

VINCENTIAN CELEBRATIONS

RITUALS, CEREMONIES, AND LITURGIES





NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE US SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Dear Vincentians,

The Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul calls us to “journey together towards holiness.” [Part I, 2.2] Along with the prayers and reflections that we share in our regular meetings, and our dedication to serving Christ in the poor, Conferences and Councils can further deepen the spiritual dimension of our Vincentian vocation through the commissioning of new members and leaders; the annual renewal of our commitment; and celebrating liturgical ceremonies, particularly Vincentian ceremonies, throughout the year, thus endeavoring to maintain a spirit of friendship among the members. [Part 3, Statutes 4 and 9]

Vincentian Celebrations, as both resource and guide, will enable all members of the Society to live the spirit of our Rule in a unified and profound way, celebrating our Vincentian Vocation together in our Conferences and Councils for:

- Annual Commitment Ceremonies
- Commissioning Ceremonies
- Funeral/Wake Services
- Vincentian Prayer Services
- Feast Day Celebrations

Symbols are essential in rituals and ceremonies in the prayer life of the Church, so you will find that the presentation of the Manual, Rule, Vincentian crosses and rosaries, pins, and medallions add a special dimension to our ceremonies. You will find links to purchase these items throughout this guide.

As we pray with our *Vincentian Celebrations: Rituals, Ceremonies, and Liturgies* may the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and Blessed Rosalie Rendu penetrate our hearts, so that we may indeed “deepen the spiritual dimension of our vocation” with integrity and authenticity.

Timothy P. Williams
Senior Director, Formation & Leadership Development

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Commitment and Renewal Ceremonies

It is important to pause from time to time to reflect on our service in this Vincentian Vocation, and to renew our promises before God and each other.

Working together with their pastors, Conferences should make an effort to incorporate these special ceremonies into a Mass whenever possible but should at least schedule a special time outside of a regular meeting.

Conferences are expected to re-commit Members annually. This also is a very good time to present [anniversary pins](#) to Members who have reached a milestone in their service.

It is a good practice to renew our commitment on occasions such as Ozanam Sunday, or in gatherings such as Council Assemblies.

Vincentian Promise and Prayer

Opening Song: *(Begin with an appropriate song)*

Spiritual Advisor: Let us ask the Holy Spirit to be with us as we once again renew our Vincentian Commitment to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: **And strengthen us by Your Love.**

Spiritual Advisor: Send forth your spirit and new life will be created

All: **And the whole face of the earth will be renewed.**

Spiritual Advisor: In response to the call of Christ who invites you to follow him, do you promise to be a witness to his boundless love for the poor, the lonely, the suffering and deprived, those without faith and those who feel unloved?

All: **I do, and I ask for the grace to grow in holiness of life and to share in a longing for spiritual growth and enrichment.**

Spiritual Advisor: Do you firmly resolve to treasure the warm friendship and unity which was from the beginning a hallmark of our Society?

All: **I do, and I ask for the grace to grow in humility and simplicity so that true friendship may grow in my heart.**

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that you can bring them your love.

All: **I do, and I ask for the grace to be sensitive to their vulnerability, to respect and not to judge or blame them.**

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to be generous with your time, your possessions and yourself in your mission of charity.

All: **I do, and I ask for the grace to always serve in justice and charity so that I can be an advocate and a voice for the poor.**

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to persevere in regarding your home visits as a sacred trust?

All: **I do, and I ask for the grace to be more aware of the blessings I receive from those I visit.**

Spiritual Advisor: Let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of our Society, as we say,

All: **Hail Mary, full of grace...(continue)**

Spiritual Advisor: Let us ask for the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam to fill our hearts as we pray to the Father in the words Jesus gave us,

All: **Our Father...***(continue)*

Spiritual Advisor: Let us pray together:

All: **Lord Jesus, you who willed to become poor, give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor. Help us to recognize you in them—in their hunger and thirst, their loneliness and suffering.**

Enkindle within us the fire of love that burned in the hearts of St. Vincent and Blessed Frédéric, so that we will live our mission and core values with integrity.

Grant us the grace to be faithful to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, so that we will grow in spirituality, friendship and service to our suffering brothers and sisters

Amen

Closing Song: *(Conclude with an appropriate song)*

Vincentian Virtues Commitment

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Leader: Spirit of the living God,

All: **Come and breathe your life anew.**

Leader: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: **Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here and enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.**

Leader: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:

"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." (Rule 1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam was: "To establish a network of charity and justice encircling the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: **As Vincentians we are:**

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Reader: Reading from Scripture: (*Matthew 28:16-20*)

The disciples made their way to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus summoned them. Jesus came forward and addressed them in these words:

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations...Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of time."

After, speaking to them, the Lord Jesus ascended into heaven.

Leader: As Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples must have looked up and watched until even the tiniest dot in the sky had disappeared and then they could only wonder, "what now?" How can we teach, minister, and carry on without him? As they wondered, looking at each other, they began to remember and to tell stories...

Disciple I: I remember when Jesus told us the story about the man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell prey to robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and went off leaving him half-dead. The priest and the Levite saw him but went on. It was a Samaritan who was moved to pity. He dressed his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and then he took him to an inn where he cared for him. He even gave the innkeeper two silver pieces telling him that if there was any further expense, he would repay him on his way back. Then when

Jesus asked, who was neighbor to the man, we answered: "The one who treated him with compassion." Jesus responded, "Then go and do the same." (*Luke 10: 30-37*)

All: **Lord, help me to grow in HOLINESS OF LIFE as I strive to bring compassion to my suffering neighbors. Give me the grace to be faithful to prayer, to my own conversion, and to renewal.**

Disciple II: I remember when Jesus told us how, through our service of the poor, at the last judgment we will hear the words, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. For I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me...For whatever you did for these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Indeed, this is the reason for all of our service and advocacy for the poor. (*Matthew 25: 34-40*)

All: **Lord, ignite my heart with ZEAL so that I will have a passion for the full flourishing and eternal happiness of every person. Give me the grace to walk in your footsteps to bring to each person dignity and respect for I know that by serving all who come to me, I serve you.**

Disciple III: I remember how, one day, we had been in the boat all day when a large crowd came all around us-crushing us back near the sea. Jesus cured as many as he could. I remember his look as he turned, and said unexpectedly, "Who touched me?" How could we see with that crowd? But there was a woman trembling, begging. The look that Jesus gave her was one of such love and there was such humility in his eyes as he cured her. (*Mark 5:28-34*)

All: **Lord, I want to imitate your HUMILITY in the way you brought healing by looking beyond the crowd and the busyness, to see the person. Give me the grace to accept the truth about my frailties, gifts, talents, and charism. I believe that all you have given me is for others, and I know that I can achieve nothing without your grace.**

Disciple IV: There was a time I remember when we were questioned by Jesus as to what people were saying about him. Some told him they thought he was John the Baptist, some Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. But then Jesus looked at Peter directly and asked, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered in honesty and simplicity, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." His simplicity was rewarded when Jesus said "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." (*Matthew 16:14-19*)

All: **Lord, give me the grace to live in SIMPLICITY, always speaking with frankness and conducting my daily activities in integrity and genuineness. May I always trust in Divine providence knowing that when I do your work you will always provide all that I need.**

Disciple V: Remember the man born blind? I do, and I remember where each of us was standing as the poor man was brought to Jesus and begged him to touch him. Although we had been traveling and were tired, Jesus understood his mission. He knew that his mission demanded kindness and love. So, Jesus laid his hands on his eyes and the man's sight was restored. (*Mark 8:22-26*)

- All:** Lord, fill my heart with **GENTLENESS** and give me the friendly assurance and invincible goodwill of kindness, sweetness, and patience in all my relationship with others. For I know that those I serve appreciate my kindness and love more than all else I bring to them.
- Disciple VI:** I remember that night when we were at supper and Jesus said, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, live on in my love. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. I no longer speak of you as servants... instead I call you friends. It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit.” (*John 15: 9-17*)
- All:** Lord, fill me with **SELFLESSNESS**, so that I may die to my ego with a life of self-sacrifice. May I share my time, my possessions, my talents and myself in a spirit of generosity so that I will bring to my fellow Vincentians and to the poor: comfort in tiredness, courage in discouragement, hope in hopelessness, and joy in sadness.
- Leader:** In the Providence of God, today is a special coming together as Servant Leaders in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Each historical period makes its demands upon the human community as the people of God repeatedly face the challenge of living the Gospel. Rooted in the grace of our Vincentian Vocation, I ask you:
- Do you promise to fulfill the responsibilities demanded by the Mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?
- All:** I do.
- Leader:** Do you promise to live the Virtues of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?
- All:** I do.
- Leader:** Do you promise to remain faithful to spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and Blessed Rosalie Rendu?
- All:** I do.
- Leader:** Do you promise to be faithful to your call to renew the Society today and beyond?
- All:** I do, trusting in God’s grace and in the support of all the Vincentians who walk the journey with me.
- Leader:** As the Father sent Jesus to bring the Good News to the poor, he now sends us; that is our mission, and that is our responsibility. And so, as disciples I commission you to go forth filled with joy. We know what we are called to do. In the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Bl. Frédéric Ozanam, and Bl. Rosalie Rendu, we must go into the whole world, to proclaim the good news to all, especially the poor and vulnerable, knowing that the Lord is with us always, even until the end of time.
- In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- All:** Amen

Ozanam Sunday

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: **Come and breathe your life anew.**

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: **Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here and enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.**

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:

"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." (Rule 1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam was:

"To establish a network of charity and social justice to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: **As Vincentians we are:**

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

President: In our Rule and Mission Statement we find that we are inspired by Gospel values to be of service to the needy and the poor, that we grow spiritually by this service, and that we are united to all Vincentians throughout the world as we embrace works of justice and charity.

Once a year, we should take time to reflect on what we are about and to commit ourselves once again to faithfulness in carrying out our mission as Vincentians. At the Easter Vigil we renewed our baptismal vows. Through baptism we became disciples of Jesus, committed to spread his Word and his Light to all.

This commitment we make today is very much connected with those vows. Our work in the Society is one of the ways we give expression to our baptismal call to bring the love of Christ to others and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to those who are poor and suffering. Let us ask our Gracious God to keep our hearts on fire with enthusiasm, our spirits determined with perseverance and our bodies strengthened with energy to do God's will in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you commit yourself to spiritual growth, so that you may bear witness to the love of God and to see the face of Christ in the faces of those you serve?

All: **I do.**

Spiritual Advisor: Do you commit yourself to promote a community of faith and friendship among all members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

All: **I do.**

Spiritual Advisor: Do you commit yourself to give service to the poor in a spirit of justice and charity?

ALL: **I do.**

Spiritual Advisor: BLESSING (*Sprinkling with Holy Water*)

May the flame of God's love light your way and lead you to grow in Vincentian spirituality and holiness.

ALL: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: May the passionate fire of God's love increase your friendship with each other, healing divisions and conflicts.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: May the Spirit strengthen you in the ways of justice and charity, and may you bring hope and healing into the hearts of all those who are poor and suffering.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: May your hands and hearts be nourished for the work that lies ahead, that you may be compassionate to human need, tender and strong in your care and faithful to the commitment of service you renew today.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: Let us pray:

(*Alternate sides*)

Left Side: Saint Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, faithfully discovering God's action in all the events of our lives.

Right side: Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, sustain in us our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and suffering of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

All: **Holy Spirit, accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by their Gospel of love. Amen**

Closing Song: (*End with an appropriate song*)

Commissioning Ceremonies

When people join us as new Members, we mark the occasion a formal Commissioning Ceremony. Many Conferences present new Members with the [SVdP lapel pin](#) at this time.

When Vincentians step forward, we commission them in formal ceremonies for their specific positions. For those who are stepping in to succeed another Vincentian, such as Conference or Council Presidents, it is also a good occasion to honor the outgoing person in some special way.

It is a good occasion to present [President and Past President pins](#), as well as pins for [Vice Presidents](#), [Secretaries](#), and [Treasurers](#). Consider also some gifts for outgoing leaders or retiring members, such as:

Vincentian Cross – [Large](#) or [Small](#)

[Jubilarian Crucifix](#)

[Vincentian Rosary](#)

Presidents

Installation of a Conference President

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: **Come and breathe your life anew.**

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: **Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here and enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.**

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:

"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." (1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam was: "To establish a network of charity and social justice to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: **As Vincentians we are:**

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Spiritual Advisor: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is made up of Conferences as its primary basic unit. The Rule teaches us that: "The members meet as brothers and sisters with Christ in the midst of them, in Conferences that are genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action. Spiritual bonds and friendship between members are essential, as is the common mission to help the poor and marginalized. The entire Society is a true and unique worldwide Community of Vincentian Friends." (Rule 3.3)

In the spirit of Jesus, the Servant leader, the office of President is a responsibility, not an honor. It is one of service and the President is the first among equals. The Rule calls the President to "provide an encouraging atmosphere in which the talents, capacities and spiritual charism of the members are identified, developed and put to the service of the poor and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The President of the Conference will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality." (Rule 3.11)

And so we gather together to pray for and to commission (Name)__, as the new President for the (Name) Conference.

- Reading:** John 13:12-17 (*read by the outgoing President*):
- “So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.”
- Spiritual Advisor:** First, let us thank our outgoing President_ (Name) , for his/her generosity in fulfilling his/her duties and his/her faithful years of service as President of ___(Name)_____ Conference.
- Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us ask God our Father to look lovingly upon ___(Name)____, who has been called to serve as our new Conference President.
- (The outgoing President then hands the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to the new President)*
- Outgoing President:** Receive this Manual and Rule of the Society as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and a loving heart so that you will come to know deeply the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and may you hand this Manual and Rule to your successor after a fruitful and successful Presidency.
- Spiritual Advisor:** May the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, continue to guard and guide your steps as you lead the Society. And so I now ask you:
- Do you (Name) , promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, serving the Conference and those in need for the greater glory of God?
- New President:** I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.
- Spiritual Advisor:** Do you promise to seek consensus and not to insist on your own opinion, to see every member as a friend, to recognize their talents, to encourage each one and to develop harmony and respect between members and to always “deepen the Vincentian spirit of friendship”?
- New President:** I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that our Conference may be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.
- Spiritual Advisor:** Do you promise to help all members “seek and to find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that they may bring them the love of Jesus?”
- New President:** I do, and I pray that we will be filled with the grace to serve those who are suffering in “charity and justice.”

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as reflected in the Manual and Rule and to promote a deeper Vincentian spirituality amongst all the members?

New President: I do, and I pray for the grace to be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

Spiritual Advisor: (Name) , you have accepted a serious responsibility as President of _____(Name)_____ Conference. I ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: **Hail Mary...**

Spiritual Advisor: Let us now pray together for God's blessing:

All: **May God's grace and blessing be with you ____ (Name) _____ as we commission you as the President of the _____ (Name) _____ Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Let the wisdom of St. Vincent and Blessed Frédéric, guard and guide you as you undertake your office.**

Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you. Trust him and following his example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith, and you will see everything go well. Your responsibilities, which are many, will continue to grow but believe and trust that he will not leave a heavy burden on your back without sustaining you. He will be your strength as well as your reward for the extraordinary services you render to the Society and to the poor.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

Closing Song: *(End with an appropriate song)*

(Symbol: The Manual and Rule is to be given to the new President)

Installation of a District Council President

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: **Come and breathe your life anew.**

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: **Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.**

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:

"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." (1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam was: "To establish a network of charity and social justice to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: **As Vincentians we are:**

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Spiritual Advisor: The Rule teaches us that: "The Councils of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul exist to serve all the Conferences they coordinate. They are called to help the Conferences develop their spiritual life, to intensify their service and to diversify their activities so that they may always be responsive to the needs of those who suffer.

Councils are particularly called to: create new Conferences, to help existing Conferences to expand, to promote Special Works, to prepare training courses and encourage Vincentians to attend them, to foster interest in cooperation with the Vincentian Family, to promote cooperation with other organizations and Institutions, to develop friendship between members in the same area, to provide communication to and from Conferences and higher Councils. In summary, to promote the sense of belonging to a Society which encircles the world." (Rule 3.6)

In the spirit of Jesus, the Servant leader, the office of President is a responsibility, not an honor. It is one of service and the President is the first among equals. The Rule calls the President to "provide an encouraging atmosphere in which the talents, capacities and spiritual charism of the members are identified, developed and put to the service of the poor and the Society of St.

Vincent de Paul. The President of the District Council will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.” (Rule 3.11)

And so we gather together to pray for and to commission (Name)__, the new President for the District Council of (Name) .

Reading: John 13:12-17 (*read by the outgoing President*):

“So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.”

Spiritual Advisor: First, let us thank our outgoing President_ (Name) , for his/her generosity in fulfilling his/her duties and his/her faithful years of service as President of __ (Name) _____ District Council.

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us ask God our Father to look lovingly upon __ (Name) ____, who has been called to serve as our new District Council President.

(The outgoing President then hands the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to the new President)

Outgoing President: Receive this Manual and Rule of the Society as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and heart to come to know the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frédéric Ozanam, and may you hand this Manual and Rule to your successor after a fruitful and successful Presidency.

Spiritual Advisor: May the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, continue to guard and guide your steps as you lead the Society. And so I now ask you:

Do you (Name) , promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, serving the District Council and those in need for the greater glory of God?

New President: I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to seek consensus and not to insist on your own opinion, to see every member as a friend, to recognize their talents, to encourage each one and to develop harmony and respect between members and to always “deepen the Vincentian spirit of friendship”?

New President: I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that all of our Conferences may be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to help all members “seek and to find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that they may bring them the love of Jesus?”

New President: I do, and I pray that we will be filled with the grace to serve those who are suffering in “charity and justice.”

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as reflected in the Rule and to promote a deeper Vincentian spirituality amongst all the members?

New President: I do, and I pray that I will be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

Leader: (Name) , you have accepted a serious responsibility as the District Council President. I ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: **Hail Mary...**

Spiritual Advisor: Let us now pray together for God’s blessing:

All: **May God’s grace and blessing be with you ____ (Name) ____ as we commission you as the President of the _____ (Name) _____**

District Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Let the wisdom of St. Vincent and Blessed Frédéric, guard and guide you as you undertake your office.

Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you. Trust him and following his example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith, and you will see everything go well. Your responsibilities, which are many, will continue to grow but believe and trust that he will not leave a heavy burden on your back without sustaining you. He will be your strength as well as your reward for the extraordinary services you render to the Society and to the poor.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)

Installation of an (Arch)Diocesan Council President

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: **Come and breathe your life anew.**

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: **Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.**

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:

"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." (1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam was "To establish a network of charity and social justice to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: **As Vincentians we are:**

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Spiritual Advisor: The Rule teaches us that: "The Councils of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul exist to serve all the Conferences they coordinate. They are called to help the Conferences develop their spiritual life, to intensify their service and to diversify their activities so that they may always be responsive to the needs of those who suffer.

Councils are particularly called to: create new Conferences, to help existing Conferences to expand, to promote Special Works, to prepare training courses and encourage Vincentians to attend them, to foster interest in cooperation with the Vincentian Family, to promote cooperation with other organizations and Institutions, to develop friendship between members in the same area, to provide communication to and from Conferences and higher Councils. In summary, to promote the sense of belonging to a Society which encircles the world." (Rule 3.6)

In the spirit of Jesus, the Servant leader, the office of President is a responsibility, not an honor. It is one of service and the President is the first among equals. The Rule calls the President to "provide an encouraging atmosphere in which the talents, capacities and spiritual charism of the members are identified, developed and put to the service of the poor and the Society of St.

Vincent de Paul. The President of the (Arch)Diocesan Council will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.” (Rule 3.11)

And so we gather together to pray for and to commission (Name)__, as the new President for the (Arch)Diocesan Council of (Name) .

Reading: John 13:12-17 (*read by the outgoing President*):

“So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.”

Spiritual Advisor: First, let us thank our outgoing President_ (Name) , for his/her generosity in fulfilling his/her duties and his/her faithful years of service as President of __ (Name)_____ (Arch)Diocesan Council.

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us ask God our Father to look lovingly upon __ (Name)____, who has been called to serve as our new (Arch)Diocesan Council President.

(The outgoing President then hands the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to the new President)

Outgoing President: Receive this Manual and Rule of the Society as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and heart to come to know the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frédéric Ozanam, and may you hand this Manual and Rule to your successor after a fruitful and successful Presidency.

