



# Vincentian Spirituality



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

# 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

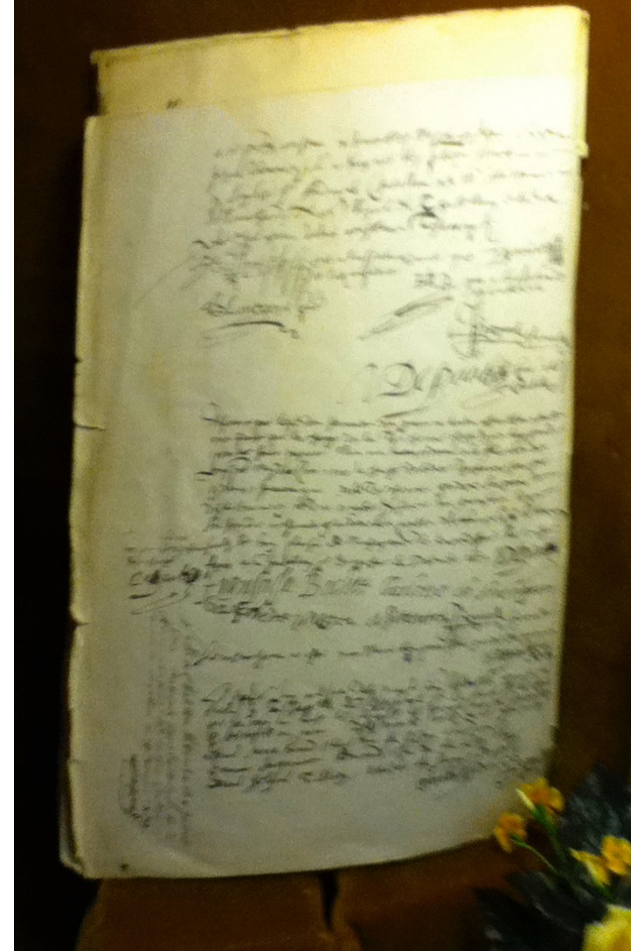
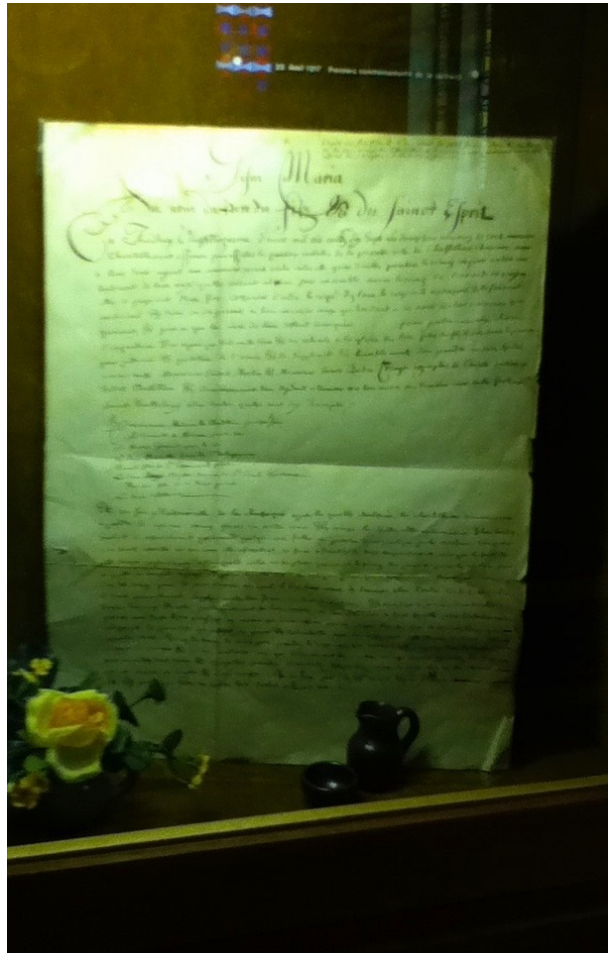


## What is Vincentian Spirituality



Serving  
Corporally  
and  
Spiritually

# First Rule Written in Vincent's Hand



# VINCENTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Incarnational  
Christ centered

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



# MATTHEW 25





# THE WORD BECAME FLESH



And dwells among us...

