector that help many of us save time.

People living in poverty have the opposite experience, spending time to save money. For example, some kids wake up at 4:30 a.m. each day and take six buses to get to and from a good school. It takes time but it is more workable than paying for a private school. People who live in poverty – many of whom work in the service sector helping others save time – rarely have enough time themselves.

This is not about relaxation

How much time you have directly impacts your opportunities and your well-being. Research on social mobility shows how important it is to make connections with people across different socio-economic groups. But when you don’t have free time you don’t have the opportunity to meet and connect with others – much less pursue the education or training that could move you up the economic ladder.

Society is remarkably unsympathetic to the pressure faced by people living in poverty. Many feel “poor people’s time is regarded as valueless.”

Time poverty and single parents

When counting how many people live in poverty, the US looks at income. But incorporating time as a resource might provide valuable information about who needs assistance the most and what kind of assistance would be most useful.

Consider single parents. If we only look at income, a two-parent household with one working parent might have the same resources as a single working parent. Both households have just one income to support the family. But the single parent has far less time available to them and their children and challenges quickly begin to mount.

Time poverty and assistance programs

Measuring poverty matters because it determines who deserves assistance. Getting assistance is another issue – it takes time. We do not have to look any further than the lengthy processes required to qualify for assistance and the regular renewal requirements needed to keep it. Our assistance programs often do not realize that time is a valuable commodity.

Something to think about.



You're invited to our annual Western Region Assembly!

Opening Mass at 10:30am PDT Tue May 10
 at St. James Cathedral in Seattle
 (Mass available later online)

All other events will be online via Zoom.
 \$20 registration fee. Scholarships available.

Wednesday May 11 6:00-7:00pm	Address by our National President <i>Ralph Middlecamp</i>	Mensaje de nuestro presidente nacional
Wednesday May 11 7:00-8:00pm	The Hope to which He has Called You <i>by Sr. Paule Freeburg, D.C.</i>	La Esperanza a la que Ellos ha Llamado <i>Deacon Juan Lezcano</i>
Thursday May 12 6:00-8:00pm	Finding Your Vincentian Vocation: Activities Across the Region <i>John Hallissy and Western Region Committee Chairs</i> (English only) (Solo inglés)	
Friday May 13 6:00-7:00pm	Centro Rendu: A replicable program that authentically engages Latinos in our Vincentian ministry <i>By Mirya Munoz-Roach</i>	Conciencia y Sensibilidad de Culturas
Friday May 13 7:00-8:00pm	Cultural Awareness & Sensitivity <i>by Vicki Vernon Lott, Ph.D.</i> <i>of Just Faith Ministries</i>	Centro Rendu: Un programa replicable que involucra auténticamente a los latinos en nuestro ministerio Vicentino
Saturday May 14 9:30-noon	Mini Retreat: Listening with a Vincentian Heart <i>Western Region Formation Committee</i>	Mini Retiro: Escuchando con un Corazón Vicentino <i>Western Region Formation Committee</i>
Saturday May 14 12:30-2:00pm	Cultivating a Vincentian Culture of Participation <i>by Ryan Carney, Chief Advancement Officer SVDP National Office</i>	Cultivando una Cultura Vicentina de Participación

[Click here to register/Haga click aquí para inscribirse](#)