Spiritual Advisor: May the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, continue to guard and guide your steps as you lead the Society. And so I now ask you:

Do you (Name) , promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, serving the (Arch)Diocesan Council and those in need for the greater glory of God?

New President: I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to seek consensus and not to insist on your own opinion, to see every member as a friend, to recognize their talents, to encourage each one and to develop harmony and respect between members and to always “deepen the Vincentian spirit of friendship”?

New President: I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that all of our Conferences may be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to help all members “seek and to find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that they may bring them the love of Jesus?”

New President: I do, and I pray that we will be filled with the grace to serve those who are suffering in “charity and justice.”

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as reflected in the Rule and to promote a deeper Vincentian spirituality amongst all the members?

New President: I do, and I pray that I will be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

Leader: (Name) , you have accepted a serious responsibility as the (Arch)Diocesan Council President. I ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: **Hail Mary...**

Spiritual Advisor: Let us now pray together for God’s blessing:

All: **May God’s grace and blessing be with you ____ (Name) _____ as we commission you as the President of the _____ (Name) _____ (Arch)Diocese of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Let the wisdom of St. Vincent and Blessed Frédéric, guard and guide you as you undertake your office.**

Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you. Trust him and following his example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith, and you will see everything go well. Your responsibilities, which are many, will continue to grow but believe and trust that he will not leave a heavy burden on your back without sustaining you. He will be your strength as well as your reward for the extraordinary services you render to the Society and to the poor.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)

Installation of a National Vice President for a Region

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: **Come and breathe your life anew.**

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: **Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.**

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:

"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." (1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam was: "To establish a network of charity and social justice to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: **As Vincentians we are:**

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Spiritual Advisor: The Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (2.2) teaches us that: "Vincentians are called to journey together towards holiness, because true holiness is perfect union with Christ and the perfection of love, which is central to their vocation and the source of its fruitfulness. They aspire to burn with the love of God as revealed by Christ and to deepen their own faith and fidelity. Vincentians are aware of their own brokenness and need for God's grace. They seek His glory, not their own. Their ideal is to help relieve suffering for love alone, without thinking of any reward or advantage for themselves.

Vincentians draw nearer to Christ, by serving Him in the poor and one another. They grow more perfect in love by expressing compassionate and tender love to the poor and one another."

And so, in the spirit of Jesus, the Servant leader, the office of the Regional Vice President is a responsibility, not an honor. It is one of service, and the Rule calls the Regional Vice President to "provide an encouraging atmosphere in which the talents, capacities and spiritual charism of the members are identified, developed and put to the service of the poor and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Regional Vice President will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality." (Rule 3.11)

And so we gather together to pray for and to commission (Name)__, as the new National Vice President for (Region) .

Reading: John 13:12-17 (*read by the outgoing Vice President*):

“So when he had washed their feet [and] put his garments back on and reclined at table again, he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you? You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do. Amen, amen, I say to you, no slave is greater than his master nor any messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand this, blessed are you if you do it.”

Spiritual Advisor: First, let us thank our outgoing Regional_ (Name) , for his/her generosity in fulfilling his/her duties and his/her faithful years of service to the __ (Name) _____ Region.

(Present the outgoing Regional Vice President with a Medallion in thanksgiving for service.)

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us ask God our Father to look lovingly upon __ (Name) ____, who has been called to serve as our new Regional Vice President.

(*The outgoing Vice President then hands the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to the new Vice President*)

Outgoing VP: Receive this Manual and Rule of the Society as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and heart to come to know the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frédéric Ozanam, and may you hand this Manual and Rule to your successor after a fruitful and successful Presidency.

Spiritual Advisor: May the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, continue to guard and guide your steps as you lead the Society. And so I now ask you:

Do you (Name) , promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, serving the Region for the greater glory of God?

New Vice President: I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to seek consensus and not to insist on your own opinion, to see every member as a friend, to recognize their talents, to encourage each one and to develop harmony and respect between members and to always “deepen the Vincentian spirit of friendship”?

New Vice President: I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that all of our Conferences may be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to help all members “seek and to find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that they may bring them the love of Jesus?”

New Vice President: I do, and I pray that we will be filled with the grace to serve those who are suffering in “charity and justice.”

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as reflected in the Rule and to promote a deeper Vincentian spirituality amongst all the members?

New Vice President: I do, and I pray that I will be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

Leader: (Name) , you have accepted a serious responsibility as Regional Vice President. I ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: Hail Mary...

Spiritual Advisor: Let us now pray together for God’s blessing:

All: May God’s grace and blessing be with you ___(Name)___ as we commission you as the Regional Vice President for the ___(Name)___ Region of the Society St. Vincent de Paul. Let the wisdom of St. Vincent and Blessed Frédéric, guard and guide you as you undertake your office.

Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you. Trust him and following his example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith, and you will see everything go well. Your responsibilities, which are many, will continue to grow but believe and trust that he will not leave a heavy burden on your back without sustaining you. He will be your strength as well as your reward for the extraordinary services you render to the Society and to the poor.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)

Officers

Installation of Conference Officers

Opening Song: (Begin with an appropriate song)

President: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: **And strengthen us by Your Love.**

President: As we gather together to install our new officers, let us pray the words from the first Chapter of our Rule, asking for the grace to live them faithfully and with integrity:

(Alternate sides)

Right Side: We are called to live our Vincentian Vocation which is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. We show our commitment through person-to-person contact. As Vincentians we serve in hope. (Rule 1.2)

Left Side: We are called to give any form of personal help because “No work of charity is foreign to the Society.” It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. (Rule 1.3)

Right Side: We are called to serve anyone in need because the Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions. (Rule 1.4)

Left Side: We are called to seek out the poor because as Vincentians we strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity. (Rule 1.5)

All: **We are called to always adapt to a changing world. Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. We seek to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. We give priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society. (Rule 1.6) Amen**

President: First, let us thank our outgoing Officers: _ (Name) , Vice-President; _____(Name)____, Secretary; and _____(Name)____, Treasurer for their generosity in fulfilling their duties and their faithful years of service in our Conference.

I would like to invite the following people of faith, who have been chosen for leadership in the _____(Name)_____ Conference, to come forward:

_____(Name)____, Vice- President

_____(Name)____, Secretary

_____(Name)____, Treasurer

President: As a servant leader, do you _____(Name)____, as Vice- President, firmly resolve to perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's temporary absence, to accept all other duties as the President or Conference may assign, and to attend the Conference meetings?

New Vice President: **I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.**

President: As a servant leader, do you _____(Name)____, as Secretary, promise to attend the Conference meetings ensuring that all records are kept of Aggregation, formal documents, meeting attendance, that the annual report records are maintained, that all votes are recorded, minutes kept of all proceedings, and to give notice of all meetings of the Conference.

New Secretary: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

Leader: As a servant leader, do you _____(Name)____, as Treasurer, promise to be responsible for the Conference funds, securities, maintenance of full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in official records belonging to the Conference, the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects, to attend meetings of the Conference informing members of the Conference's financial position by submitting a written statement at every meeting, to prepare a budget for the Conference that is approved annually, and to assure the disbursement of funds as may be ordered by the Conference.

New Treasurer: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

(Previous Officer hands the SVDP Vigil candle/Medal to the new Officer)

President: May the Holy Spirit enlighten you as you carry out your responsibilities. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us now ask for God's blessing on our new officers as we say,

All: **Hail Mary, full of grace...**

President: Let us all pray together now for God's blessing on our new Conference Officers:

All: **In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our Founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, we commission you as the Officers of the _____(Name)____ Conference.**

We ask for the grace that together we may:

- **grow in Vincentian spirituality,**
- **deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and**
- **serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.**

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

New Officers: St. Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, and to faithfully discover God's action in all the events of our lives.

Sustain us in our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and sufferings of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

Accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by his Gospel of love. Amen

Closing Song: *(Conclude with an appropriate song)*

Installation of District Council Officers

Opening Song: (Begin with an appropriate song)

President: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: **And strength us by Your Love.**

President: As we gather together to install our new officers, let us pray the words from the first Chapter of our Rule, asking for the grace to live them faithfully and with integrity:

(Alternate sides)

Right Side: We are called to live our Vincentian Vocation which is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. We show our commitment through person-to-person contact. As Vincentians we serve in hope. (Rule 1.2)

Left Side: We are called to give any form of personal help because “No work of charity is foreign to the Society.” It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. (Rule 1.3)

Right Side: We are called to serve anyone in need because the Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions. (Rule 1.4)

Left Side: We are called to seek out the poor because as Vincentians we strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity. (Rule 1.5)

All: **We are called to always adapt to a changing world. Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. We seek to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. We give priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society. (Rule 1.6) Amen**

President: First, let us thank our outgoing Officers:____ (Name)____ , Vice-President; _____(Name)____, Secretary; and _____(Name)____, Treasurer for their generosity in fulfilling their duties and their faithful years of service in our District Council.

I would like to invite the following people of faith, who have been chosen for leadership in the _____(Name)_____ District Council to come forward:

_____ (Name)____, Vice- President

_____ (Name)____, Secretary

_____ (Name)____, Treasurer

President: As a servant leader, do you _____(Name)____, as Vice- President, firmly resolve to perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's temporary absence, to accept all other duties as the President may assign, and to attend the District Council meetings?

All: **I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.**

President: As a servant leader, do you _____(Name)____, as Secretary, promise to attend the District Council meetings ensuring that all records, formal documents, meeting attendance are kept; that the annual report records are maintained, that all votes are recorded, minutes kept of all proceedings, and to give notice of all meetings of the District Council.

All: **I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.**

Leader: As a servant leader, do you _____(Name)____, as Treasurer, promise to be responsible for the District Council funds, securities, maintenance of full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in official records belonging to the Council, the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects, to attend meetings of the Council informing members of the Council's financial position by submitting a written statement at every meeting, to prepare a budget for the Council that is approved annually, and to assure the disbursement of funds as may be ordered by the Council.

All: **I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.**

(Previous Officer hands the SVDP Vigil candle / Medal to the new Officer)

President: May the Holy Spirit enlighten you as you carry out your responsibilities. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us now ask for God's blessing on our new officers as we say,

All: **Hail Mary, full of grace...**

President: Let us all pray together now for God's blessing on our new Conference Officers:

All: **In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our Founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, we commission you as the Officers of the _____(Name)____ District Council.**

We ask for the grace that together we may:

- grow in Vincentian spirituality,
- deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and
- serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

New Officers: St. Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, and to faithfully discover God's action in all the events of our lives.

Sustain us in our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and sufferings of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

Accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by his Gospel of love. Amen

Closing Song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)

Installation of (Arch)Diocesan Council Officers

Opening Song: *(Begin with an appropriate song)*

President: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: **And strength us by Your Love.**

President: As we gather together to install our new officers, let us pray the words from the first Chapter of our Rule, asking for the grace to live them faithfully and with integrity:

(Alternate sides)

Right Side: We are called to live our Vincentian Vocation which is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. We show our commitment through person-to-person contact. As Vincentians we serve in hope. (Rule 1.2)

Left Side: We are called to give any form of personal help because “No work of charity is foreign to the Society.” It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. (Rule 1.3)

Right Side: We are called to serve anyone in need because the Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions. (Rule 1.4)

Left Side: We are called to seek out the poor because as Vincentians we strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity. (Rule 1.5)

All: **We are called to always adapt to a changing world. Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. We seek to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. We give priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society. (Rule 1.6) Amen**

President: First, let us thank our outgoing Officers: _ (Name) , Vice-President; _____(Name)____, Secretary; and _____(Name)____, Treasurer for their generosity in fulfilling their duties and their faithful years of service in our (Arch)Diocesan Council.

I would like to invite the following people of faith, who have been chosen for leadership in the _____(Name)____ (Arch)Diocesan Council, to come forward:

_____ (Name)____, Vice- President

_____ (Name)____, Secretary

_____ (Name)____, Treasurer

President: As a servant leader, do you _____(Name)____, as Vice- President, firmly resolve to perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's temporary absence, to accept all other duties as the President or Council may assign, and to attend the Council meetings?

New Vice President: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

President: As a servant leader, do you _____(Name)____, as Secretary, promise to attend the (Arch)Diocesan Council meetings ensuring that all records, formal documents, meeting attendance are kept; that the annual report records are maintained, that all votes are recorded, minutes kept of all proceedings, and to give notice of all meetings of the (Arch)Diocesan Council.

New Secretary: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

President: As a servant leader, do you _____(Name)____, as Treasurer, promise to be responsible for the Arch(Diocesan) Council funds, securities, maintenance of full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in official records belonging to the Council, the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects, to attend meetings of the Council informing members of the Council's financial position by submitting a written statement at every meeting, to prepare a budget for the Council that is approved annually, and to assure the disbursement of funds as may be ordered by the Council.

New Treasurer: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

(Previous Officer hands the SVDP Vigil candle/ Medal to the new Officer)

President: May the Holy Spirit enlighten you as you carry out your responsibilities. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us now ask for God's blessing on our new officers as we say,

All: **Hail Mary, full of grace...**

President: Let us all pray together now for God's blessing on our new (Arch) Diocesan Council Officers:

All: **In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our Founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, we commission you as the Officers of the _____(Name)____ (Arch)Diocesan Council.**

We ask for the grace that together we may:

- **grow in Vincentian spirituality,**
- **deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and**
- **serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.**

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

New Officers: St. Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, and to faithfully discover God's action in all the events of our lives.

Sustain us in our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and sufferings of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

Accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by his Gospel of love. Amen

Closing Song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)

Installation of Regional Officers

Opening Song: *(Begin with an appropriate song)*

Vice President: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: **And strengthen us by Your Love.**

Vice President: As we gather together to install our new officers, let us pray the words from the first Chapter of our Rule, asking for the grace to live them faithfully and with integrity:

(Alternate sides)

Right Side: We are called to live our Vincentian Vocation which is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. We show our commitment through person-to-person contact. As Vincentians we serve in hope. (Rule 1.2)

Left Side: We are called to give any form of personal help because “No work of charity is foreign to the Society.” It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. (Rule 1.3)

Right Side: We are called to serve anyone in need because the Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions. (Rule 1.4)

Left Side: We are called to seek out the poor because as Vincentians we strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity. (Rule 1.5)

All: **We are called to always adapt to a changing world. Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. We seek to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. We give priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society. (Rule 1.6) Amen**

Vice President: First, let us thank our outgoing Officers: _____(Name)____, Secretary; and _____(Name)____, Treasurer for their generosity in fulfilling their duties and their faithful years of service in our Region.

I would like to invite the following people of faith, who have been chosen by their brother and sister Vincentians for leadership in the _____(Name)____ Region, to come forward:

_____ (Name)____, Secretary

_____ (Name)____, Treasurer

Vice President: As a servant leader, do you _____(Name)____, as Secretary, promise to attend the Regional meetings ensuring that all records, formal documents, meeting attendance are kept; that the annual report records are maintained, that all votes are recorded, minutes kept of all proceedings, and to give notice of all meetings of the Region.

New Secretary: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

Vice President: As a servant leader, do you _____(Name)____, as Treasurer, promise to be responsible for the Regional funds, securities, maintenance of full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in official records belonging to the Region, the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects, to attend meetings of the Region informing members of the Region's financial position by submitting a written statement at every meeting, to prepare a budget for the Region that is approved annually, and to assure the disbursement of funds as may be ordered by the Region.

New Treasurer: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

(Previous Officer hands the SVDP Vigil candle to the new Officer)

Vice President: May the Holy Spirit enlighten you as you carry out your responsibilities. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us now ask for God's blessing on our new officers as we say,

All: **Hail Mary, full of grace...**

Vice President: Let us all pray together now for God's blessing on our new Council Officers:

All: **In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our Founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, we commission you as the Officers of the ____ (Name) ____ Region.**

We ask for the grace that together we may:

- **grow in Vincentian spirituality,**
- **deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and**
- **serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.**

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

New Officers: St. Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, and to faithfully discover God's action in all the events of our lives.

Sustain us in our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and sufferings of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

Accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by his Gospel of love. Amen

Closing Song: *(Conclude with an appropriate song)*

Members, Special Positions, and Staff

Installation of a New Member

Opening Song: *(Begin with an appropriate song)*

President: As the people of God, we are called to a profound love of God and love of our neighbor. Gathered here in God's name, we testify to our common desire to be faithful in assisting one another to carry out this commandment.

Today, with joy and gratitude we join together to welcome and commission our new member. After prayer, formation and discernment, ____ (Name) _____ has been proposed for membership into the ____ (Name) _____ Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Our Conference has reached a prayerful decision to invite ____ (Name) _____ to share our mission in the service of those who are poor.

As a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you will witness to your love for God and your concern for God's poor. We now ask you to commit yourself to the mission that God, in His Providence has given to you.

I ask you:

Will you strive to affirm the dignity of each person by compassionate service to all those who are poor and suffering

New Member: Yes, I will.

President: Will you strive to grow in holiness?

New Member: Yes, I will.

President: Will you strive to attend meetings and to grow in friendship?

New Member: Yes, I will.

President: Will you strive to always promote the Mission and Values of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

New Member: Yes, I will.

President: In accepting the call to serve those who are suffering as a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, do you promise to fulfill the obligations of that ministry to best of your ability?

New Member: With God's help and with the help of those with whom I serve, I do promise to fulfill these obligations to the best of my ability.

President: I do believe and trust that you will use your God-given gifts for the good of all who are touched by the healing mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

And now I ask all of us here present: Will you support our new member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul by your loyalty, your support and your prayers?

All: **We promise to support and pray for ____ (Name) _____ as we together carry out the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We ask God to bless your ministry with vision, strength and peace.**

President: I ask all of us to pray together now for God's blessing on _____ as we commission him/her as a member of the Society:

All: **Father, you have called ____ (Name) ____ to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and comfort the afflicted in the spirit St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and Sister Rosalie Rendu, as a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.**

We pray your blessing on ____ (Name) ____, and on each one of us so that together we may:

- **grow in holiness,**
- **deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and**
- **serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.**

Amen

President: It is an honor to welcome you as a member of our Conference, and I now present to you the pin of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

(Symbol: A SVdP lapel pin is to be given to the new member)

Closing Song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)

Installation of a Spiritual Advisor

Opening Song: *(Begin with an appropriate song)*

President: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: And strengthen us by Your love.

President: As we gather together to commission _____ (Name) _____ as the Spiritual Advisor for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, let us pray the words of the Rule (*Part I, 2.2*) which calls us to journey together towards holiness:

(Alternate sides)

Right Side: Vincentians are called to journey together towards holiness, because true holiness is perfect union with Christ and the perfection of love, which is central to their vocation and the source of its fruitfulness.

Left Side: Vincentians aspire to burn with the love of God as revealed by Christ and to deepen their own faith and fidelity.

Right Side: Vincentians are aware of their own brokenness and need for God's grace. They seek His glory, not their own. Their ideal is to help relieve suffering for love alone, without thinking of any reward or advantage for themselves.

Left Side: Vincentians draw nearer to Christ, by serving Him in the poor and one another. They grow more perfect in love by expressing compassionate and tender love to the poor and one another.

(The President hands the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to the new Spiritual Advisor)

President: Receive this Manual and Rule of the Society as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and a loving heart so that you will to come to know the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

Since the beginning of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Spiritual Advisor has been appointed to help foster the spiritual life of the members under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in conformity with the Rule of the Society.

And so I now ask you:

Do you (Name) , promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, promoting the work of the Society by giving inspiration and challenge for the adoption of works in keeping with changing times and needs?

Spiritual Advisor: I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.

President: Do you promise to be a spiritual animator, developing the Vincentian spiritual life of the members so that they may better understand the meaning of charity and its practical application toward those in need?

Spiritual Advisor: I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that we all will be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.

President: Do you promise to help all members reach a deeper faith awareness of their participation in the mystery of the Church and their vocation as Christians and Vincentians to serve and minister to others as well as to each other?

Spiritual Advisor: I do, and I pray that we will be filled with the grace to identify with the poor and needy, and to foster friendship with each other and those we serve.

President: Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, attend meetings, provide scriptural and Vincentian readings and prayers, participate in the discussions and provide guidance on spiritual matters?