# YOU DID IT TO ME



# YOU DID IT TO ME





Vincent and Louise

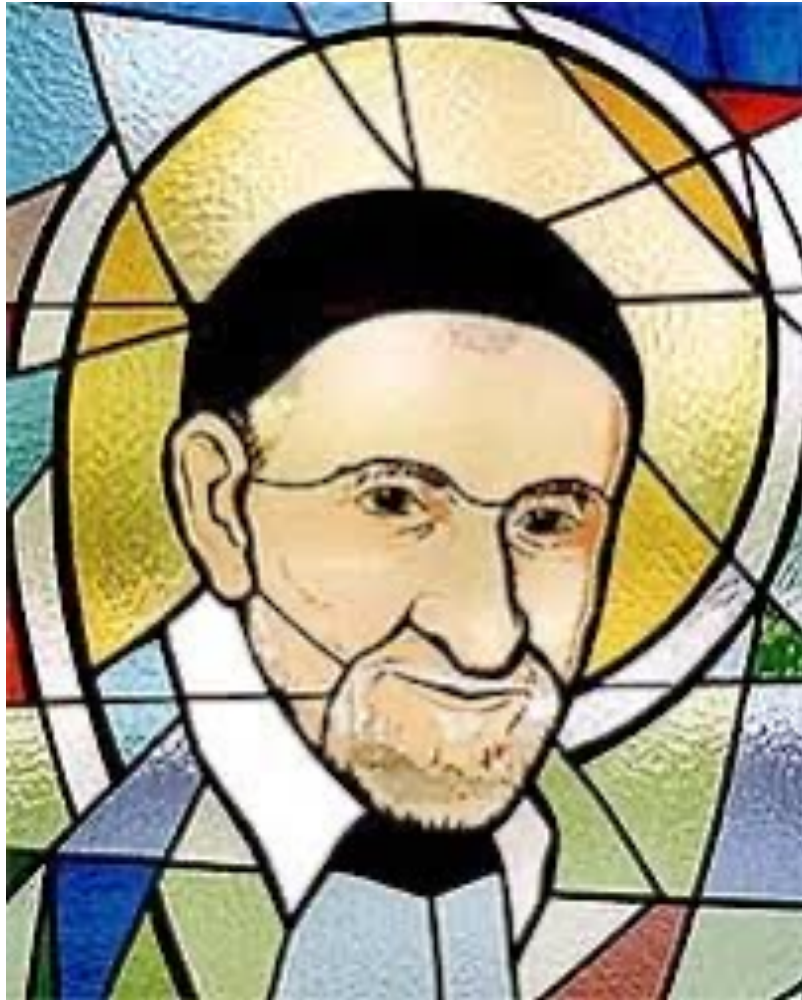
17<sup>th</sup>

Century

France



# 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 )

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



Frederic and Rosalie



**18th**

**Century**

**Paris**

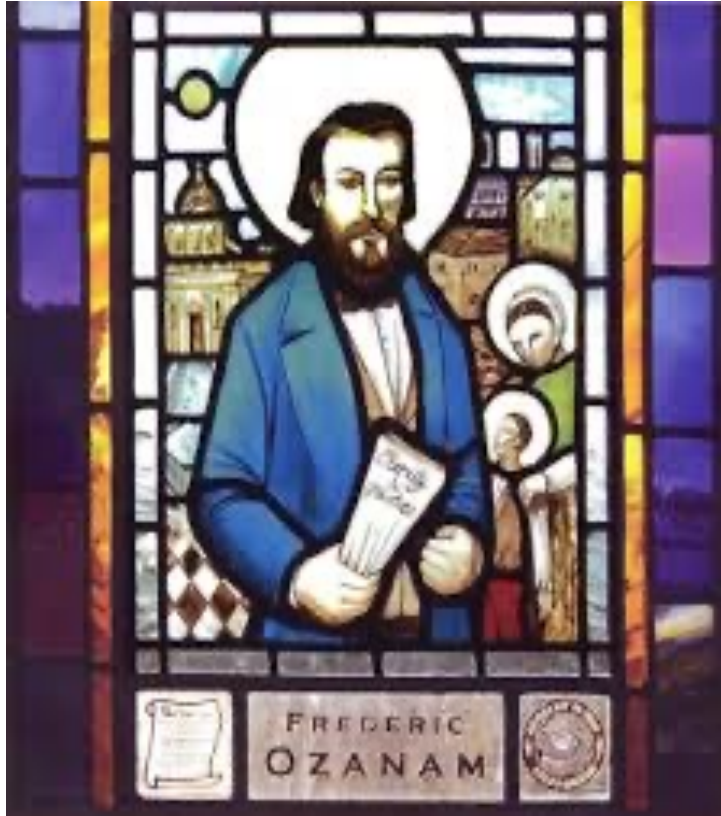
Because you see Christ  
in His poor, I know you  
will approach each one  
you visit with humility  
as a servant.. Be kind  
and love, for love is  
your first gift to the  
poor.

