***For you, what are the most important aspects of the Vincentian Ministry?***

***…………. as defined by the Rule and manual?***

**“Did Jesus not choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him”.**

**WHY DO WE DO THE VINCENTIAN HOME** **VISIT?**

**Is it not possible that: When we visit the poor, we have the chance to meet Christ?**

***Question?* Of all the people who come to SVdP for help: How many do you think have been coming to SVDP for:**

**A Month**

**Six Months**

**A Year**

**Two Years**

**Over Five Years**

**A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT HOME VISITS.**

**As a Society -Two by Two we have been doing them … for 400 Years.**

**In 1617 when he founded the Confraternities of Charity, (Ladies of Charity) Vincent directed members to go two by two to the homes of the sick and disadvantaged.**

**In 1625 when he founded the Congregation of the Mission Vincent (Vincentian Priests) wrote: “We … always go out two by two” during missions to visit the homes of the marginalized.”**

**In 1633 when Vincent and Louise de Marillac founded the (Daughters of Charity), He placed huge emphasis on visits to the sick poor. Such visits were among the most striking characteristics of this new community of sisters.**

**HOME VISITS IN SVDP**

**Ozanam wrote often about home visits: He stated that the home visit to the poor was “our principal work.” He reported regularly on the number of visits that various conferences had made. He saw the visitor and the visited as intimately united.**

**In 1836, he wrote, “We rejoice that the number of families that we are going to visit is growing, because it seems to us that they form, with the members who visit them, two parts of the same society. Those who are helped provoke and revive the charity of those who help them: In this way, they assist each other, they live in the same spirit, and all find shelter under the mantle of St. Vincent de Paul.”**

**LOVING PRESENCE IN THE HOME**

**From the Society’s beginning, the central and most basic activity of Conferences has been the visitation of the needy in their homes. This is the clearest symbol of our Vincentian charism, which dictates the highest respect for the dignity of the poor. It symbolizes our Vincentian commitment to reach out to the needy, rather than require them to report to an outside service site. In the home, needy persons feel most free to confide their stories of struggle. In that family setting, Vincentians are asked to listen, offer humble advice, and render assistance.**

**WHY? MUTUALITY**

**“Help becomes honorable, because it may become mutual, because every man who gives a kind word, a good advice, a consolation today, may tomorrow stand himself in need of a kind word, an advise, or a consolation; because the hand that you clasp clasps yours in return; because the indigent family whom you love loves you in return, and will have largely acquitted themselves toward you when the old man, the mother, the little children shall have prayed for you.”**

**Frederic Ozanam. (October 21, 1848)**

**WHAT IS OUR VOCATION?**

**WHAT MAKES SVDP DIFFERENT?**

**The Quality of our Relationship**

**1.8 Reverence for the poor**

**Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and recover their own dignity, for we are all created in God’s image. In the poor, they see the suffering Christ.**

**1.9 Empathy**

**Vincentians endeavor to establish relationships based on trust and friendship. Conscious of their own frailty and weakness, their hearts beat with the heartbeat of the poor. They do not judge those they serve. Rather, they seek to understand them as they would a brother or sister.**

**CHRIST IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE VINCENTIAN RELATIONSHIP AT CTK**

**1.11 Concerns for deeper needs and spirituality**

**Vincentians are sincerely concerned with the deeper needs and the spiritual well-being of those they help, always observing a profound respect for their conscience and the faith they believe in, listening and understanding with their hearts, beyond both words and appearances.**

**1.12 Gratitude to those we visit**

**Vincentians never forget the many blessings they receive from those they visit. They recognize that the fruit of their labor’s springs, not from themselves, but especially for God and from the poor they serve.**

**We review the Rule in our meetings. You can see the importance that the Rule speaks to home visits and our Vincentian spirituality.**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY –CONFERENCE.**

**The mission of our Conferences is the mission of the Society: to join together in consensus, a bond of friendship and to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person services to those who are needy and suffering, in the tradition of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.**

**Vincentians, grow through spiritual reading, prayer and the sacraments, have to see themselves as being channels or instruments in bringing Christ to others in need and of seeing Christ in others in need.**

**FINAL THOUGHTS**

**Sharing our Insights & Thoughts**

**Where do we start?**

**Practice being willing to provide more than today’s handout.**

**Practice being able to open your heart and see through the eyes of the neighbor?**

**Practice staying in the moment, staying in contact (Knowing our neighbors names)**

**Practice Avoiding judgment**

**Practice welcoming Body language**

**Practice being Establishing relationship**