Spiritual Advisor: I do, and I pray that I will be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

President: (Name) , you have generously accepted an important responsibility as a Spiritual Advisor of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I now ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: **Hail Mary...**

President: Let us now pray together for God's blessing:

In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our Founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, we commission you ____ (Name) ____ as the Spiritual Advisor of the ____ (Name) ____ .

We ask for the grace that with your wisdom and leadership, we may together:

- grow in holiness,
- deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and
- serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.

Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)

Installation of a New Ozanam Orientation Presenter

Leader: As we gather together to commission ____ (Name) as a Presenter for the Ozanam Orientation , we pray that you will be filled with God's love as you bring new life to the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

We pray that you will be a disciple with a heart on fire!

Right Side: By responding to the call to be an Ozanam Orientation Presenter, you proclaim that the quest to be a servant of the poor is the fire of your life.

All: **God of Fire, fan faith into flame in our hearts.**

Left Side: The path to seeing with the eyes of the heart is discovered in the journey of discipleship. It is not an easy journey. It is an ongoing effort to live the gospel with integrity always trying, sometimes succeeding, often failing, but then trying again.

All: **God of Fire, fuel our heart with hope and trust.**

Right Side: Discipleship is a way of being in the world that affects every relationship. At its very core, discipleship is a call to a love so radical that it never gives up on God, one's neighbor, or one's self.

All: **God of Fire, empower us with a heart filled with love.**

God of fire, enflame (Name)_ heart, fuel him/her into hopefulness and empower him/her to trust in you always. Amen

Leader: *(The President presents the Presenter pin)*

Receive this pin as the sign of your responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and a loving heart so that you will come to know the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and Blessed Rosalie Rendu.

I now ask you:

Do you promise to develop your Vincentian spiritual life so that our members may better understand the heritage and charism of our Founders?

Presenter: I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Leader: Do you promise to help all members reach a deeper faith awareness of their spiritual journey and their Vincentian vocation?

Presenter: I do, and I pray that we will all grow in spirituality and be filled with the grace to serve those who live in poverty as we foster friendship with each other.

Leader: (Name) , you have generously accepted an important responsibility as a Presenter in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I now ask all of us here to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support.

Let us now pray together for God's blessing:

All:

In the spirit of Jesus and in the name of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and Blessed Rosalie Rendu we commission you __ (Name) __ as a Presenter of the Ozanam Orientation.

May the God of fire, send your sparks to enlighten the hearts of Vincentians, igniting in them the grace of their Vincentian Vocation.

For this we pray, Amen.

Installation of a New Formator

Leader: As we gather together to commission ____ (Name) _____ as a Formator for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we pray that God's love will ignite your heart, capture your imagination, shape your dreams, and awaken possibilities.

May you be a disciple on fire with God's love so that your spiritual formation programs will bring new life to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

We pray that you will have the grace to be a Fire Holder!

(Alternate sides)

Right Side: May you be a Fire Holder with a single-hearted ember which will ignite Vincentian spirituality in the hearts of others.

Left Side: May you be a Fire Holder aglow with joy and wisdom, being a catalyst for fellowship and friendship.

Right Side: May you be a Fire Holder seared and purified by the heat and heartaches of life, filled with compassion for those who are suffering and poor.

Left Side: May you be a Fire Holder filled with integrity and love for the heritage of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

All: **God of fire, burst into flame into (Name) _____ heart, fuel him/her into thankfulness and empower him/her to trust in you always. Amen**

Leader: (The President presents the Formator pin)

Receive this pin as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and a loving heart so that you will come to know the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and Blessed Rosalie Rendu.

I now ask you:

Do you promise to develop the Vincentian spiritual life of the members so that they may better understand the heritage and charism of our Founders.

Formator: I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Leader: Do you promise to help all members reach a deeper faith awareness of their spiritual journey and their Vincentian vocation?

Formator: I do, and I pray that we will all grow in spirituality and be filled with the grace to serve those who live in poverty as we foster friendship with each other.

Leader: (Name) , you have generously accepted an important responsibility as a Formator in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I now ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support.

Let us now pray together for God's blessing:

All:

In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and Blessed Rosalie Rendu we commission you____(Name)____ as a Formator of the ____ (Region)____ .

We ask for the grace that with your wisdom and leadership, we may together:

- **grow in holiness,**
- **deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and**
- **serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.**

For this we pray, Amen.

Installation of an Executive Director

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: **Come and breathe your life anew.**

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: **Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.**

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:

"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." (1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam was: "To establish a network of charity and social justice to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: **As Vincentians we are:**

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

President: As the people of God, we are called to a profound love of God and love of our neighbor. Gathered here in God's name, we testify to our common desire to be faithful in assisting one another to carry out this commandment.

We gather together today to pray for and to commission __ (Name) __, as the Executive Director of (Name) .

__ (Name) __, you have witnessed to your love for God and your concern for God's poor. We ask you to recommit yourself to the mission that God in His Providence now gives to you.

I ask you:

Will you strive to affirm the dignity of each person to whom and with whom you minister?

Executive Director: Yes, I will.

President: Will you strive to give compassionate service to those in need and inspire all those under your supervision to do the same?

Executive Director: Yes, I will.

President: Will you strive to promote the Mission and Values of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul throughout the organization?

Executive Director: Yes, I will.

President: In accepting the call to the ministry of being the Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in ____ (Name) ____, do you promise to fulfill the obligations of that ministry to best of your ability?

Executive Director: With God's help and with the help of those with whom I will serve, I do promise to fulfill these obligations to the best of my ability.

President: ____ (Name) ____, we do believe and trust that you will use your God-given gifts for the good of all who are touched by the healing mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

And now I ask all of us here present:

Will you support ____ (Name) ____ in his/her ministry by your loyalty, your cooperation, and your prayers?

All: **We promise to support and pray for ____ (Name) ____ so that together we can carry the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We ask God to bless him/her and all of us, with vision, strength and peace in our privileged ministry.**

President: I ask all of us to pray together now for God's blessing as we commission ____ (Name) ____:

All: **May the God of strength be with you holding you in strong-fingered hands, and may you be the sacrament of this strength to those whose hands you serve.**

May the blessings of St. Vincent and St. Louise be with you.

May the God of peace be with you stilling your heart when it hammers with fear and doubt and confusion, and may your peace cover those who are troubled and anxious.

May the blessings of Bl. Frédéric and Bl. Rosalie be with you.

Amen

Closing Song: *(End with an appropriate song)*

Services for Departed Vincentians

When our Vincentian brothers and sisters depart, we should make every effort to celebrate their lives and their vocations with special services.

The leader of these services can be a Conference officer or member, District or Council officer, or a Spiritual Advisor.

All Vincentians present may sit up front together as a visible group.

At the Wake or Funeral Mass the Vincentians can form a procession, each holding a candle. A symbol of the Society, cross or medal, may be placed either on the casket or table. [Casket and Cremation Urn Palls](#) are available from Magnalite.

Alternatively (or additionally) a symbol, such as a [Vincentian Cross](#), may be presented to the family at the end of the service.

Vincentian Wake Service

For our Brother/Sister

Name

Earthly Birth Date

Heavenly Birth Date

(COUNCIL/CONFERENCE NAME)

DATE

Leader: We are here to celebrate our brother/sister Vincentian, _____(Name)_____ coming to the fullness of life in the Lord.

And so we begin:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Leader: It is a normal human reaction to be sorrowful and to mourn the death of someone very dear to us. This sorrow is changed to a special joy when death is understood as the beginning of life with God. Our Savior reversed the sequence from birth to death. He showed that the seed must die before the flower can grow. So it is with us. We must die to attain the ultimate purpose of God's creation. At that first moment of existence God left his signature on _____(Name)_____ and on all of us. God now claims ____ (Name)____ as his own, and he/she now lives with God.

Let us pray now pray for _____(Name)_____, his/her family and friends:

Father of all consolation, death flees the brightness of the Resurrection as darkness shrinks from the light of the sun.

As you have washed us in Baptism and fed us at the table of your Son, so strengthen us to realize that in death life is not ended but changed and keep us in the unity with you and with all people, including those who have gone before us. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Reading: A reading from the Gospel of Luke (4:18-19):

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

All: Lord, we thank you for the gift of ____ (Name) ____ to the people he/she served through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In compassion, he/she reached out to those who are poor and suffering and saw your face in each of them. He/she is a life to be carried on, a heart in which one's own heart is enkindled, a model of your love to all he/she encountered.

Amen

Reading: A reading from the Gospel of John (13:34-35):

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

All: Lord, our brother/sister Vincentian ____ (Name) ____ followed your commandment and became your disciple by loving those who were neglected and poor. We ask for the grace to continue to serve the poor in the same spirit as he/she lived. ____ (Name) ____ chose to embrace the needy and suffering of this world, and we now ask you Lord to embrace ____ (Name) ____ throughout eternal life. We ask this in your name. Amen

Leader: Let us ask the Good Shepherd to hear our requests:

Lord, grant eternal joy to our Vincentian brother/sister, ____ (Name) ____.

All: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, be with the family of our Vincentian brother/sister, ____ (Name) ____, in their sorrow bring them hope and peace.

All: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, may the poor continue to receive the support of ____ (Name) ____'s prayers, and the charitable efforts of the

Vincentian Family.

All: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.

Leader: In union with Vincentians everywhere, let us pray as our Lord taught us to pray:

All: Our Father...

Leader: We now present to the family the ____ (Name symbol) ____ of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in memory of ____ (Name) ____, as we pray:

Father, we entrust our beloved Vincentian ____ (Name) ____ to your loving care. May eternal light shine on him/her, with all your saints forever, for you are rich in mercy. May his/her devotion to your poor be an inspiration to us who remain. We ask this through Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen

Vincentian Funeral Service

For our Brother/Sister

Name

Earthly Birth Date

Heavenly Birth Date

(COUNCIL/CONFERENCE NAME)

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: Let us pray in behalf of our brother/sister, ____ (Name) ____, who has faithfully served the poor in this life and seeks eternal rest.

All: **God our Father, you gave St. Vincent de Paul the courage and holiness of an Apostle for the service of the poor and suffering, and we now give thanks for the gift that ____ (Name) ____ was to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.**

In compassion, he/she reached out to those who are poor and suffering and saw your face in each of them. He/she is a life to be carried on, a heart in which one's own heart is enkindled, a model of your love to all he/she encountered.

Help us to be zealous in continuing his/her work in the spirit of St. Vincent and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Leader: Holding ____ (Name) ____, his/her family and friends in prayer, we pray:

The Lord is my shepherd; here is nothing I shall want.

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures He gives me repose; beside restful waters He leads me; He refreshes my soul.

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Leader: He guides me in right paths for His name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side. With your rod and staff that give me courage.

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Leader: Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Reading: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (25:31-46)

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’

Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’

And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’

Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.’

Then they will answer and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?’

He will answer them, ‘Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.’

And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

All: **Lord, our brother/sister Vincentian ____ (Name) ____ chose to embrace the needy and suffering of this world knowing that “whatever he/she did for one of the least important of your brothers and sisters, he/she did it for you. We now ask you Lord to embrace __ (Name) __ throughout eternal life. We ask this in your name. Amen**

Leader: St. Vincent de Paul, our patron and Blessed Frédéric, our founder, both had a great love and devotion for Mary, our Blessed Mother. Vincentians all over the world share in that special love and devotion. Let us ask that Mary, will welcome ____ (Name) ____ in heaven and present him/her to her Son, Jesus. And so we pray:

All: **Hail Mary....**

Leader:

We now present to the family the ____ (Name symbol) ____ of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in memory of ____ (Name) ____, as we pray:

Father, we entrust our beloved Vincentian ____ (Name) ____ to your mercy. You loved him/her in this life; now give him/her happiness and peace forever. The old order has passed away; welcome ____ (Name) ____ now into paradise where there will be no more sorrow, no more weeping, suffering or pain, but only peace and joy. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Vincentian Memorial Service

For our Brother/Sister

Name

Earthly Birth Date

Heavenly Birth Date

(COUNCIL/CONFERENCE NAME)

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: Let us pray in behalf of our brother/sister, _____(Name)_____,
who has faithfully served the poor in this life and seeks eternal rest.

All: God our Father, you gave St. Vincent de Paul the courage and holiness of an Apostle for the service of the poor and suffering, and we now give thanks for the gift that _____(Name)_____ was to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

In compassion, he/she reached out to those who are poor and suffering and saw your face in each of them. He/she is a life to be carried on, a heart in which one's own heart is enkindled, a model of your love to all he/she encountered.

Help us to be zealous in continuing his/her work in the spirit of St. Vincent and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Reading: A reading from the Gospel of Mark (12:28-31):

One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well he had answered them, asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?"

Jesus replied, "The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

All: Lord, our brother/sister Vincentian _____(Name)_____ chose to embrace the needy and suffering of this world knowing that you called us to "love our neighbor as ourselves." We now ask you Lord to embrace _____(Name)_____ throughout eternal life. We ask this in your name. Amen

Leader: St. Vincent de Paul, our patron and Blessed Frédéric, our founder, both had a great love and devotion for Mary, our Blessed Mother. Vincentians all over the world share in that special love and devotion. Let us ask that Mary, will welcome (Name) in heaven and present him/her to her Son, Jesus. And so we pray:

All: **Hail Mary....**

Leader: Let us now pray for our brother/sister (Name) who proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ and served the needs of the poor, that he/she may be welcomed into the company of saints. We pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the family and friends of (Name) , that they may be consoled in the sorrow. We pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all those who are poor, who are abandoned and hopeless, find compassion and healing from the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all those who have gone before us, that they may enjoy God face to face. We pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all of us assembled here in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We now present to the family the (Name symbol) of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in memory of (Name) , as we pray:

All: **Gracious God, we entrust our beloved Vincentian to your loving mercy. May his/her devotion to the poor be a continual inspiration and challenge to us who remain. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.**

Leader: Please bow your heads as we pray for God's blessing:
Eternal rest grant to (Name) , O Lord.

All: **And may your perpetual light shine upon him/her.**

Leader: May (Name) , rest in peace.

All: **Amen**

Vincentian Writings and Prayers on Death and Heaven

“The unity of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be cited as a model of Christian friendship, of a friendship stronger than death, for we will often remember in our prayers to God the brothers who have been taken from us. This sentiment, which, with us, will make of all our hearts one heart, of all our souls one soul, *Cor unum, et anima una...*”

Introduction to the Rule, 1835

À PRAYER USED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

We thank thee, O Lord! for the graces and blessings which Thou hast been hitherto pleased to bestow upon the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We still ask of Thee to grant us these same blessings for this dear Society, for its several Conferences, and in particular for the Conference of which we are members. Grant that our society may be fortified, extended, and perpetuated, through its primitive spirit of piety, simplicity, and brotherly union, in order that its undertakings, being fully divested of all earthly interest, may become daily more fruitful for Heaven. Thou knowest, O Lord! the spiritual and temporal misery of the families we endeavor to assist; Thou knowest likewise our own; be pleased to have pity on all, and let all experience the effects of Thy infinite mercy. We beseech Thee, in particular, O God! to help those among our brethren who are undergoing sundry trials; let them never want that strength, that light, that peace and hope which come from Thee; let their trials and our own, which alike proceed from Thee, be supported with patience and resignation, so as to be agreeable to Thy eyes and replete with fruits of salvation. Lastly, O Lord! we entreat Thee, through the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the special intercession of the Immaculate, Blessed Mary, and of our holy patron, to give one day a place in Thy kingdom to the families of our poor, to our brethren, and to ourselves. R. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful; grant to the souls of Thy servants and Thy handmaids departed the remission of all their sins, that, through the devout prayers of Thy Church on earth, they may obtain that remission of pain which they have ever desired. Who livest and reignest world without end.

R. Amen.

V. May they rest in peace.

R. Amen.

From The Rule, 1906

Frédéric's thoughts on deaths in his family

“On how many occasions have I not seen my parents in tears; when Heaven had left them but three children out of fourteen! But how often, too, have not those three survivors, in adversity and in trial, counted on the assistance of those brothers and sisters whom they had among the angels! Such are indeed also of the family, and are brought back to our minds in acts of unexpected assistance. **Happy is the home that can count one half its members in Heaven, to help the rest along the narrow way which leads there!**”

Frédéric on his siblings

“When I have the happiness to receive Holy Communion, when our Saviour comes to visit me, it seems to me that she follows Him into my poor heart, even as she so often followed Him in the Holy Viaticum, into the rooms of the poor. Then I firmly believe in the actual presence of my mother by my side.

“Is there any other glory for mothers on this earth than their children, have they any other happiness than ours? What is Heaven itself for them if we are not there? I am, then, convinced that we still occupy their thoughts, that they continue to live for us, there as well as here, that they have not changed save in the direction of greater power and greater love.”

Frédéric on his mother

Written on his 40th birthday, 1853

For Amélie: “I bid a farewell, short as the things of earth, to my dear Amélie, who has been the joy and the charm of my life, and whose tender care has softened all my pain for more than a year. I thank her, I bless her, I await her in Heaven. There, and only there, can I give her such love as she deserves.”

For his Vincentian brothers: “Do not allow yourselves to be stopped by those who will say to you, He is in Heaven. Pray always for him who loves you dearly, for him who has greatly sinned. If I am assured of these prayers, I quit this earth with less fear. I hope firmly that we are not being separated, and that I may remain with you until you will come to me.”

Written in 1853, still trying to get a new Conference started in Siena, he lists out all the many conferences, including:

“We have certainly one [Conference] in Heaven, for more than a thousand of our Brothers have, during the twenty years of our existence, gone to the better life.”

A poem Frédéric wrote and left for Amélie in 1853:

*Ces anges attendaient, au sortir de la terre,
Les élus confiés à leur doux ministère.
Toi, mon Ange gardien, tu restes ici-bas :
Ta prière ouvrira le ciel devant mes pas.
Tu restes quelques jours pour mettre sur la voie
L'enfant, la tendre enfant qui causait notre joie.
Fais qu'elle pense à moi, donne-lui tes vertus.
Nous nous retrouverons au séjour où l'on aime,
Et nous échangerons sous les yeux de Dieu même,
Le long embrassement qui ne finira plus.*

These angels were waiting, coming out of the earth,
The elect entrusted to their sweet ministry.
You, my Guardian Angel, you remain here below:
Your prayer will open the heavens before my feet.
You will remain for yet awhile to guide
The child, the tender child who caused our joy.
Make her think of me, teach her your virtues.
We will meet again in the abode of love,
And we will exchange under the eyes of God himself,
The long embrace that will never end.

Special Prayers and Prayer Services

Vincentians are people of prayer. We pray before and after our meetings and our home visits; we pray individually and together; we pray the Rosary, we pray at Mass, and on our Vincentian Feast Days.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 8

Leader: The feast of the Immaculate Conception has always been one of the four main festival days on which Vincentians are expected to gather and celebrate. This feast day celebration dates back to the very beginning of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and can be traced to Frédéric Ozanam himself.

Since the earliest days of the Society, members have shown great devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. Prayers before and after each meeting are offered to place us under her protection and guidance in order to persevere in our apostolate and perfect the virtue of Christian Charity.

Ozanam, our principal founder, developed a great spirit of piety by fervent devotion to the Blessed Virgin and this virtue was explicitly expressed in the text of the decree for the introduction of his cause for beatification.

Ozanam at all times reminded members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul that Mary was the heavenly patroness of the Society. It was Ozanam who, shortly after the beginning of the Society, formally proposed that the Mother of God—Mary Immaculate—should be the heavenly patroness of the Society. It was Ozanam's suggestion that, at each Conference meeting, the Hail Mary should be said and that the Feast of the Immaculate Conception should be a festival day of the Society. Just prior to his death in 1853, despite protests from his wife and friends, Ozanam desired to walk to the Church saying, "This is my last walk on the earth, and I desire that it should be to visit my God and His Blessed Mother."

It is no wonder the tender devotion to the Mother of God—Immaculate Mary—has been, and still is, traditional among the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for she is their heavenly patroness.

Spiritual Advisor: O God, through the intercession of Mary, conceived without sin, we now lift our voices in praise:

All: **We ask for the grace to embrace God's will as Mary did.**

Spiritual Advisor: Through Mary, seat of wisdom...

All: **...we ask for the grace to believe that all things are possible with God.**

Spiritual Advisor: Through Mary, our Mother...

All: **...we ask for the grace to bring strength to the weary and comfort to those in sorrow.**

Spiritual Advisor: Through Mary, source of our joy...