Sister Rosalie to Frederic Ozanam

1833





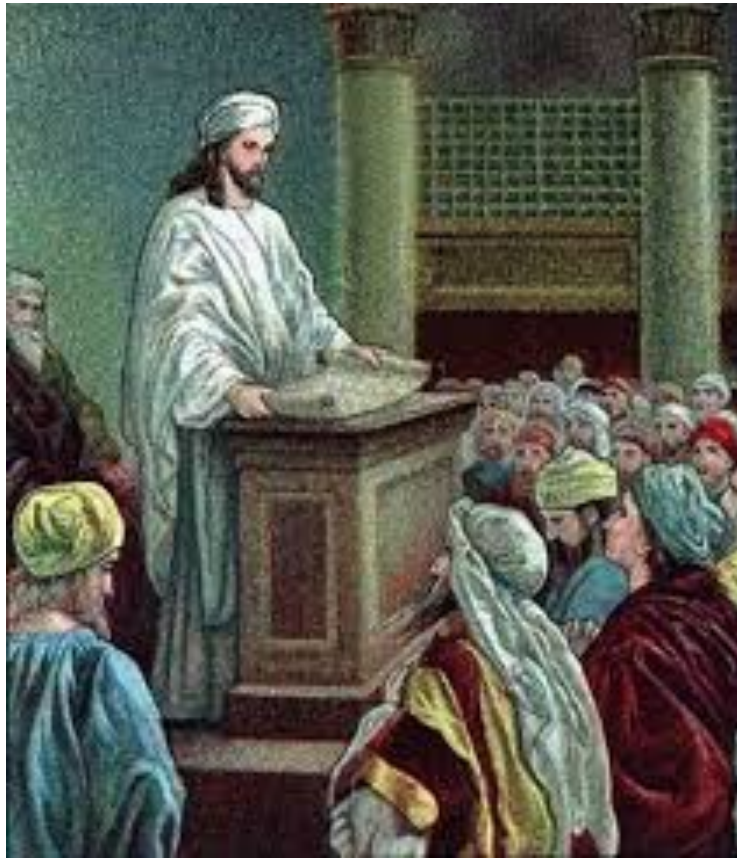


"We should kneel at the feet of the poor and, with the Apostle, say to them: "You are our masters, we shall be your servants; you are the visible image of God whom we do not see, but whom we love in loving you."

Frederic Ozanam, Letter to Louis Janmot

Lyon, Nov. 13, 1836

# LUKE 4: 16-22



# Spirituality in Action



Vincent's Spirituality  
Is revealed in this:

Do the good  
that presents  
itself to be done.

St. Vincent de Paul

# Do The Good That Presents itself



Mark 5:24-34



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 ?



# 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





# Vincentian Spiritual Advisor

Formation and Training



# Spiritual Advisor

Roles and responsibilities



# 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

# Responsibilities

## Lead

Lead the Prayers and Spiritual Reflection at Conference meetings.

## Collaborate

Collaborate with the Conference President, Council Spiritual Advisor, and Senior Formator to offer programs for formation of members.