All: **...we ask for the grace of healing for those who are brokenhearted.**

Spiritual Advisor: Through Mary, queen of all saints...

All: **...we ask for the grace of recognizing the goodness in all those we serve.**

Leader: **In the spirit of Mary's Magnificat, we pray:**

(Alternate sides)

Right Side: Our souls are filled with wonder at the gift of our loving, and our spirits take on new meaning in the giving of love. God of love, you have looked upon us with favor as we join our lives in response to you.

Left Side: Yes, from this time on, all people who look upon us will recognize us as being friends and will call us blessed, for you, the One who dwells in human hearts, have done great things for us.

Right Side: Holy, is your name, and your confirming joy reaches from age to age to those who dare to journey with us in the service of our least brothers and sisters.

Left Side: You have shown us the life-changing power of our love in the eyes of those whose lives we touch, and we recognize that the bondedness of human hearts and lives reflects one true reality, the Living God.

Leader: And so we pray together:

All: **Hail Mary...**

Closing Song: *(Conclude with a song to Mary)*

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

Patroness of the Americas and Protector of the Unborn

Leader: The Blessed Virgin Mary, by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, is the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas. On December 9, 1531, Our Lady appeared to Saint Juan Diego, an Indian Christian, whom she sent to the bishop with the request to build a Church in her honor on the hill where she appeared. The bishop asked Juan Diego for a sign to prove that the Virgin had appeared to him.

Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego again on December 12 and promised that his uncle would be healed. She directed Juan Diego to gather a bouquet of roses that miraculously appeared on a bush nearby (roses do not bloom at this time of the year) to present to the bishop. Juan Diego gathered the roses in his tilma (cloak). When he opened his tilma before the bishop, the roses fell to the floor, and the bishop was amazed to see the miraculous image of the Mother of God imprinted on the cloak. The image persuaded the bishop to believe what Juan Diego had told him, and the Church was built.

This image, which almost immediately inspired the conversion to Christianity of many thousands of Indians, may still be seen in the Cathedral in Mexico City. Many believe that the fact that the image remains intact on a coarse fabric woven of a cactus-like plant that ordinarily deteriorates within a few years is further indication of the miraculous nature of the image. The symbolic significance of the image include Mary's complexion, which is similar to that of the Indians who were native to the region, her pregnancy, the gold stars adorning her blue mantle that representing the heavens, the purple tassels of her sash signifying royalty.

All: **Our Lady of Guadalupe, mystical rose, intercede for the Church, protect the Holy Father, help all who invoke you in their necessities. Since you are the ever Virgin Mary and Mother of the true God, obtain for us from your most holy Son the Grace of a firm faith and sure hope amid the bitterness of life, as well as an ardent love and the precious gift of final perseverance. Amen.**

Spiritual Advisor: O God of power and mercy, You blessed the Americas at Tepeyac with the presence of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe. May her prayers help all men and women to accept each other as brothers and sisters. Through Your justice present in our hearts, may Your peace reign in the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

Reading: Zechariah 2:14-17

Sing and rejoice, daughter Zion! Now, I am coming to dwell in your midst—oracle of the LORD. Many nations will bind themselves to the LORD on that day. They will be my people, and I will dwell in your midst. Then you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion of the holy land, and the LORD will again choose Jerusalem. Silence, all people, in the presence of the LORD, who stirs forth from his holy dwelling.

Leader: Let us pray together to Our Lady of Guadalupe:

All: God of all peoples, you blessed the hope of the poor through the presence of the Blessed Virgin to Juan Diego at Guadalupe. Through her prayers and intercession, may all peoples learn to live together in peace and justice. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Closing Song: *(End with a song to Mary)*

Prayer Meditation – Our Lady of the Miraculous medal

November 27

The Medal of the Immaculate Conception, popularly known as the Miraculous Medal, was designed by the Blessed Virgin herself! No wonder, then that it wins such extraordinary graces for those who wear it and pray for Mary's intercession and help.

The First Apparition

The story begins on the night of July 18-19, 1830. A child (perhaps her guardian angel) awakened Sister (now Saint) Catherine Labouré, a novice in the community of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, and summoned her to the chapel. There she met with the Virgin Mary and spoke with her for several hours. During the conversation Mary said to her, "My child, I am going to give you a mission."

The Second Apparition

Mary gave her this mission in a vision during evening meditation on November 27, 1830. She saw Mary standing on what seemed to be half a globe and holding a golden globe in her hands as if offering it to heaven. On the globe was the word "France," and our Lady explained that the globe represented the whole world, but especially France. The times were difficult in France then, especially for the poor who were unemployed and often refugees from the many wars of the time. France was first to experience many of those troubles which ultimately reached many other parts of the world and are even present today. Streaming from rings Mary's fingers as she held the globe were many rays of light. Mary explained that the rays symbolize the graces she obtains for those who ask for them. However, some of the gems on the rings were dark, and Mary explained that the rays and graces were available but did not come because no one had asked for them.

The Third Apparition and the Miraculous Medal

The vision then changed to show our Lady standing on a globe with her arms now outstretched and with the dazzling rays of light still streaming from her fingers. Framing the figure was an inscription: O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

The Meaning of the Front Side of the Miraculous Medal

Mary is standing upon a globe, crushing the head of a serpent beneath her foot. She stands upon the globe, as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Her feet crush the serpent to proclaim Satan and all his followers are helpless before her (Gn 3:15). The year of 1830 on the Miraculous Medal is the year the Blessed Mother gave the design of the Miraculous Medal to Saint Catherine Labouré. The reference to Mary conceived without sin supports the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary—not to be confused with the virgin birth of Jesus, and referring to Mary's sinlessness, "full of grace" and "blessed among women" (Luke 1:28)—that was proclaimed 24 years later in 1854.

The vision turned and showed the design of the reverse side of the medal. Twelve stars encircled a large "M" from which arose a cross. Below are two hearts with flames arising from them. One heart is encircled in thorns and the other is pierced by a sword.

The Meaning of the Back Side of the Miraculous Medal

The twelve stars can refer to the Apostles, who represent the entire Church as it surrounds Mary. They also recall the vision of Saint John, writer of the Book of Revelation (12:1), in which "a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars." The cross can symbolize Christ and our redemption, with the bar under the cross a

sign of the earth. The “M” stands for Mary, and the interleaving of her initial and the cross shows Mary’s close involvement with Jesus and our world. In this we see Mary’s part in our salvation and her role as mother of the Church. The two hearts represent the love of Jesus and Mary for us. (See also Lk 2:35).

Then Mary spoke to Catherine: “Have a medal struck upon this model. Those who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck.” Catherine explained the entire series of apparitions to her confessor, and she worked through him to carry out Mary’s instructions. She did not reveal that she received the Medal until soon before her death 47 years later.

With approval of the Church, the first Medals were made in 1832 and were distributed in Paris. Almost immediately the blessings that Mary had promised began to shower down on those who wore her Medal. The devotion spread like wildfire. Marvels of grace and health, peace and prosperity, following in its wake. Before long people were calling it the “Miraculous” Medal. And in 1836, a Canonical inquiry undertaken at Paris declared the apparitions to be genuine.

There is no superstition, nothing of magic, connected with the Miraculous Medal. The Miraculous Medal is not a “good-luck charm”. Rather, it is a great testimony to faith and the power of trusting prayer. Its greatest miracles are those of patience, forgiveness, repentance, and faith. God uses a Medal, not as a sacrament, but as an agent, an instrument, in bringing to pass certain marvelous results. “The weak things of this earth hath God chosen to confound the strong.”

When our Blessed Mother gave the design of the medal to Saint Catherine Labouré she said, “Now it must be given to the whole world and to every person.”

Thrift Store Blessing Ceremony

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: **Come and breathe your life anew.**

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: **Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.**

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:

"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." (1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam was:

"To establish a network of charity and social justice to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: As Vincentians we are:

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

Spiritual Advisor: (Presenting a Cross)

May this crucifix always remind all who serve in this Store, that they have the responsibility to live the Mission and Values of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

AT THE ENTRANCE

Leader: Almighty and everlasting God grant to this Store the grace of loving compassion to all those who walk through these doors.

Bless those who donate merchandise to this store, reward them for their generosity and kindness.

Bless all the volunteers who give of their time and love to bring your goodness and concern to those who come to shop and to visit.

Bless all who work here, guide them in all of their decisions so that through them all may find your peace and goodness.

All: **Amen**

IN THE SALES AREA

Leader: Compassionate God, may your peace always stay in this store, making it a place where we can each grow into better friends with you and with one another and give us grateful hearts so that we will always be mindful of your generosity and goodness to us. We ask this grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

IN THE SORTING AREA

Leader: Creator God, your blessed Son worked with his hands in the carpenter shop in Nazareth. Be with all those who work in this area, that laboring as workers with you they may share the joy of your creation. We ask this grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

IN THE EMPLOYEE AREA

Leader: Sustainer God, guard and protect the employees who strive to serve our suffering brothers and sisters. Give them the grace to treat each person with respect and dignity. Bless this place for food and drink, so that the time together will bring refreshment and fulfillment for their busy lives. We ask this grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Leader: Let us ask the blessing of St. Vincent and Blessed Frédéric upon our new store, as we pray:

All: **Lord Jesus, deepen our Vincentian spirit of friendship as we carry out the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Make us responsive to the Christian calling to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that we may bring them your love.**

Help us to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in our mission of charity and perfect in us You love, so that we may become more like you, and more inspired by the lives of St. Vincent and Bl. Frédéric. Amen

FINAL BLESSING

Spiritual Advisor: Lord God, we ask that you bless all those benefactors and Vincentians, those living and deceased, whose generosity, foresight and prudence have made this new St. Vincent de Paul Store possible.

May our new Store always be a source of healing and hope to all those who need your mercy and kindness. Give us the grace to live the Mission and Values of the Society, so that we will be worthy to bear the name of St. Vincent de Paul.

This we ask in Jesus name. Amen

Closing Song: *(End with an appropriate song)*

Beatitude Prayer

Leader: Lord, be with us, and give us the grace to live the Beatitudes, the blessings of happiness that Jesus taught us:

(Each person will read a Beatitude):

- Happy are those who know how to laugh at themselves, they will never run out of amusement.
- Happy are those who know how to distinguish between a mountain and a molehill, they will be spared much trouble.
- Happy are those who know how to rest and to sleep without looking for excuses, they will become wise.
- Happy are those who can be silent and who can listen, they shall learn many new things.
- Happy are those who are intelligent enough not to take themselves seriously, they shall be appreciated by those around them.
- Happy are those who are attentive to others without thinking themselves indispensable, they will sow joy.
- Happy are those who know how to take little things and serious things peacefully, they will go far in life.
- Happy are those who can admire a smile and ignore a frown, they will travel in sunshine.
- Happy are those who think before acting and who pray before thinking, they will avoid much foolishness.
- Happy are those who can be silent and smile when interrupted, contradicted or stepped on, the Gospel is beginning to penetrate their heart.
- Happy especially are you who can recognize the Lord in all whom you meet, you have found true light and veritable wisdom.

Together: Lord, grant us the wisdom to recognize you in all of the events of each day and in all of those with whom we live and work, so that as Vincentians we will truly become Beatitude People.

Amen

Opening and Closing Prayers for a Gathering for Discernment

Leader: Today we gather, meeting together to consider where we stand and who we are.

We come to organize ourselves into a deeper understanding of who we are called to be.

And so we pray:

(Alternate sides)

Left Side: Be with us, O God,
in this space and time
as we affirm and shape the changes
in our understanding of our Vincentian spirit.

Right Side: We desire not to fly apart
in a fantasy of dreams
but rather to move the boundaries
that we have set before
in order to encompass and embrace
the living and breathing insights of each and all.

Left Side: We work in prayer and dialogue.
In going back to see where we have been,
we steady ourselves for the meeting today.
Each step along the way we clear the stones
and obstacles, healing and refreshing each other.
We listen openly to each one's thoughts and
hear each one's proposal for the renewal.

Right Side: Knowing you are here, God,
we are freer in our interaction,
more daring in the sharing of our own visions,
loving in our confrontation,
deeply silent in consideration, and accepting in
the choices that will help us to define our Vincentian spirit.

All: **In this your presence, we meet to order ourselves anew, to consider where we stand and who we are.**

Today we gather in your name.

Amen

Leader: We now pray to the Holy Spirit to be with us:

(Alternate Sides)

Left Side: Come, Spirit, Comforter and Consoler.
Heal the wounded. Soothe the anxious.
Be consolation for all who grieve and ache.

Right Side: Come, Spirit, who energizes our being.
Keep us from the tangles of toil and travail.
Lead us to moments of prayer and solitude.

Left Side: Come, Spirit, consuming Fire of Love.
Fill us with enthusiasm for your vision.
May the desire for truth be vibrant in us.

Right Side: Come, Spirit, joy of our souls.
Dance amid life's hills and valleys,
Center us in the chaos of our lives.

Left Side: Come, Spirit of wisdom and insight.
Draw us toward your goodness and light.
Direct our growth and guide our ways.

Right Side: Come, Spirit, strength of wounded ones.
Be warmth in the hearts of those grown cold.
Empower the powerless. Rekindle the weary.

All: **Come Spirit, source of our Peace.**

Deepen in us the action of peacemakers.
Heal our hearts and
center our lives in your love.

Amen

Closing Song: *(Conclude with an appropriate song)*

Prayers to the Holy Spirit to Open and Close a Meeting

Leader: Holy Spirit, please abide with us, so that our hearts may burn within us, and our imagination be fired with the passion to do Your will. Give us the grace to walk together in your light and love.

Amen

(Alternate sides)

Left Side Come, Holy Spirit,
Open our eyes to see,
Open our ears to hear,
Open our hearts to show the love that drives out fear.

Right Side: Spirit of light and truth,
Pierce through the darkness of our minds.
So that praying together and searching together,
we may better respond to the needs of those we serve.

Left Side: Spirit of strength and life,
Give us the courage to endure.
So that striving together and working together,
we may create our future full of hope.

Right Side: Spirit of creativity and joy,
We follow your call to serve and not be served.
Bless us with insight and wisdom.
that we may renew the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

All: **O God, continue to grace us with your love,
through the gifts of the Spirit,
that we may reach out to touch you
in the poor and the suffering,
as witnesses to the Gospel values of Jesus, your Son.**

Amen

Leader: Let us pray

(Alternate sides)

Left Side: O Holy Spirit, let us never be afraid of a new idea,
or unreceptive to a new thought,
lest we pull down the shades of our minds
and exclude your Holy Light.

Right Side: Give us the grace of humility
and the spirit of an open mind,
the courage to persist in the face of difficulties
and a steady confidence in the power of truth.

Left Side: Help us all to learn something this day,
that we shall be wiser at it close
and closer to You.

Right Side: You, have brought us to this new day
and further opportunity.
Help us to work with You so that it may be a good day
with good things done.

Left Side: We know that a different world
cannot be built by indifferent people.
May there be no apathy in this place,
no lukewarmness or mediocrity.

Together: **O God of Love, help us to feel deeply the flow
of Your life in our innermost hearts.
For it is Your life that bonds us together with one another.
It is Your love that joins our yearning for new visions
as we long to become one with You
in the great act of giving life to a transformed Society of St. Vincent de
Paul. We ask for Your wisdom, grace and understanding to lead us into the
future.**

Amen

Closing Song: *(Conclude with an appropriate song)*

Home Visit Prayers

Praying together before, during, and after each home visit is vital. Our prayers with and for the neighbor are the most important part of each visit. While we always respect the neighbor's wishes if they do not want us to pray, this rarely happens.

Many Vincentians offer spontaneous prayers, or prayers such as the Our Father. The prayers below are offered as another option. It is very important, though, that we always offer the needs of the neighbor, by name, to God in prayer.

Prayer Before the Visit

Father, we ask you to provide all that we need as we do the work you have given us to do. Fill our hearts with your love, help us to listen with compassion and to speak with kindness and confidence.

Jesus, we pray for the grace to go without our preconceived judgments so that we can be true peacemakers. Stir in us the fire of your love and guide us with discernment. Fill our hearts with wisdom, generosity and kindness.

Holy Spirit, inspire us with joy and patience. Be at work in us so that we will bring good news to the downcast, healing to the brokenhearted, hope to the destitute, love and compassion to all who are suffering.

Prayer with the Neighbor

God, our Father, thank you for this visit and the opportunity to meet with (Names) . Lord you know each of us. You knew us from the day we were born, you know our hearts, our needs, and everything about us. You told us that you will never leave us or forsake us. You ask us to seek, and ye shall find, knock and the door will be opened, ask and it shall be given. We are all asking today for each of our needs, some spoken and some in our hearts. And so we pray together: Our Father...

Please Lord, walk with us and give us your strength in our worries and difficulties. Amen

Prayer After the Visit

Thank you, Lord, for all the blessings you have given us today. We ask you to continue to bless the ones we have visited, please inspire them to trust in you and come to you for their needs. We pray (names of each person and specific needs.) We pray that our work may be continued by your Vincentian servants and completed by your grace, in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frédéric Ozanam. Amen

Leadership Prayer

Leader: Lord, God of Unity and Strength, we approach this meeting as a time of communion with You and with each other.

May the spirit of prayer not only begin our work but sustain it and conclude it as well.

(Alternate sides):

Left Side: As we explore the impact of our decisions on the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, may our love for You and our reverence for one another unite us.

Right Side: As we face the challenges and difficulties, give us the grace to share our wisdom and insights, to respect and to listen to each other and together may we discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Left Side: When we struggle, help us to be respectful.

Right Side: When we speak, inspire us to be kind.

Left Side: When we listen, give us understanding.

Right Side: When we decide, grant us courage.

All: **Gracious God, open our minds, inspire our wills, guide our actions, draw us into one and support our faith.**

Give us the grace to discover and discern Your will.

Amen

Reading: *(Words of Frédéric Ozanam)*

"A patron is a model one must strive to imitate, as he himself imitated the model of Jesus Christ.

"He is a life to be carried on, a heart in which one's own heart is enkindled, an intelligence from which light should be sought; he is a model on earth and a protector in heaven.

"A twofold devotion is owed him, imitation and invocation...

"Let us work in the light of St. Vincent de Paul: let us honor our Father in this patron so worthy of love, and we shall live long."

Leader: Let us pause for a moment of silence, asking the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and minds with the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam...

Let us pray:

Compassionate God, you called Vincent to minister to the needs of your people,

All: **Give us courage to walk in his footsteps as we seek to serve those who are suffering and poor.**

Leader: Creator God, by your grace Frédéric gave birth to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul,

All: **Give to all members, throughout the world, faithfulness to his spirit.**

Leader: Spirit of God, by your grace you call us out of ourselves to become disciples,

All: **Give us eyes of faith and compassionate hearts.**

Leader: Gracious God, you invite us to participate in the building up of our Society,

All: **Give us your wisdom to guide our discernment and decisions.**

Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)

Priest Gratitude Prayer

[Vincentian Cross](#) Presentation

Leader: We gather together today in gratitude and appreciation for the guidance, encouragement and inspiration that Fr. _____ has given to us in our Vincentian vocation as members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In thanksgiving to you we pray:

May God the Father who made you, bless you.

May God the Son send his grace upon you.

May the Holy Spirit move within you and give you a loving heart. Amen

Deacon: A reading from Scripture

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him and say, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and cloth you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?” And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me.” (*Matthew 25: 31-46*)

Deacon Blesses the Cross

May this Vincentian Cross and the one who wears it be blessed, In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Leader: Father _____, in gratitude for your support and encouragement we present to you this Vincentian Cross.

Let us now pray together for God's blessing on Father _____ for giving us eyes to see and ears to hear the suffering of our brothers and sisters:

For inspiring us to see that:

To the hungry, Vincentian Compassion comes as a hot meal
To the homeless, a safe place to sleep
To the poor, new clothes to wear
To those who thirst, clean water

All: **We give you thanks.**

Leader: For urging us to hear the cries of the poor understanding that:
To the sick, Vincentian Kindness comes as a healing hand
To those in sorrow, a peaceful presence
To the elderly, a sympathetic ear
To the lost, a guiding voice

All: **We give you thanks.**

Leader: For stirring our hearts to appreciate that:
 To the lonely, Vincentian Understanding comes as a caring visit
 To the fearful, a reassuring calm
 To the refugee, a warm welcome
 To the prisoner, a spirit reborn

All: **We give you thanks.**

Leader: For supporting us to comprehend that:
 To the unemployed, Vincentian Advocacy comes as a long-sought job
 To those who fail, a second chance
 To the addict, twelve steps to freedom
 To the dying, an unwavering hope

All: **We give you thanks.**

Leader: Let us pray together: (*Numbers 6:24-26*)

All: **Father,**
 May the Lord bless you and keep you,
 The Lord let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you,
 The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!
 Amen

A Prayer for Reconciliation

Leader: Lord, come and stand among us so that all we say and do will be filled with Your sacred medicine of healing. Remind us how short our lives are so that we will not delay this reunion of hearts. Inspire us to see how this estrangement can serve to bring us even closer together, closer than we were before all this happened.

(Alternate sides)

Right Side: Come, Lord of Healing and Unity, we are in need of Your divine assistance.

Left Side: We need to approach each other, to share our feelings and to find a way to peace and understanding.

Right Side: We are now estranged, and the canyon between us is painful and empty of you. Help us to be honest as we seek reunion.

Left Side: Open to our vision the ways by which we have failed and have been lacking in consideration. Let our hearts be ready to see how we have sinned.

Right Side: We need Your help so that we may move beyond our own feelings to an awareness of the other who is also suffering.

Left Side: You, Searcher of Hearts, know how all of us in our own ways are at fault. Teach us to be humble as we seek reunion.

Spiritual Advisor: We ask Christ, St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and Blessed Rosalie Rendu, to give us the courage to open our hearts, to let go of hurts, our anger and the past. We pray for the grace to grow spiritually, emotionally and organizationally. Quiet your heart, and ask the Holy Spirit to be with you.

Take a piece of paper and write down two or three specific hurts or painful experiences that have happened to you.

(Allow about 5-10 minutes of quiet reflection time)

Spiritual Advisor: Now tear up the hurts in small pieces and put them in a basket.

(Once all of the pieces are in the basket, the leader places them in an appropriate container and in front of the group burns the papers offering all of the hurts to God.)

Spiritual Advisor: Let us now pray

(Alternate sides)

Right Side: Lord of Compassion, give us the grace to be servants of pardon, and ministers of reconciliation as we heal the past.

Left Side: Give us the grace to be honest with each other so that old scars can be healed, and joy once again can fill our lives.

Right Side: Give us the grace to forgive one another for any way in which we have caused pain to one another, or may have torn apart the fabric of unity and support in our Conference/Council.

Left Side:

Lord, You truly know that we all have made mistakes and have failed; look upon us who have been offended and lift our hearts; look upon us who have given offense and help us heal the hurt of our actions and words.

Together:

Lord, fill us with Your healing power and grace. As we embrace each other in reconciliation, may we be enveloped by You, united in your peace and in your love.

Amen

A Prayer for Renewal

Leader: Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will descend on us as we begin our meeting. God who is in heaven and yet with us, your love is revealed through our understanding and celebration of your mysteries. See your people gathered here in prayer. We ask for the grace to be open to receive the Spirit's flame as we strive to renew the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. With one voice may we praise your name in joy and thanksgiving as we explore the very best ways to serve the poor and each other as we ponder the question: What is a "Live Organization?"

(Choose 11 readers in advance)

Reader 1: A live organization has parking problems; a dying organization doesn't.

Reader 2: A live organization often changes the way things are done to do things better; a dying organization doesn't need to change a thing.

Reader 3: A live organization invites people to risk involvement and new ideas; a dying organization plays it safe and never risks anything.

Reader 4: A live organization uses its traditions, resources and buildings to serve God and people; a dying organization uses people to serve its traditions and buildings.

Reader 5: A live organization celebrates the future with hope; a dying organization worries.

Reader 6: A live organization has lots of noise, excitement and sometimes confusion around it; a dying organization enjoys and encourages peace and quiet.

Reader 7: A live organization forgives and seeks forgiveness; a dying organization never makes a mistake.

Reader 8: A live organization is filled with and makes room for donors and lots of volunteers; a dying organization is filled with only memories of great days gone forever.

Reader 9: A live organization looks for challenges and opportunities; a dying organization looks for problems, dangers and who to blame.

Reader 10: A live organization engages in ministry evangelized; a dying organization fossilizes.

Reader 11: A live organization supports its vision and mission; a dying organization sees no need for either.

Leader: God of history and of our heart, so much has happened to us during these whirlwind days:

we've been brave and scared;
we've decided, and we've waffled;
we've laughed and we've cried.

You know our frail heart and our frayed history, and now another time begins. O God, help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to believe in beginnings and help each member to make beginnings:

(Alternate Sides)

Left Side: to begin going out of our weary minds into fresh dreams,

Right Side: to dare to make our own bold tracks in the land of now;

Left Side: to begin forgiving, that we may know truth;

Right Side: to begin questioning the unquestionable, that we may know truth;

Left Side: to begin sacrificing, that we may accomplish justice;

Right Side: to begin risking, that we may make peace.

Together: **God, help us to believe in beginnings.to trust that in the necessary but difficult journey in the darkness of the cocoon, a transformation is occurring and that new life like a butterfly will emerge.**

Help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to make a beginning, to be a beginning, so that we may not just grow old, but grow new each day of this amazing life you call us to live with the passion of Vincent and Frédéric.

May you grace us with strength and courage, as we walk with you trusting in your Providence.

Amen

Retirement Prayer

In Thanksgiving for Service in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Leader: Let us pray in thanksgiving for, Name , who has faithfully served the poor in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for years and is now retiring.

All: God our Father, you gave St. Vincent de Paul the courage and holiness of an Apostle for the service of the poor and suffering, and we now give thanks for the gift that Name has been to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

In compassion, he/she has reached out to those who are poor and suffering and saw your face in each of them. He/she is a life to be carried on, a heart in which one's own heart is enkindled, a model of your love to all he/she encountered.

Help us to be zealous in continuing his/her work in the spirit of St. Vincent and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Reading: A reading from the Gospel of Mark (*Mk: 12:28-31*):

One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well he had answered them, asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?"

Jesus replied, "The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

"The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

All: Lord, Name lived the Gospel by choosing to embrace the needy and suffering knowing that you called us to "love our neighbor as ourselves." We now ask you for the grace to carry on the work of the Society in his/her spirit. We ask this in your name. Amen

Leader: St. Vincent de Paul, our patron and Blessed Frédéric, our founder, both had a great love and devotion for Mary, our Blessed Mother. Vincentians all over the world share in that special love and devotion. Let us ask that Mary, will guard and protect Name and so we pray:

All: Hail Mary....

Leader: Let us now pray together in Thanksgiving, asking for God's blessing upon
_____ *Name* _____ :

For all who give You a face, O God, by spreading Your love in the world,

All: **We praise you.**

Leader: For all who give You hands, O God, by doing their best towards others,

All: **We praise you.**

Leader: For all who give You a mouth, O God, by defending the weak and oppressed,

All: **We praise you.**

Leader: For all who give You eyes, O God, by seeing love in the hearts of others,

All: **We praise you.**

Leader: For all who give You a heart, O God, by helping the weak,

All: **We praise you.**

Leader: For all who reveal You, O God, by reflecting Your beauty in their lives,

All: **We praise you.**

Leader: For Your peace and grace on _____ *Name* _____, O God, who made real Your presence in our world,

All: **We give thanks and praise.**

Amen

Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Friday after the Second Sunday after Pentecost

- Leader:** The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been solemnly consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus from February 5, 1872. At that time, an Act of Consecration was drawn up at the request of the Society and this act of consecration is renewed annually by all units of the Society.
- Reader:** When we pray to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we try to make ourselves more conscious of the personal love which Jesus Christ has for each of us. Jesus said to us: "This is my commandment-love one another as I have loved you." Jesus had a very big heart. We know many big-hearted people. Devotion to the Sacred Heart means that we, in turn, must try to be big-hearted persons. When we think of generosity, we think of money, but there are many things other than money with which we can be generous. We can be generous in forgiving. We can be generous in trying to understand others. We can be generous with the time we give to others, and I am sure you can think of many other ways in which we can be generous to others. Jesus was generous with all that He had to give and he had little or no money.
- Spiritual Advisor:** O God, through the example of your Son, Jesus, you taught us that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. We earnestly pray:
- All:** **Teach us to love one another.**
- Spiritual Advisor:** With tender compassion, O God, you have come into our midst and lifted us to your heart, binding us with love. With grateful hearts we pray:
- All:** **Teach us to love one another.**
- Spiritual Advisor:** For the broken-hearted, that God's healing love may come to them through the compassion of others,
- All:** **Teach us to love one another.**
- Spiritual Advisor:** For families, that they may be grounded in love and strengthened by the love of the Sacred Heart,
- All:** **Teach us to love one another.**
- Spiritual Advisor:** For the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, that we may bear witness to the love of the Sacred Heart,
- All:** **Teach us to love one another.**
- Spiritual Advisor:** Let us now renew our Consecration to the Sacred Heart, in unison with all the Vincentians throughout the world, by reciting the Act of Consecration
- All:** **Lord Jesus, Who seeing the cold indifference of the world, and in order to revive charity among all people, has unveiled before them Your Sacred Heart and revealed the infinite riches of Your divine love, behold us prostrate before You, we who form only one Family, by the bond of fraternal charity, scattered, it is true, throughout the world, but united**

under the standard of St. Vincent de Paul, and forming only one body and one soul in the common spirit of the apostolate of charity.

We dedicate and consecrate to Your divine person and to Your Sacred Heart this our Council (or Conference), and all the members who compose it, the poor whom we visit in Your name, the youth and children to whom we respond in order to maintain them in Your service; in a word, all those of whom we have the care, and all the works we have undertaken in various places for Your Glory.

Quite unworthy though we are, we beseech You to receive this offering in the odor of sweetness; inflame us with that fire, which from the depths of Your Heart, You desire to see burning more and more each day, in order that, filled with the tenderness of Your Heart, we may learn to despise things here below, to love and help our neighbor, by word and example,

and that, among the vicissitudes of this world, we may fix our hearts on the riches and happiness that shall never end.

Amen

Closing Song: (Close with an appropriate song)

Vincentians See the Face of Christ

Leader: Let us give thanks to God for calling us to serve the poor in the spirit of Jesus, as followers of Vincent and Frédéric, especially for the grace that in the poor, “VINCENTIANS SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST”:

(Alternate sides)

Left Side: Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus. Faces beaming with success, demanding faces with eyebrows raised, intensely strained and challenging faces, faces daring glances, asking that I do my very best for them.

Right Side: Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus. Caring faces, gentle, kind and understanding. Faces that bear the marks of the years of their giving. Comforting faces, soft, smiling, relaxed, inviting me to trust and to love the poor.

Left Side: Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus. Smooth-skinned young faces whose expressions change in seconds with an array of emotion. Lined faces of those who hold wisdom close to the heart. Peaceful faces awaiting with expectancy, in hope and trust. Faces aglow with goodness and peace.

Right Side: Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus. Tragic faces manifesting physical or emotional pain with head bent and eyes closed with pain's unwritten statements. Yes, I thought I saw you in the sad faces with tears gently slipping down with hurt that knew no words. All those faces waiting to be touched gently by their God.

Left Side: Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus. All of them teaching me of life without words. All gifts to me, sealed in human wrappings. Lined and unlined, smooth and rough, all emerging from your created masterpiece. They are your face made visible to me.

Right Side: Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus. Each face manifesting you, proclaiming you in deep emotions. We reverence these faces of our past, our present, and the faces that will be in our tomorrow.

Together: **O God, we find you in the human faces that surround our daily lives, for you are there. Help us to serve you in all the faces of the poor, and give us your grace so that we may be aware of your presence alive in our midst.**

Amen

Closing Song: (Close with an appropriate song)

Thanksgiving for Completion of a Term of Office

Leader: We gather together to give thanks to _____ *Name* _____, for his/her dedication and generosity in responding to the call of leadership as the _____ *officer title* _____ of our Conference/Council.

We are grateful for _____ *Name* _____'s gifts which were so generously given to us and to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We ask for God's blessing to be upon him/her, as we pray:

God of Community, who call us to be in friendship with one another, and who promise to dwell wherever two or three are gathered in your name, hear our prayer:

(Alternate sides):

Left Side: By your Spirit, Lord, you have graced each of us with differing gifts:
to one you have given the gift of speaking wisely,
to another, the utterance of knowledge
to another, faith
to another, gifts of healing.

Right Side: To some you have given the gift of prophecy,
to another, the working of miracles
to another, discernment of spirits
to another, various kinds of tongues, and
to another, the interpretation of tongues.

Left Side: For these and all gifts by which you bless our Community, and especially by the leadership of _____ *Name* _____ we give you thanks.

Right Side: Open our eyes, O God, to perceive the gifts you have placed within us and to honor the differing gifts which our sisters and brothers offer.

Together: **Bless our hands, our hearts, our vision, so that we may work together for the bringing together of your Kingdom;
in our differences, may we find grace
in our laboring, may we find justice
in our suffering, may we find hope
in our sharing, may we find faith
in our gratitude, may we find love.**

Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Holy Spirit of God, we ask you to bless us as we gather today. As we stand together in thanksgiving for the past, and now looking toward the future we ask you to keep us faithful to the spirit of our patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam. And so we pray:

When we come face to face with the challenge of self-giving, when we are asked to go the extra mile, to take the risk of reaching out to another...

All: **Fill us with the energy of your love, Spirit of God.**

Spiritual Advisor: When someone needs a simple gesture of thoughtfulness, when a look of love is all another asks from us...

All: **Create in us the energy of your kindness, Spirit of God.**

Spiritual Advisor: When difficult and fearful times threaten to drown our trust in you, and during those life experiences when we are tempted to doubt all the ways we have known you...

All: **Renew in us the energy of trusting in you, Spirit of God.**

Spiritual Advisor: When we celebrate and give thanks for our vocation to be Vincentians, searching together to be authentic servants of the poor,

All: **Move us with the energy of your guidance, Spirit of God.**

Spiritual Advisor: Immaculate Heart of Mary,	All: Pray for us.
Spiritual Advisor: St. Vincent de Paul,	All: Pray for us.
Spiritual Advisor: Blessed Frédéric Ozanam,	All: Pray for us.
Spiritual Advisor: Blessed Rosalie Rendu,	All: Pray for us.
All:	Amen

Volunteer Appreciation Prayer

Leader: We come together to give thanks for all the volunteers who have given countless dedicated hours of loving service to the suffering poor in the spirit of St. Vincent and Bl. Frédéric, and so we pray:

(Alternate sides)

Left Side: Lord, thank you for the Volunteer moment,
for each moment that brings:
 compassionate hearts
 and generous hands,
 and the ready smile,
 for my full heart,
 and the hope straining in me.
Stretch me, Lord,
to grow with whatever comes as a gift and to praise you in it.

Right Side: Lord, thank you for the Volunteer moment,
for each moment:
 the busy times, the good tired,
 the quiet reflection,
 and the slowing down,
 for my contented heart
 and the wisdom growing inside me.
Gentle me, Lord,
to feel whatever comes as a gift and to praise you in it.

Left Side: Lord, thank you for the volunteer moment,
for each moment:
 the emotional times,
 the hard decisions,
 and the unceasing demands,
 for my intense heart
 and the truth expanding in me.
Ground me, Lord,
to be open to whatever comes as a gift and to praise you in it.

Right Side: Lord, thank you for the Volunteer moment,
for each moment:
 the sacred time,
 the pain in the heart of the poor,
 their tears in unutterable sadness
 and their trembling gratitude,
 for the Vincentian heart in me,
 and the joy and love that is filling me.
Soften me,
to receive whatever comes as a gift, that I may be grateful
and praise you in it all.

Leader: Lord, let us not so much be concerned to be cared for as to care, not so much to be materially secure as to know that we are loved by You.

Let us not look to be served, but to place ourselves at the service of others, no matter what the cost to self interest, for it is in loving vulnerability that we, like Jesus, experience the fullness of what it means to be human. It is in serving that we discover the healing springs of life.

Let us pray together:

All: We ask your blessing on us, O God:

In our discouragement and fatigue, grant us laughter and support.

In our vision, give us zeal.

In our weakness, give us acceptance.

In our questioning, grant that we may stand in truth.

Bless us now, in all things good and human.

For all things now and still to be, we pray in thanks.

Amen

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam



We honor our primary founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul often, but especially on his Feast Day, September 9th.

Liturgy of the Word for the Feast Day of Blessed Frédéric

First Reading: A reading from the first letter of John. (1 John 4:7-16)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and has knowledge of God. The one without love has known nothing of God, for God is love. God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: he sent his only Son to the world that we might have life through him. Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that he has loved us and has sent his Son as an offering for our sins. Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another God dwells in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. The way we know we remain in him and he in us is that he has given us of his Spirit. We have seen for ourselves, and can testify, that the Father has sent the Son as savior of the world. When anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:(Ps 72: 2-4, 12-14, 16-19)

All: **The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

Leader: O God, give your judgment to the king, your justice to the son of kings; that he may govern your people with justice, your oppressed with right judgment; that the mountains may yield their bounty for the people, and the hills great abundance; that he may defend the oppressed among the people, save the poor and crush the oppressor.

All: **The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

Leader: For he rescues the poor when they cry out, the oppressed who have no one to help. He shows pity to the needy and the poor and saves the lives of the poor. From extortion and violence he frees them, for precious is their blood in his sight.

All: **The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

Leader: May wheat abound in the land, flourish even on the mountain heights. May his fruit increase like Lebanon's, his wheat like the grasses of the land. May his name be blessed forever; as long as the sun, may his name endure. May the tribes of the earth give blessings with his name; may all the nations regard him as favored.

All: **The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful deeds. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may all the earth be filled with the Lord's glory. Amen and Amen.

Response: **The Lord hears the cry of the poor.**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. (John 13:34)

Alleluia

Gospel:

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (10:25-37)

There was a scholar of the law* who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?"

He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise, a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side.

But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.'

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?"

He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The gospel of the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful (Beatification Ceremony)

Leader:

Let us implore God, our Father, through the intercession of Frédéric Ozanam and using his own words, that his Beatification may deeply affect our hearts and our lives and be the pledge of a renewal for the Church and for the world.

"I have known the doubts of the present century, but all my life I have been convinced that there is no rest for the spirit and the heart except in the faith of the Church and under its authority." (Bl. Frédéric)

Let us remember before God, the Church, Mother and Guardian of Truth, our Pope, the Bishops, and all the Pastors that may assist youth and adults who are experiencing spiritual restlessness to discover the essential direction of their faith for their development.

We pray to the Lord...

All:

Lord, hear our prayer.

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Leader: *“Charity must never look to the past, but always to the future, because the number of its past good works is still very small, and because the present and future miseries that it must alleviate are infinite.” (Bl. Frédéric)*

Let us remember before God, the people hindered in their development by the exploitation of wealthy nations, the people hurt by struggles for power, people devastated by discord, racial hatred and war that they may be able to fight efficaciously against poverty and live in peace.

We pray to the Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *“The question which divides the men of our day is no longer a question of political forms, it is a social question: It is knowing what will overcome the sense of egoism or the spirit of sacrifice, and whether society will only be a big exploitation for the benefit of the strongest or a consecration of each for the good of all and especially for the protection of the weak.” (Bl. Frédéric)*

Let us remember before God those responses in the areas of politics, social services and trade unions, that they may have the concern of establishing a society where the deprived, the weak and the marginalized might be restored completely to their human dignity.

We pray to the Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *“The order of society rests on two virtues; justice and charity. Justice supposes already a lot of love. One must love persons very much in order to be able to respect people’s rights which rub against our rights and when their liberty impedes our liberty. However, justice has limits; but charity has none.” (Bl. Frédéric)*

Let us remember before God, the poor who are the preferred children of God and the image of Christ in our midst that they may find hands to help them, words to comfort them and hearts to love them.

We pray to the Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *“We do not have two lives, one to seek Truth and the other to practice it.” (Bl. Frédéric)*

Let us remember before God, professors and teachers that they may, like Frédéric Ozanam, have a passion for Truth and that they may know how to communicate it to their students.

We pray to the Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *“The principle of true friendship is charity, and charity cannot exist in the hearts of many without it expanding outward. It is a fire which dies without food, and the food of charity is good works.” (Bl. Frédéric)*

Let us remember before God, the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul that kindness may dwell in their homes, so that they may share the joys and hopes, the sorrows and anxieties of the people of our times.