## Ensure

Ensure that all meetings are conducted in a spirit of Vincentian Friendship

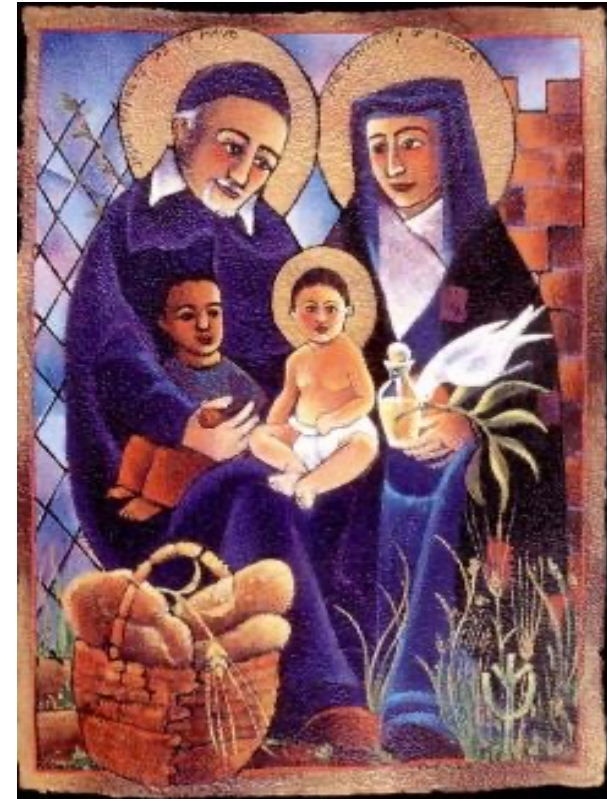
## Mentor

Mentor all Vincentians through the use of the Vincentian Pathway.



# 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"



# Be a Spiritual Animator

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



A large, solid orange circle occupies the left side of the slide, partially cut off by the edge.