We pray to the Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *"Hope! The fault of many Christians of our day is to hope too little. They believe that every battle and every obstacle will be the downfall of the Church. They are the apostles in the boat during the storm: they forget that the Savior is with them." (Bl. Frédéric)*

Let us pray for one another. That in a world dominated by fear, a world which seems to have no future, we all may be artisans of peace: messengers of hope and joy.

We pray to the Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Prayer Service (Outside of Mass) for the Feast of Blessed Frédéric

Leader: As we celebrate the feast of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, let us pray with the words of Scripture found in the gospel of Matthew (*Mt 25:31-46*):

Jesus said, “When the Christ comes in glory, with all the angels around and sits on a glorious throne, all nations will be gathered. The Christ will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates sheep from goats, moving the sheep to the right and the goats to the left... Then the Christ will say to those on the right: “Come, Blessed ones, inherit God’s reign prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for...”

(Alternate sides)

Left Side: I was hungry, and you prepared the food and shared it with me in your dining rooms always treating me with dignity, and you also fed me from your food pantries, especially helping me to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Right Side: I was thirsty, and you shared your drink with me when I was sick; and you helped me find ways to break my addictions and find what would truly satisfy my thirst.

Left Side: I was a stranger and you welcomed me, and you fought in every way you could against the barriers of race, class, and sex that separate us from each other.

Right Side: I was naked, and you helped clothe me by running St. Vincent de Paul Stores, giving me respect as I purchased clothing and furniture for my family that I could afford.

Left Side: I was ill, and you visited me in my home, brought me medical assistance and helped with my medicines, and when I was sick with worry, you helped pay my bills giving me hope and courage.

Right Side: I was in prison, and you came to see me, provided legal aid, often you contacted my family for me, and you always prayed with me.

Leader: Then Vincentians will answer. “But Lord we don’t deserve any reward for these things! We were blessed when we did them, and we found that we always stood on holy ground, for:

(Alternate sides)

Left Side: When you were hungry, we felt the presence of the Holy Spirit among the people at the dining room, we were blessed by the friendships that grew among so many barriers, and we became part of a wonderful community of people.

Right Side: When you were thirsty, we were touched by your agonies and your honesty at 12 Step meetings, we rediscovered ourselves and our deeper thirsts as we listened to yours, and we became able to believe that God really loves us in the midst of our weaknesses.

Left Side: When you were a stranger, we were enriched when you broke down our racial fears and cultural stereotypes to share your life with us, and we were blessed when you helped us to move beyond “Us and Them” simply to WE.

- Right Side:** When you were naked, we were the ones moved by your pain and in your humility in asking for help; we felt the peaceful conviction grow within us that we are privileged to be in the struggle together.
- Left Side:** When you were ill and dying, we felt great awe at being able to touch and anoint your suffering body.
- Right Side:** When you were in prison, we were touched by sharing in your brokenness, we were blessed with greater sensitivity and prayerfulness and hope.
- Leader:** Then, Christ will answer: “Now you have a true glimpse, a real taste of what the Reign of God will be like in its fullness! But there is so much yet to do. Throw yourselves into the work. Bring everyone onto this holy ground to join you to carry on the work of Frédéric Ozanam, and always give thanks for the vocation of being a Vincentian!”
- Amen
- Closing Song:** *(Conclude with an appropriate song)*

Prayers for the Canonization of Blessed Frédéric

In praying for Frédéric's canonization, it is important to make a very specific request (to cure an individual's illness, for example,) and to ask only for Frédéric's intercession, so that if a miracle occurs, it is clear that it was through his intercession.

Short Prayer for Canonization

God, our Father, you alone have the power to bestow those precious gifts of yours which we rightly call miracles. If it be your will, be pleased to grant through the intercession of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, that _____ *(request)* _____.

We humbly ask that you grant this favor so that Blessed Frédéric Ozanam may be canonized by our Holy Mother the Church.

We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son.

Amen

Group Prayer for Canonization

Leader: In the hope of obtaining a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam we pray for _____ *(request)* _____.

All: Lord, You made Blessed Frédéric Ozanam a witness of the Gospel, full of wonder at the mystery of the Church.

You inspired him to alleviate poverty and injustice and endowed him with untiring generosity in the service of all who were suffering.

In family life, he revealed a most genuine love as a son, brother, husband and father. In secular life, his ardent passion for the truth enlightened his thought, writing and teaching.

His vision for our society was a network of charity encircling the world and he instilled St Vincent de Paul's spirit of love, boldness and humility. His prophetic social vision appears in every aspect of his short life, together with the radiance of his virtues.

We thank you Lord, for those many gifts and we ask, if it is your will, the grace of a miracle through the intercession of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

May the Church proclaim his holiness, as a saint, a providential light for today's world! We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The Vision of Frédéric

Leader: Blessed Frédéric Ozanam envisioned the establishment of a network of charity and social justice encircling the globe. (*Rule, Part I, 2.4*)

Alternate sides:

Left Side: For the Lord God said:
I myself will dream a dream within you.
Good dreams come from me, you know.
My dreams seem impossible.

Right Side: Not too practical,
not for the cautious man or woman,
a little risky sometimes, a trifle brash, perhaps.

Left Side: Some of my friends prefer
to rest more comfortably,
in a sounder sleep with visionless eyes.

Right Side: But from those who share my dream,
I ask a little patience, a little humor,
some small courage and a listening heart.
I will do the rest.

Left Side: Then they will risk,
and wonder at their daring;
run, and marvel at their speed;
build, and stand in awe at the beauty of their mission.

Right Side: You will meet me often as you work:
in your companions who share your risk;
in your friends, who believe enough

Left Side: To lend their own dreams
their own hands, their own hearts,
to your mission.

Right Side: There will be sun-filled days
and sometimes it will rain. A little variety!
Both come from me. So come now. Be content.

Left Side: It is my dream you dream:
my house you build; my caring you witness;
my love you share; my vision you live.
And this is the *heart of the matter*.

All: Amen

Litany in Honor of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

*(Parts in **bold** are read by all.)*

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Christ hear us.

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Christ graciously hear us.**

God, Creator of the world,
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God, the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier,

**have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.**

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception,
St. Vincent de Paul, Father of the Poor,

**pray for us.
pray for us.**

Frédéric Ozanam, defender of faith,
Frédéric Ozanam, promoter of hope,
Frédéric Ozanam, apostle of charity,
Frédéric Ozanam, exemplary husband and father,
Frédéric Ozanam, lover of poverty and the poor,

**pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.**

Frédéric Ozanam, advocate of the dignity of the human person,
Frédéric Ozanam, pioneer of the social doctrine of the Church,
Frédéric Ozanam, servant of truth,
Frédéric Ozanam, model for Catholic teachers and professors,
Frédéric Ozanam, exemplar for authors and journalists,

**pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.**

Frédéric Ozanam, mediator for Catholic lawyers,
Frédéric Ozanam, lay missionary,
Frédéric Ozanam, faithful son of the Church,
Frédéric Ozanam, initiator of collaborative ministry,
Frédéric Ozanam, model of courageous commitment,

**pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.**

Frédéric Ozanam, grand figure of the Catholic laity,
Frédéric Ozanam, example of Christian holiness,
Frédéric Ozanam, founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul,
Frédéric Ozanam, disciple of St. Vincent de Paul,
Frédéric Ozanam, our intercessor at the throne of God,

**pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.**

Let us pray,

God, you raised up Blessed Frédéric, setting him ablaze with the spirit of your love, to encourage groups of lay people in the service of the poor. Grant that following his example we may carry out your commandment to love, and so become like yeast in the world of our day.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Words of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

"For, if the issue causing turmoil in the world around us today is neither one of individuals nor of political modalities, but a social issue; if it is the struggle between those who have nothing and those who have too much; if it is the violent clash of opulence and poverty that shakes the earth beneath our feet, it is our duty as Christians to throw ourselves between these two irreconcilable enemies, to make the ones divest themselves as if they were simply following the law, and the others receive it as a blessing; to make the ones cease demanding and the others cease refusing; to make equality the operating principle among men as much as possible; to make voluntary community replace taxation and enforced loans; to make charity accomplish what justice alone cannot.." *Letter to François Lallier, 1836*

"The knowledge of social well-being and of reform is to be learned, not only from books, nor from the public platform, but in climbing the stairs to the poor man's garret, sitting by his bedside, feeling the same cold that pierces him, sharing the secret of his lonely heart and troubled mind. When the conditions of the poor have been examined, in school, at work, in hospital, in the city, in the country, everywhere that God has placed them, it is then and then only, that we know the elements of that formidable problem, that we begin to grasp it and may hope to solve it." *L'ère Nouvelle, 1848*

"Jesus Christ, who called us, has called us for a purpose, and every purpose for which God calls us is beautiful and great. Such should be the faith we should have in our work. Such should be the trust we put in the grace of Jesus Christ, our Master." *Report to the Society, 1834*

"We can build our hope only on the foundation of God's blessing, on the support of our patron saint, and on our alliance with each other. May we have no lack of this last requirement, that which is in our hands and yours!" *Report to the Society, 1837*

"Above all, pray often and do not be embarrassed to do so, humble yourself before your Creator." *Letter to Ernest Falconnet, 1831*

"Help honors when to the bread that nourishes it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand that lifts up the sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect, not only as an equal but as a superior, since he is suffering what perhaps we are incapable of suffering; since he is the messenger of God to us, sent to prove our justice and our charity, and to save us by our works." *L'ère Nouvelle, 1848*

"... the poor we see with the eyes of flesh; they are there and we can put finger and hand in their wounds and the scars of the crown of thorns are visible on their foreheads; and at this point incredulity no longer has place and we should fall at their feet and say with the Apostle, *Tu es Dominus et Deus meus* (You are my Lord and my God!). You are our masters, and we will be your servants. You are for us the sacred images of that God whom we do not see, and not knowing how to love Him otherwise shall we not love Him in your person?" *Letter to Louis Janmot, 1836*

"The earth has grown cold. It is for us Catholics to revive the vital heat that has burned out, it is for us to begin again that great work of regeneration, and if necessary to bring back the era of the martyrs. For to be a martyr is possible for every Christian, to be a martyr is to give his life for God and his brothers, to give his life in sacrifice, whether the sacrifice be consumed in an instant like a holocaust, or be accomplished slowly and smoke night and day like incense on the altar. To be a martyr is to give back to heaven all that one has received: his money, his blood, his entire soul. This offering is in our hands; this is a sacrifice we can make. It is up to us to choose which altars it pleases us to bring it to, what divinity we will consecrate our youth to and the time that follows, what temple we will assemble in: at the foot of the idol of Egoism, or in the sanctuary of God and humanity." *Letter to Léonce Curnier, 1835*

Blessed Rosalie Rendu



We honor the mentor of the founding members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul often, but especially on her Feast Day, February 7th.

Liturgy of the Word for the Feast Day of Blessed Rosalie

First Reading: *A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor 12:31-13:13)*

But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially, and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.

So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: *(Ps 71, 1-6; 15-17)*

All: I will sing of your salvation

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, and deliver me;
incline your ear to me, and save me.

All: I will sing of your salvation

Be my rock of safety,
For you are my rock and my fortress.
O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.

All: I will sing of your salvation

For you are my hope, O Lord;
my trust, O God, from my youth.
On you I depend from birth;
from my mother's womb you are my strength.

All: I will sing of your salvation

My mouth shall declare your justice,
day by day your salvation.
O God, you have taught me from my youth,
and till the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds.

All: I will sing of your salvation

Alleluia: Alleluia

Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me.

Alleluia

Gospel: *A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew (Matthew 25: 31-40)*

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, he will sit upon his royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats at his left. The King will say to the people on his right, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father: Come and receive the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me." The righteous will then answer him, "When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?" The King will answer them, "I tell you, indeed, whenever you did this for one of the least brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me!"

The Gospel of the Lord

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: **With humble hearts, we come before God to speak for our needs and those of the world.**

Leader: For the grace, to have eyes to see, hearts to love and hands to serve, the most destitute in the spirit of Blessed Rosalie, we pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who care for the sick, and for those who need healing, we pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who face catastrophes and for those who come to their aid, we pray to the Lord

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For those who bear insult and injustice, and suffer from persecution and prejudice, that they find justice and compassion, we pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: For solidarity among the Vincentian Family, so that the spirit of Sister Rosalie Rendu and Frédéric Ozanam will live on in the bonds of friendship among us, we pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: **Merciful God, you sent your Son to reconcile us to you. Hear and answer the needs of the poor and all those we hold in the depths of our hearts.**

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our saving Lord. Amen

Prayer Service for Blessed Rosalie Rendu

Leader: Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, served the poor in a very densely populated quarter of Paris where the people were without bread and without God. Sister Rosalie's name was a promise of hope.

There was a bond in the mutual concern for others that united Sister Rosalie and Monsieur Bailly, professor and director of The Catholic Tribune. He wrote on one occasion in 1833:

"I am sending you two young men who have left our history conference... Their charity is spirited, but they are young and impetuous. They have already committed themselves to certain praiseworthy acts but in little harmony with their possibilities. They have already distributed their winter provision of wood. They need direction. You alone, my mother, are qualified to guide them. Their names are Monsieur Ozanam and Monsieur Le Tallandier. Both are students." [Apostle in a Top Hat]

And so, with love and devotion Sister Rosalie taught the founding members of the Society how to befriend the poor with dignity, love, kindness and respect in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul."

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives,

All: **And strengthen us by Your love.**

Leader: Send forth Your Spirit and new life will be created,

All: **And the whole face of the earth will be renewed.**

Leader: Let us ask for the grace to live the spirit of St. Vincent, Blessed Frédéric and Blessed Rosalie Rendu:

(Alternate sides)

Left: If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind.

Right: That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no deceit; but everyone is to be self-effacing.

Left: Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interest first, but everyone thinks of other people's interest instead. In your minds you must be the same as Jesus Christ.

Right: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became human; and being as all humans are, he was humbler yet, even to accept death, death on a cross.

Together: **But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Amen** *(Philippians 2:1-11)*

Reading: *Words Sr. Rosalie spoke to Frédéric Ozanam and Companions:*

“God has already touched your heart, or you would not be giving up your precious free day to serve the poor. And, because you see Christ in his poor, I know you will approach each one you visit with humility as His servant.

“Always remember, that if we had been through the hardships they have had to meet—if our childhood had been one of constant want—perhaps, we too, would have given away to envy and hatred, as I must admit have many of the poor in this quarter.

“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.”

Leader: Invoking the names of God, we pray:

God of Compassion, you move deep within us making us aware of those who are suffering and poor.

All: **Give us loving hearts as we touch the pain of others.**

Leader: God of Peace, you are the center of our lives, a strong current of calmness in the whirlwind of our struggles.

All: **We look to you for strength and constant assurance of hope.**

Leader: God of Hope, you are the anchor of our souls, firmly keeping us from becoming lost in the sea of uncertainties.

All: **Steady us when all our usual resources fail us.**

Leader: God of Freedom, open clenched hands, life the barriers, loosen our wings.

All: **Free us of the strong grasp of our demands when we want everything our way.**

Leader: God of Truth, reach into our inner space, enlarge our capacity to receive, help us to recognize and accept your challenges to growth.

All: **May we trust in your presence among us as we strive to be friends with you, friends with each other and friends with the poor. Amen**

Closing: *(Conclude with an appropriate song)*

A Meditation on Blessed Rosalie Rendu

BLESSED ROSALIE RENDU, DC - *By Robert P. Maloney, C.M.*

In an era in which there was no telephone, no e-mail, no fax, no radio, no television, the news of Rosalie Rendu's death spread only by word of mouth. From the emperor to the poorest urban dweller, all Paris mourned. They mourned her because they loved her. Fifty thousand people from all strata of society came together two days later for her funeral. Her works were prodigious. She ran a school, a day-care center, a nursery school, an orphanage, a home for the elderly, a center for the distribution of food, a pharmacy, and a clothes dispensary. She organized the Children of Mary and the Ladies of Charity. She helped Frédéric Ozanam in the founding of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which now has 560,000 members. She cared for the sick and the dying during three cholera epidemics. She ministered to the wounded during two revolutions. Rich and poor, clergy and lay, men and women, the young and the elderly knocked on her door. No Daughter of Charity was better known in her lifetime than she.

Now she is beatified for us. The Church in holding her up before us says to us:

Look at this extraordinary woman. Learn from her. She loved God deeply and she loved the poor practically. Let her teach you. So what can Rosalie Rendu teach us today? Let me suggest to you three things:

- I. First, she was very concrete, very effective in the service of the poor. In the later years of her life, a long line formed outside her office every day. Witnesses say that she jotted down little notes to remind herself of what each person asked of her and that she always gave some response even if she was often not capable of fully satisfying everyone's petitions.

To use a modern term, she was an extraordinary "networker." Like St. Vincent himself, she knew how to raise the consciousness of the rich to the needs of the poor. The emperor himself, politicians, ambassadors, writers, the Archbishop of Paris, superiors general, priests, sisters, brother, all at one time or another knocked on her door to ask how they might help in alleviating the needs of the poor. And she enlisted the poor themselves to serve the poor. She asked the askers to do something for others. She was a concrete, practical lover of the poor.

- II. While her friends describe her as "tender" in her relationships, they also testify that she was absolutely fearless. No task was too formidable for Rosalie, no situation too dangerous.

In the 1840's and 1850's, during three cholera epidemics, as many as 150 people died each day in the parish where she and the sisters worked. Rosalie, undaunted, roamed the streets to attend to the sick, accompany the dying and bury the dead.

During the Revolution of 1848, when the Archbishop of Paris was shot and killed, a general decided on a massive bombardment of the neighborhood where Rosalie lived, but first sent a messenger to offer the sisters safe conduct out. Rosalie responded to the messenger, "Sir, please thank the general and tell him that we are the servants of the poor and also their mothers and that we want to die with them." From that day on, Rosalie and the general became friends who deeply admired one another.

- III. This country girl who was so effective in the city, this tender woman who was so intrepid, this unschooled servant of the poor who networked so well with intellectuals and the rich, had enormous faith. She believed that Christ lives in the person of the poor. She believed that God's love conquers all. She believed that God was calling her to focus all her creative

energy on the thousands of uninstructed, sick, jobless, homeless people in the poorest neighborhood of Paris. And she did this for more than 50 years. Her faith radiated out in her tenderness, in her fearlessness, in her small, practical efforts at helping individuals, in her larger, creative, structured forms of serving the whole neighborhood.

Her faith was transparent to others. They saw it.

They admired it. They were drawn to it.

My brothers and sisters, I now ask you to meditate with me on the life of this wonderful woman. The Church holds her up before us as an example of what it means to be a genuine servant of the poor. Reflect on her practical charity, her tenderness, her fearlessness, her faith. Love her in the beauty of her life and in her remarkable works. As the Church beatifies her, I think of Shakespeare's eloquent words:

*When she shall die,
Take her and cut her out in little stars,
And she will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night...*

The Words of Blessed Rosalie Rendu

"God has already touched your heart, or you would not be giving up your precious free day to serve the poor. And, because you see Christ in his poor, I know you will approach each one you visit with humility as His servant. Always remember, that if we had been through the hardships they have had to meet —if our childhood had been one of constant want — perhaps, we too, would have given away to envy and hatred, as I must admit have many of the poor in this quarter. 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."

"Hunt down poverty in order to give humanity its dignity."

"There is something that is choking me, and takes away my appetite...the thought that so many families lack bread."

"There are many ways of providing charity. The assistance of money or assistance in-kind that we give to the poor will not last long. We must aspire to a more complete and longer lasting benefit: study their abilities, their level of instruction and try to get them work to help them out of their difficulties."

"One night I dreamed that I stood at the judgment seat of God. God received me with great severity and was about to pronounce my sentence when, suddenly, I was surrounded by an immense crowd of people carrying old boots, shoes, and hats. They presented all these things to God saying: 'She was the one who gave us all these things.' Then Jesus Christ turned toward me and said: 'Because you gave all these second-hand clothes in my name, I open heaven to you. Enter for all eternity.'"

"Never do I make my meditation so well as I do on the street. Passersby for me are no longer anything but trees in a forest. I agree with the saint who compared the world to large woods where the soul must never let itself be distracted by the underbrush."

"You are not the one who will make the matter succeed; it is the Holy Spirit to whom you are going to pray. It is the Holy Spirit who touches hearts and inclines them to good."

"I am a Daughter of Charity. I do not have a flag. I go to the aid of the unfortunate wherever I encounter them. I try to do good for them without judging them."

"What a folly it is to take credit to ourselves for the success of any of our undertakings, when we owe it to the prayer of some poor man, or the intervention of some unknown friend!"

"Let us be extraordinary by means of being ordinary."

"We should have the heart of a child towards God, of a mother towards our neighbor, and of a judge towards ourselves."

Saint Vincent de Paul



We honor our Patron Saint often, but especially on his Feast Day, September 27th.

Liturgy of the Word for the Feast Day of Saint Vincent de Paul

Reading I: *A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Is. 52:7-10):*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news,
announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, saying to Zion, "Your God
is King!"

Listen! Your sentinels raise a cry, together they shout for joy, for they see directly, before
their eyes, the LORD's return to Zion.

Break out together in song, O ruins of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted his
people, has redeemed Jerusalem.

The LORD has bared his holy arm in the sight of all the nations; all the ends of the earth
can see the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: *(Ps. 39 (40) 10-12, 17-18)*

Response: **I have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help**

I have always proclaimed the righteousness of the LORD
in the Great Assembly; nor do I mean to stop proclaiming,
as you know well.

Response: **I have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help**

I have never kept your righteousness to myself,
But have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help;
I have made no secret of your love and faithfulness
in the Great Assembly.

Response: **I have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help**

For your part, LORD, do not withhold
Your kindness from me!
May your love and faithfulness
constantly preserve me.

Response: **I have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help**

But joy and gladness for all who seek you!
To all who love your saving power
give constant cause to say, 'God is great!'
To me, poor wretch,
come quickly, Lord!

Response: **I have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help**

Reading II: *A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians (1Cor 1:26-31; 2:1-2):*

Take yourselves for instance, brothers and sisters, at the time when you were called: how many were influential people, or came from noble families?

No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen—those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything.

The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

As for me, brothers and sisters, when I came to you, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia: **Alleluia**

As you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Alleluia

Gospel: *A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12)*

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The gospel of the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Knowing God's love for us, let us present our needs and intentions.

Leader: For all the servants of the poor, that the spirit of St. Vincent De Paul will live in their hearts,

We pray to the Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer**

Leader: For wise people, old and young, who are poor in spirit, that they be filled with the wonder of God's love,

We pray to the Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer**

Leader: For all those who are sorrowful, and those who hunger and thirst, that they come to know the healing and grace of God's mercy,

We pray to the Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer**

Leader: For those who feel abandoned, alone or unloved, that they receive comfort and support from the loving service given by the members of our Society,

We pray to the Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer**

Leader: For the grace to serve the poor with gentleness and kindness in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, loving them tenderly and respecting them deeply.

We pray to the Lord...

All: **Lord, hear our prayer**

Celebrant: God of mercy, in your unbounded love you gave us your Son. Set our hearts on fire with the love of Jesus, give us eyes that see the poor and hands to serve. Hear our prayers through that Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer Service for the Feast Day of St. Vincent – September 27th

Leader: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives,

All: **And strengthen us by Your love.**

Leader: Send forth Your Spirit and new life will be created,

All: **And the whole face of the earth will be renewed.**

Leader: Let us reflect on the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ, recalling His unity and presence among us: “Where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.”

All: **Lord Jesus, deepen our Vincentian spirit of friendship during this meeting, make us responsive to the Christian calling to see and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that we may bring them Your love. Help us to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in this mission of charity. Perfect in us Your love and teach us to share more fully in the Eucharistic Sacrifice offered for all. Amen**

Reading: Let us listen to the words of St. Vincent de Paul:

“Jesus, You have called me to evangelize persons who are bruised and burdened, and my purpose is to make you known. When you lived on this earth, your thoughts and actions were of mercy, forgiveness and healing for all people, because you knew it was your Father’s Will that all be saved.

“Teach me by your example, and grant me all the virtues necessary to be a true evangelizer, help me, through the fervor of my zeal, set the world on fire. I want to give myself to You, body and soul, mind and heart and spirit and always to do what pleases you. In your mercy, grant me the grace to have You continue in me and through me Your Work, O Blessed Savior. Amen”

Leader: Let us pray: (Please alternate sides)

Left Side: Loving Creator, we ask for the insight to understand the needs of people today that we might grasp the complexity of the situations that face us, and the absolute demands of human need.

Right Side: The hungry have a right to food, the homeless to shelter, the oppressed to freedom and the ill to health care.

Left Side: God, enable each of us to risk being in solidarity with our brothers and sisters, to be contagious in our love for all, as we transmit our charism of the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.

Right Side: Do not allow our fear, ignorance or pride to limit the action of your Spirit, nor allow our selfishness to prevent your Divine creativity within us from bearing fruit. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Closing: *End with an appropriate Song*

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Prayer Service – The Fire of Vincentian Charism

- Leader:** O God, your love ignites our hearts, captures our imaginations, shapes our dreams, and awakens possibilities. Make us disciples on fire with your love so that we can become true followers of St. Vincent de Paul.
- Help us, O God, to enkindle in others a sense of hope that transformation is possible...and give us the grace to transmit to others the fire of the charism of St. Vincent.
- Let us pray (*alternate sides*)
- Left Side:** When the heart is on fire, light comes from within. With the eyes of an enlightened heart, we can see the hope to which we are called. By responding to the call to be a Vincentian, we proclaim that the quest to be a servant of the poor is the fire of our lives.
- Right Side:** The path to seeing with the eyes of the heart is discovered in the journey of discipleship. It is not an easy journey. It is an ongoing effort to live the gospel with integrity—always trying, sometimes succeeding, often failing, recognizing the need for patience, and then trying again.
- Left Side:** Discipleship is a way of being in the world that affects every relationship. Disciples shape one another according to the action of the Spirit in their lives. The energy of the disciples flows from faith in what is unseen yet believed. At its very core, discipleship is a call to a love so radical that it never gives up on God, one's neighbor, or oneself.
- Right Side:** Disciples are called to love well, as Jesus did, with hope, truth, fidelity and compassion. This leads inevitably to taking a stand with the Christ of the paschal mystery who willingly laid down his life in love so that all may have life in abundance.
- Leader:** We remember the times of our lives, when we felt God's warmth within us and we were on fire to do his will.
- All:** **God of Fire, burst into flame in our lives.**
- Leader:** We remember the people of Faith gone before us, messengers of a gracious God.
- All:** **God of Fire, fan our faith into flame.**
- Leader:** We remember those in our lives today, whose flaming hearts have encouraged and touched us on our journey.
- All:** **God of Fire, fuel us into thankfulness.**
- Leader:** We remember our journey, and how we need to trust in God's love and to pray to live as illuminators in our world.
- All:** **God of Fire, empower us to trust.**
- Leader:** God of fire, send your sparks to enlighten our lives and fill us with your passionate life. Transform us with your love and touch us with your goodness. May the truth we seek and accept, fuel all we are and do.

All: **May God the Father who made us, bless us. May God the Son send his grace among us. May the Holy Spirit move within us and give us eyes that see, ears that hear, hearts that love, and hands that do God's work.**

May the God of peace watch over us and lead us as we walk together, as Vincentians, into the future.

Amen

Closing: *End with an appropriate Song*

Prayer Service – A Vincentian Heart

Leader: Lord, we ask for the grace to have a Vincentian heart. We give you our gifts and talents, our dreams and visions so that we may carry the mission of St. Vincent to the poor.

Lord, we ask for the grace to have hands that work for justice, so that we may show your gospel to all those suffering from prejudice and inequality.

Lord, we ask for the grace to have hearts of love and compassion, so that we may bring your mercy to the broken hearts of the poor.

Amen

(Alternate sides)

Left Side: Blessed are You, God of the Impossible, for You never get discouraged and never cease to hope, believe and strive for a happier, fairer, and wiser world.

Right Side: Blessed are You, God of the Covenant, for You make promises and never break them, for You trust us to do good and love us when we fail, and You daily renew our confidence and courage.

Left Side: Blessed are You, God of Unconditional Love, help us to believe in ourselves as You believe in us. Help us to see our potential as You see it, as we work together as members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Right Side: Blessed are You, God of Providence, for You challenge us to constantly move beyond our pasts and call us into fresh possibilities for the future.

Leader: O God, constantly provide us with the new opportunities, which Your Covenant promises, and inspire us with the dreams to follow new paths of potential growth and goodness for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. And give us all a Vincentian heart, as we pray:

All: Lord Jesus, you willed to become poor, give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor; help us to recognize you in them—in their thirst, their hunger, their loneliness, and their misfortune.

Enkindle within our Vincentian Family unity, simplicity, humility, and the fire of love that burned in St. Vincent de Paul

Strengthen us, so that, faithful to the practice of these virtues, we may contemplate you and serve you in the person of the poor, and may one day be united with you and them in your Kingdom.

Amen

Closing: *End with an appropriate Song*

The Words of St. Vincent de Paul

“Your chief concern, after the love of God and the desire to make yourselves pleasing to His Divine Majesty, must be to serve the sick poor with great gentleness and cordiality, sympathizing with them in their sufferings and listening to their little complaints...”

“I must not judge a poor peasant man or woman by their appearance or their apparent intelligence, especially since very often they scarcely have the expression or the mind of rational persons, so crude and vulgar they are. But turn the medal, and you will see by the light of faith that the Son of God, who willed to be poor, is represented to us by these poor people.”

“To make God known to poor persons; to announce Jesus Christ to them; to tell them that the kingdom of heaven is at hand and that it’s for persons who are poor. Oh, what a great thing that is!”

“So, our vocation is to go, not just to one parish, not just to one diocese, but all over the world; and to do what? To set people’s hearts on fire, to do what the Son of God did. He came to set the world on fire in order to inflame it with His love. What do we have to desire but that it may bum and consume everything. My dear confreres, let’s reflect on that, please. It’s true then, that I’m sent not only to love God but to make Him loved. It’s not enough for me to love God, if my neighbor doesn’t love Him.”

“The angels are proud to guide the poor in whom God dwells. We are going to share in their ministry.”

“Put your trust in Him; He doesn’t will the end without the means; and if He asks you for the one, He’ll give you the other.”

“Sometimes all it takes is a gentle word to convert a hardened person; a harsh word, on the contrary, is capable of upsetting a soul and causing in it a bitterness that could be very harmful to it.”

“My Lord has called me to serve Him in the person of the poor; what a happiness!”

Our business is to gain heaven; everything else is a sheer waste of time.

“We’re mistaken, Messieurs, if we base the outcome of our little works on worldly esteem; that’s attaching ourselves to the shadow and leaving the body behind.”

“Go, therefore...go in the name of Our Lord. I pray that His Divine Goodness may accompany you, be your consolation along the way, your shade against the heat of the sun, your shelter in rain and cold, your soft bed in your weariness, your strength in your toil, and, finally, that He may bring you back in perfect health and filled with good works.”

“It is a ruse of the devil, by which he deceives good people, to induce them to do more than they are able, so that they end up not being able to do anything.”

“Those who have the management of anything are obliged to manage it well and to use it faithfully, because it belongs to our good God, in as much as it belongs to the poor.”

“Be quite cheerful, I beg you. Oh, what great reason people of good will have to be cheerful!”

St. Louise de Marillac



We honor the co-founder of the Daughters of Charity, and Patron of Christian social workers often, but especially on her Feast Day, May 9th.

Liturgy of the Word for the Feast Day of St. Louise de Marillac

First Reading: *A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 58:1a, 6-11)*

Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast;

Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking off every yoke?

Is it not sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own flesh?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: "Here I am!" If you remove the yoke from among you, the accusing finger, and malicious speech;

If you lavish your food on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then your light shall rise in the darkness, and your gloom shall become like midday;

Then the LORD will guide you always and satisfy your thirst in parched places, will give strength to your bones and you shall be like a watered garden, like a flowing spring whose waters never fail.

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: *(PS 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 & 23)*

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
and your faces may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out, the LORD heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

The LORD confronts the evildoers,
to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.
When the just cry out, the LORD hears them,
and from all their distress he rescues them.

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;
and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.
The LORD redeems the lives of his servants;
no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.

R. The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Second Reading: *A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 9:36-42)*

Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated means Dorcas). She was completely occupied with good deeds and almsgiving. Now during those days she fell sick and died, so after washing her, they laid [her] out in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay."

So Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs where all the widows came to him weeping and showing him the tunics and cloaks that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to her body and said, "Tabitha, rise up." She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He gave her his hand and raised her up, and when he had called the holy ones and the widows, he presented her alive.

This became known all over Joppa, and many came to believe in the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia: **Alleluia**

Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.

Alleluia

Gospel: (Matthew 25: 31-40)

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, he will sit upon his royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats at his left. The King will say to the people on his right, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father: Come and receive the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me." The righteous will then answer him, "When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?" The King will answer them, "I tell you, indeed, whenever you did this for one of the least brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me!"

Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment and the virtuous to eternal life.

Prayer Service – Feast Day of St Louise

Leader: Lord, grant to us the heart and spirit of Louise de Marillac:

(alternate sides)

Left Side: Lord, we ask for the grace to have...

Her listening heart

Her love and respect

Her ability to empower

Her strength and dignity

And her faith amidst turmoil.

Right Side: Lord, we ask for the grace to have...

Her organizational genius

Her deep spirit of prayer

Her dedication to the poor

Her simplicity and laughter

And her humble, servant leadership.

Left Side: Lord, we ask for the grace to have...

Her compassion and sensitivity

Her understanding of suffering

Her total commitment to God

Her abandonment to Providence

And her faithfulness to the will of God.

Right Side: Lord, we ask for the grace to have...

Her gift of discernment

Her willingness to take risks

Her ability to negotiate

Her clarity of vision and mission

And her dedication to the service of the poor.

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Corinthians

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge—for this too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The Litany of Charity

Leader:

In our loneliness...

In our desire for love...

In our brokenness...

In our weariness...

In our comfort and complacency...

In our uncertainty...

In our searching...

In our need to minister...

In our desire to serve...

In our witness to the Gospel...

In our enthusiasm...

In our busyness and activity...

In our care for those who are poor...

In our hunger for justice...

In our zeal for the kingdom...

In our vision for the future...

In our love for one another...

For the spirit of Louise to live on in us, we pray... **Amen**

All:

the Charity of Christ embraces us.

the Charity of Christ overwhelms us.

the Charity of Christ heals us.

the Charity of Christ re-creates us.

the Charity of Christ challenges us.

the Charity of Christ reassures us.

the Charity of Christ gathers us.

the Charity of Christ provokes us.

the Charity of Christ compels us.

the Charity of Christ speaks in us.

the Charity of Christ impels us.

the Charity of Christ centers us.

the Charity of Christ drives us on.

the Charity of Christ nourishes us.

the Charity of Christ enflames us.

the Charity of Christ dreams in us.

the Charity of Christ lives on.

Prayer Service – Contemplative in Action

Leader: On November 29, 1633, Louise de Marillac, together with St. Vincent read, to write and to serve the poor in health care, social ministry and education. Above all she rooted the Daughters of Charity in the Vincentian spirituality of finding Jesus in the poor and the poor in Jesus, teaching them to be contemplatives in action. She taught the Sisters to serve the poor “with respect, mildness, cordiality and compassion.”

As wife, mother, teacher and foundress Louise welcomed the grace of God into her life, which transformed her fretful heart into a courageous, generous, and compassionate heart that loved intensely. She had a heart that welcomed poor, hopeless, alienated, and abandoned people. She took a small group of women and molded them into a community of total dedication: “Given to God for the Service of the Poor.” She also organized, directed, and animated the Confraternities and Ladies of Charity. Louise was able to do this because she loved and hoped in God.

Thus, our Vincentian spirituality was formed through the collaboration of St. Vincent and St. Louise de Marillac. We have a charism that has been created through the mutuality of this holy woman and this holy man who brought their feminine and their masculine insights, gifts, talents together in finding the face of Christ in the poor. And together they gave us a heart so that the poor could find the goodness of God in us.

Louise taught us: “You see a great deal of stress that you are unable to relieve. God sees it also. Bear the pain with them, doing all you can to give them whatever help you can, then remain in peace.”

At some future date, when the high court of history sits in judgment of each of us, recording whether in our brief span of service we fulfilled our responsibilities, our success or failure in whatever we do, will be measured by answers to four questions:

(Alternate sides)

Left Side: Were we truly spiritual men and women of courage,
with the courage to stand up, when necessary, to our associates,
and the courage to resist pressures
public as well as private?

Right Side: Were we truly spiritual men and women of judgment,
with perceptive judgment of the future as well as the past,
of our own mistakes as well as the mistakes of others,
with enough wisdom to know what we did not know,
and enough candor to admit it?

Left Side: Were we truly spiritual men and women of integrity,
who never ran out on either the principles in which we believed
or the people who believed in us,
whom no kind of ambition could ever divert from the fulfillment
of our sacred trust?

Right Side: Were we truly spiritual men and women of dedication,
with an honor mortgaged to no single individual or group,
and compromised by no private obligation or aim,
but devoted only to serving one another and all the people of God?

All: **Almighty God,**
We do not ask that you make life easy for us,
but that problems will not intimidate us.
We do not ask that we shall have no enemies,
but that we respect them and the truth they have to offer.
We do not ask for success in every venture,
but that when we fail, we can still go on with a fresh beginning.
And in Jesus' name we ask for this grace. Amen

Meditation – A Woman Who Loved to Laugh

Sr. Elizabeth Charpy, a Daughter of Charity in Paris who has spent many years researching and writing about Louise, tells us from her fund of knowledge and insight that:

“Louise reveals herself as a woman profoundly affected by her background (birth and social milieu), as a woman involved in the political and religious events of her epoch, a woman full of life, who loved to laugh. Louise was a woman who reacted intensively to each situation which presented itself. She appears as a theologian and a mystic: she has an experience of God and received from it love and respect for each person.”

It is amazing to come to know Louise as a “woman who loved to laugh!” Monsignor Jean Calvet in his biography also captured Louise as being “charming and witty”! Indeed, wherever the Vincentian Family are gathered, there is laughter...this is a gift and grace given to us by Louise and Vincent! Now in the Providence of God we are discovering the real Louise as a warm, compassionate and joyful woman. She was a woman with a strong personality and a strong character.

Fr. Dirvin continued by saying: “It was easy to assume that the dynamic Vincent de Paul had taken a weak woman and made her an automaton in carrying out obediently, humbly and without a thought of her own, his charitable plans. But such an assumption does little honor to Vincent, who grasped the potentialities of this woman from their first meeting, and it gives little honor to God who had prepared her for service by an exquisite refinement in the furnace of suffering.”

Fr. Dirvin also challenges us by saying: “We also need to discover the delightful affection, intimacy and dedication between Vincent and Louise, which made their cooperative ventures fruitful and permanent.” It is true that as we discover their deep friendship and true partnership, we will be able to discern the demands of the grace of true collaboration which is our charism.

In 1991 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Louise’s birth, the West Central Province of the US commissioned Robert Lentz to paint the above icon of St. Louise. In 1910 Marillac Provincial House in St. Louis, MO had the honor of being the first Province of the Daughters of Charity in the world named for St. Louise. It took almost 300 years for us to honor Louise! The book, Louise de Marillac, by Joseph Dirvin, CM was sent to the artist for his reflection and prayer. We waited to see what he would capture as the grace of Louise. The icon was finished and sent to us, and it beautifully shows Louise holding one of the foundlings.

An icon is a form of sacred art, where the artist creates a painting through prayer and meditation. And so, in praying with an icon, you don’t pray to it, you don’t stop to just look at it. The grace comes when you pray through the icon to find the mystery and the hidden message. It is like the icon on the computer, that you click on and a whole world appears.

So let us pray and reflect as we look through the icon of Louise to find the grace given. First of all, the words in Greek are “Holy or Sante” on the left and “Louise” on the right....the holiness of Louise. We see that Louise is standing between the Church and what is called a House of Charity: a hospital, an orphanage, a school, a social agency. This captures the grace of Louise being a “Contemplative in Action,” a woman of prayer and a woman of service. On the left, there are also buildings next to the Church, these represent: St. Laurent, the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity and St. Lazare the Motherhouse of the Vincentian priests. The door of the House of Charity is very large as it is open to all those who are suffering and poor.