To be a  
spiritual  
advisor

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



# Help develop Vincentian Spiritual Lives

Imitate the lives of our Founders

Vincent: Sweat of our Brow

Louise: Gentle and Courteous

Rosalie: Your Love is Your First Gift

Frederick: Be in the Poor Person's  
Home



# Responsibilities of Conference Spiritual Advisors

Commissioning of New Members

Attending Eucharist Together

Special Events

Inspire & challenge toward new works





# 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



# Reflection Questions

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

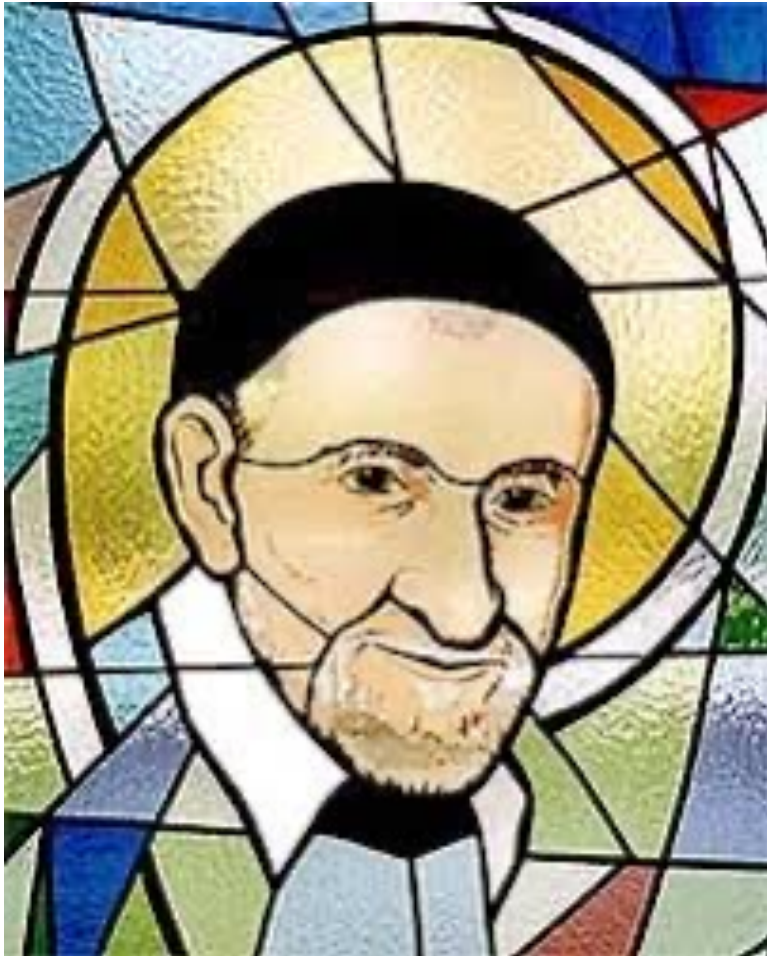


**But be kind and love,  
for love is your first gift to the poor.  
They will appreciate your kindness and your love  
more than all else you bring them.”**  
*(Sister Rosalie Rendu, DC)*



What does this advice suggest to you?

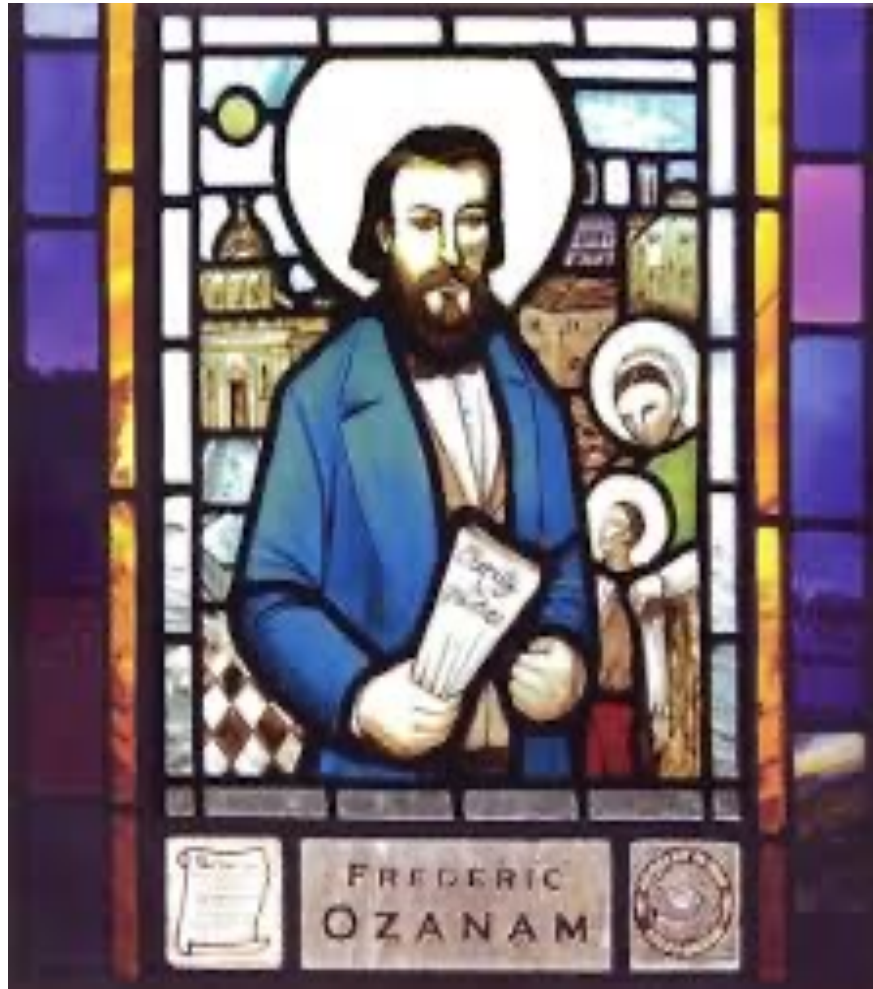
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St. Vincent de Paul Vol. XI Con. 164

What does this mean for us



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What does this mean for us



# Quotes from St. Vincent de Paul

- There is not act of Charity that is not accompanied by justice.
- God's affairs are accomplished gradually and almost imperceptibly.
- God wants first the heart and then the work.
- Give me a person of prayer and he or she will be able to accomplish anything.
- Which Quote Resonates with you right now?