There is a sense of movement, a sense of urgency in Louise. It is like she is caught by surprise and she is in a hurry as she is out in the streets taking care of the poor. She is wrapped in humility, simplicity and charity. Her face reflects peace and compassion, and looking carefully you can see a lovely gentle smile. Her eyes look directly into ours.

Her hands are strong and feminine...hands that are generous, compassionate and kind. Louise is holding the infant, with great motherly love and tenderness. The child is one of the foundlings, one of the abandoned, illegitimate children deserted in the streets of Paris. This icon also captures the profound grace of Louise, of how she embraced her own wound of being rejected and abandoned because she was illegitimate. Over the years, through her deep faith and trust in God she accepted her own wound of being deprived of a mother's love and the warmth of belonging to a family. Uniting her suffering to the suffering of Jesus crucified, she found peace, love and a compassionate heart. It was then that she became a loving mother to her Daughters and to all those who were poor and suffering.

An ancient story tells us:

The Master was in an expansive mood so his disciples sought to learn from him the stages he had passed through in his quest for the divine.

"God first led me by the hand," the Master said, "into the Land of Action and there I dwelt for several years.

Then He returned and led me to the Land of Sorrows, there I lived until my heart was purged of every inordinate attachment.

That is when I found myself in the Land of Love whose burning flames consumed whatever was left in me of self.

This brought me to the Land of Silence where the mysteries of life and death were bared before my wondering eyes."

"Was that the final stage of your quest?" they asked.

"No," the Master said, "One day God said, "Today I shall take you to the innermost sanctuary of the Temple, to the heart of God himself. And I was led to the Land of Laughter."

And so we find that God led Louise to the heart of God himself, to the "Land of Laughter."

Words of St. Louise de Marillac

“Please continue to serve our dear masters with great gentleness, respect and cordiality, always seeing God in them.”

“Remain at peace, and work as you always have to settle things. The trouble you have gone to until now will not be wasted. You know that sunshine follows the rain.”

“O holy time of grace! Why are our souls not in a continuous state of joy and happiness?

“Let us give God the glory which we owe Him in the state in which He has placed us. I beg Him with all my heart to let you know how good it is to trust in Him. Therefore, look to Him often as children do to their father and mother for their needs.”

“Go then courageously, advancing moment by moment on the path on which God has placed you in order to reach Him.”

“If we truly loved His holy will, nothing would afflict us since we know that He loves us and desires our good in all things.”

“It is not enough to visit the poor and to provide for their needs; one's heart must be totally purged of all self-interest...”

“We need great courage to overcome ourselves, although often the things we call trials are more imaginary than real. If we wish to please God, an excellent means is to bear patiently our trials and difficulties.”

“In fact, you will see a great amount of misery that you cannot relieve. God sees it as well and does not want to give those who suffer greater abundance. Share their trials with them; do all you can to provide them with a little assistance and remain at peace.”

“As the deer seeks water, so my soul seeks God.”

“It seemed to me that in order to be faithful to God we must live in great union with one another.”

“Remain at peace until Divine Providence lets you know what It is asking of you.”

“You have every reason to trust in God and to abandon yourself to His Divine Providence. God will never fail to let you know how agreeable this manner of acting is to Him.”

“Let us serve with hearts filled with the pure love of God which enables us always to love the roses amidst the thorns.”

“How fortunate you are...to have so many sick to serve! Oh, how evident it is that God loves you since He provides you with so many opportunities to serve Him!”

A Guide to Preparing Liturgies

This set of guidelines is intended to help Councils conduct liturgies for special celebrations and for hosting a National Assembly.

Always consider one or more liturgies for St. Vincent, Bl. Frédéric, St. Louise, and/or Bl. Rosalie. The readings for these Masses are included earlier in this book.

Introduction

When planning a special celebration or a National Assembly, it is important first to create a liturgy planning team and be inclusive when inviting Vincentians to participate on it. This will help later when you will think about issues of diversity and multiculturalism when planning the final liturgies. It is equally important to inform your local bishop of the event. A special invitation should be issued to him as soon as possible, if you would like him to preside or be the principal celebrant of any liturgy. In the case of a National Assembly, the National Office will coordinate communications among the Host Council, the local Bishop, and the National Episcopal Adviser about the Adviser's attendance and role. At many Council celebrations and at most recent National Assemblies, Masses have been conducted in a host hotel rather than at a local church. It is important to receive permission from your local bishop to conduct any liturgical service in a hotel or any venue other than a Catholic church.

After consulting with the local bishop (if necessary), the next step in planning for a liturgy is to connect with your diocesan **Office of Divine Worship or Office of Liturgy and Spirituality**. This office can provide you with guidance and suggestions, especially for the planning of music. They can also provide a list of trusted musicians. Most liturgies during the course of the National Assembly have been scheduled around 11 am before lunch. Please consider leaving enough time (normally 90 minutes) for the liturgies. Often one hour does not provide enough time to conduct the liturgy and to allow people to walk to the luncheon location. The closing liturgy, most often presided over by the local bishop if his schedule permits, normally takes place on Saturday evening around 5:00 pm.

Decide whether or not you will have a liturgy each day of the National Assembly. If there is a special feast on a weekday, the readings for that day must be used and should not be changed. The Saturday Liturgy is always the Sunday Vigil and the readings for that day must be used. It is also important to have the readings in both Spanish and English and to alternate readers, if possible. Liturgical booklets should be provided (sample provided at the end).

Checklist of Required Items

The following checklist of items should prove helpful to you in the preparation of liturgies, especially liturgies conducted in the site hotel. It indicates some of the essential items required to conduct a proper liturgy:

- Book of the gospel
- Sunday lectionary (English & Spanish)
- Weekday lectionary (English & Spanish)
- 2 Roman Missals
- Liturgical folder
- Lectern
- Flowers
- Set of vimpae
- Ciboria for up to 850
- Celebrant chalice
- Auxiliary chalices for up to 800
- Cruets
- Purificators and corporals
- White chalice veil and burse
- Green chalice veil and burse
- Ewer and basin
- Lavabo towel
- Pall
- Humeral veil
- Altar wine
- Hosts/gluten-free hosts
- Portable Altar (if possible)
- Tabernacle
- Sanctuary light
- Altar cloth
- Altar crucifix
- Altar candles/holders (Lighters or matches). Note: Check with hotel about use of real candles.
- Processional cross
- Vestments—10-15
- Tables—in back for programs and gifts
- Microphones and sound
- Acolyte candles—separate ones or use the ones that will go on altar
- Secure storage area for all items above

The Order of the Mass

The following is a list of the proper order of the Catholic Mass and it is followed by a liturgy planning sheet for your convenience.

Introductory Rites

- Entrance
- Greeting
- Penitential Act
- Glory to God
- Collect

Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second Reading (on Sundays and solemnities)
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)
- Gospel
- Homily
- Profession of Faith (on Sundays, solemnities, and special occasions)
- Universal Prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Presentation of the Gifts and Preparation of the Altar
- Prayer over the Offerings
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Preface
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- First half of prayer, including Consecration
- Mystery of Faith
- Second half of prayer, ending with Doxology
- The Lord's Prayer
- Sign of Peace
- Lamb of God
- Communion

Prayer after Communion

- Concluding Rites

Liturgy Planning Sheet

Celebration:		Date:	
Place:		Time:	
Ministers			
Presider			
Deacon			
Reader(s)			
Homilist			
Eucharistic Ministers			
Gift Bearers			
Ministers of Hospitality			
Altar Servers: Thurifer,			
Candle Bearers, Cross Bearer			
Director of Music			
Cantor			
Organist/Accompanist			
Other Music Ministers			
Order of Service / Music			
Prelude			
Entrance Procession			
Rite of Blessing & Sprinkling of Water	Form:		
Penitential Rite	Form ☐ Recited ☐ Sung		
Gloria			
Responsorial Psalm			
Gospel Acclamation			
Profession of Faith			
Prayer of the Faithful	☐ Recited by: ☐ Sung		
Preparation of Altar and Gifts			
Sanctus Acclamation			
Memorial Acclamation			
Amen			
Lord's Prayer	☐ Recited ☐ Sung		
Breaking of the Bread			
Communion Song			
Silence/Song of Praise			
Recessional			

Mass Readings / Prayers	
Reading I Spanish or English	
Reading II Spanish or English	
Gospel	
Opening Prayer	
Prayer over Gifts	
Prayer After Communion	
Preface	
Eucharistic Prayer	
Blessing	
Dismissal	
Communion	
Number of Stations	
Ciboria	
Cups	
Incense	
Procession	☐ Yes ☐ No
Altar	☐ Yes ☐ No
Gospel	☐ Yes ☐ No
Preparation of Gifts	☐ Yes ☐ No
Recessional	☐ Yes ☐ No

Liturgical Music

Music is essential to any liturgy. According to *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* (#2 USCCB), “A cry from deep within our being, music is a way for God to lead us to the realm of higher things. As St. Augustine says, ‘Singing is for the one who loves.’ Music is therefore a sign of God’s love for us and of our love for him. In this sense, it is very personal. But unless music sounds, it is not music, and whenever it sounds, it is accessible to others. By its very nature song has both an individual and a communal dimension. Thus, it is no wonder that singing together in church expresses so well the sacramental presence of God to his people.” Singing “is one of the primary ways that the assembly of the faithful participates actively in the Liturgy. The people are encouraged ‘to take part by means of acclamations, responses, psalms, antiphons [and] hymns...’ (*Sing to the Lord* #26 USCCB).

Sensitivity to those attending the liturgy is essential: “So that the holy people may sing with one voice, the music must be within its members’ capability. Some congregations are able to learn more quickly and will desire more variety. Others will be more comfortable with a stable number of songs so that they can be at ease when they sing. Familiarity with a stable repertoire of liturgical songs rich in theological content can deepen the faith of the community through repetition and memorization” (*Sing to the Lord* #27 USCCB). Be careful then what you ask of the members attending. Liturgy is intended to inspire and include people; it is not intended simply to entertain.

When considering what music you will use for liturgies, the following questions often arise:

MUST I GET PERMISSION TO . . .

- Make photocopies of copyrighted music?
- Print songbooks or song sheets containing copyrighted works for use in church services, as long as they are not sold?
- Make a transparency, a slide or an electronic file of a copyrighted work for projection?
- Make a photocopy of a copyrighted work for my accompanist in order to sing a solo?
- Make audio recordings of worship services?
- Make videos of worship services or special musical presentations?

The answer to all these questions is **YES**. You must request permission by securing licenses from the copyright owner prior to making any of the copies or duplications described above.

Please start early. Do not wait until the last minute to obtain permissions. (For the National Assembly, the National Council office can help with this.)

Choosing appropriate hymns is an important part of preparing a liturgy. In addition to the hymns listed above, the following hymns (composers’ names and publishing companies included) are those that speak well to Vincentians and to the Vincentian Charism. It is not, however, an exhaustive list. The starred hymns on the list are hymns that all Vincentians have permission to use. No other special permission is needed. Copies of these starred hymns are attached at the end of this document. Some on the list are in Spanish, as well as English. They are **bolded**. More Spanish/English bilingual hymns can be found in the following source: Ronald F. Krisman, *We Pray in Song (Oramus Cantando): A Bilingual Roman Catholic Hymnal*.

Suggested Hymns

The list below is in alphabetical order by section also suggesting where the hymns might possibly be used in the order of the Mass:

Opening/Processional Hymns:

All Are Welcome, Marty Haugen (Gia Publications)

Canticle of the Sun, Marty Haugen (Gia Publications)

***Christ, Be Our Light (Sé Nuestra Luz)*, Bernadette Farrell (OCP)**

City of God, Dan Schutte (OCP)

Gather Us In, Marty Haugen (Gia Publications)

Gather Your People, Bob Hurd (OCP)

***In the Arms of Saint Vincent (En Los Brazos De San Vicente)*, Ray Sickinger ***

Lead Me Lord, John D. Becker (OCP)

Lord, of All Hopefulness, Jan Struther (Oxford University Press)

Renew Us, O Lord, Ray Sickinger

Servant Song, Donna Marie McGargill, OSM (OCP)

The Summons, John L. Bell (Gia Publications)

Trust in Providence, Ray Sickinger

We Are the Light of the World, Jean Anthony Greif (Vernacular Hymns Publishing)

We Walk by Faith, Marty Haugen (Gia Publications)

Offertory:

Eat This Bread, Jacques Berthier (Gia Publications)

Eye Has Not Seen, Marty Haugen (Gia Publications)

Gift of Finest Wheat, Robert E. Kreutz (International Liturgy Publications)

Here I am, Lord, Dan Schutte (OCP)

***In the Breaking of the Bread (Cuando Partimos el Pan del Señor)*, Bob Hurd (OCP)**

***Open My Eyes (Abre Mis Ojos)*, Jesse Manibusan (OCP)**

***Pescador De Hombres (Lord, You Have Come)*, Cesáreo Gabaráin (OCP)**

The Cry of the Poor, John Foley, SJ (OCP)

To Lead a Better Life (Hymn to Blessed Ozanam), Ray Sickinger

Trust in Providence, Ray Sickinger

We Are Many Parts, Marty Haugen (Gia Publications)

We Have Been Told, David Haas (Gia Publications)

We Remember, Marty Haugen (Gia Publications)

You are Mine, David Haas (Gia Publications)

Communion:

Behold the Lamb, Martin Willett (OCP)

Eat This Bread, Jacques Berthier (Gia Publications)

***I Am the Bread of Life (You Soy el Pan de Vida)*, Susanne Toolan, RSM (Gia Publications)**

***In the Breaking of the Bread (Cuando Partimos el Pan del Señor)*, Bob Hurd (OCP)**

One Bread, One Body, John Foley, SJ (OCP)

***Pan De Vida*, Bob Hurd (OCP)**

Taste and See, James Moore, Jr. (Gia Publications)

To Lead a Better Life (Hymn to Blessed Ozanam)

Trust in Providence, Ray Sickinger

We Have Been Told, David Haas (Gia Publications)

Meditation after Communion

Vincentian Call to Serve, Ray Sickinger

Recessional

Blest Are They, David Haas (Gia Publications)

City of God, Dan Schutte (OCP)

Lead Me Lord, John D. Becker (OCP)

Servant Song, Donna Marie McGargill, OSM (OCP)

The Summons, John L. Bell (Gia Publications)

We Are Called, David Haas (Gia Publications)

NOTE: For the responsorial psalm and the parts of the Mass, if they are to be sung, plan to practice those parts before the Mass with the congregation. Perhaps consider using Marty Haugen's *Mass of Creation* with which many are familiar. To see a sample Liturgy Booklet, contact the National Council Formation Staff.

Diverse Cultures and Languages

The list above does not include all possibilities, especially for hymns in Spanish or in other languages. The following selection is taken from *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* (#'s 57-60 USCCB) and it may help in preparing your liturgy:

57. Even as the liturgical music of the Western European tradition is to be remembered, cherished, and used, the rich cultural and ethnic heritage of the many peoples of our country must also be recognized, fostered, and celebrated. Cultural pluralism has been the common heritage of all Americans, and "the Catholic community is rapidly re-encountering itself as an immigrant Church" "The cultural gifts of the new immigrants" are "taking their place alongside those of older generations of immigrants," and this calls for interaction and collaboration between peoples who speak various languages and celebrate their faith in the songs and musical styles of their cultural, ethnic, and racial roots. . . .
58. Liturgical music must always be chosen and sung "with due consideration for the culture of the people and abilities of each liturgical assembly." [Those who do not speak English and /or] Immigrants should be welcomed and should be provided with the resources they need to worship in their own language. "Religious singing by the faithful is to be intelligently fostered so that in devotions and sacred exercises as well as in liturgical services, the voices of the faithful may be heard, in conformity with the norms and requirements of the rubrics." However, as the second generation of an immigrant group comes to maturity in the worshiping assembly, bilingual (native language and English) resources and songs are needed to promote participation of the multicultural and multigenerational assembly.
59. As [the Catholic Church and our Society] . . . become increasingly diverse, the different cultural groups strive for some expression of unity. In a spirit of hospitality, local worshiping communities are encouraged to develop bicultural or multicultural celebrations from time to time that reflect the changing face of the Church in America. When prepared with an attitude of mutual reciprocity, local communities might eventually expand from those celebrations that merely highlight their multicultural differences to celebrations that better reflect the intercultural relationships of the assembly and the unity that is shared in Christ.

Likewise, the valuable musical gifts of the diverse cultural and ethnic communities should enrich the whole Church in the United States by contributing to the repertory of liturgical song and to the growing richness of Christian faith.

60. Liturgical music today must reflect the multicultural diversity and intercultural relationships of the members of the gathered liturgical assembly. The varied use of musical forms such as ostinato refrains, call and response, song translations, and bilingual or multilingual repertoire can assist in weaving the diverse languages and ethnicities of the liturgical assembly into a tapestry of sung praise. Liturgical leaders and musicians should encourage not only the use of traditional music of other languages and peoples, but also the incorporation of newly composed liturgical music appropriate to various cultural expressions in harmony with the theological meaning of the rites. Care should be taken, however, to choose appropriate hymns in other languages so as to avoid an expression that could be misconstrued as tokenism.

Ronald F. Krisman, *We Pray in Song (Oramus Cantando): A Bilingual Roman Catholic Hymnal* is an excellent source for all popular hymns. The hymns are both in Spanish and English. It also provides information about bilingual benediction services. It is a must have reference for every council, especially one planning a National Assembly.

Vincentian Hymns

The hymns on the following pages were written by longtime Vincentian Raymond B. Sickinger, PhD. Two of them, *To Lead a Better Life* and *In the Arms of St. Vincent*, have been adopted by the National Council as the official hymns of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the United States. (Resolution 1-03, approved in 2003)

To Lead a Better Life

(Hymn to Blessed Ozanam)

Ray Sickinger

Intro.

To lead a bet - ter

life and to do a lit - tle good was your

fer - vent wish Fre - derick Oz - a - nam.

May we help the poor, our lov - ing

God a - dore. Just like our Bless - ed

Fre - derick Oz - a - nam. Just like our

Bless - ed Fre - derick Oz - a - nam.

Verse 1

Hum - ble let us serve the poor. This

truth we will come to know: _____ the poor will be our

ma- sters; _____ the way of love they will show. (To lead a)

Vs.2 F#m Bm Em
A faith that has no liv- ing works is a faith that will sure - ly die. _____

Bm F#m Bm
In our hearts a deep _____ pride lurks ov- er -

Em G A A7 Vs. 3 G
come by the poor per - son's cry. (To lead a) Suf-fer-ing

F#m Em D
serves a role in God's e - ter - nal plan.

G F#m E7
It o - pens up our hard - ened hearts _____ to lend a lo - ving

A A7 to Ref.
hand. (To lead a)

In the Arms of St. Vincent

Ray Sickinger

Intro. 7

Refrain

G Bm

Come in - to the arms of St.

Em G Bm

Vin - cent. Bring all of your pain and des -

Em C D

pair. En - ter the arms of St.

Em Am D

Vin - cent, find Christ's joy - filled love wait - ing

Em Verse 1 C D

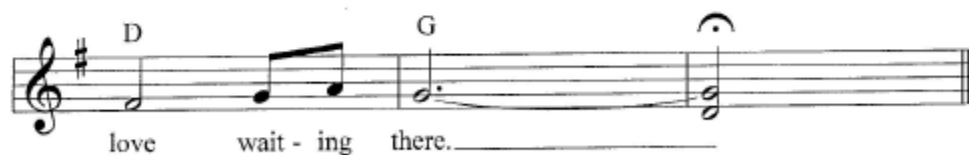
there. 1) See in the face of the

G Em C D

sick and the poor the im-age of Christ our true

Em C D

light. When you help his least, you



Trust in Providence

Text: Romans 15:13; Jeremiah 29:11;
Raymond Sickinger

Music: Raymond Sickinger
Transcription: Christopher Kelton/Mike Kregler

$\text{♩} = 132$
Intro

E F#m A B

5 C#m F#m E/B B7 E (A) E

Refrain*

9 E F#m A B

Trust in Pro - vi - dence; a - bound in Hope, For the Lord's

13 C#m G#m F#m B7

a - bi - ding love is near.

17 E F#m A B

Trust in Pro - vi - dence; a - bound in hope For the Lord

21 C#m F#m E/B B7 E **Verse 1**

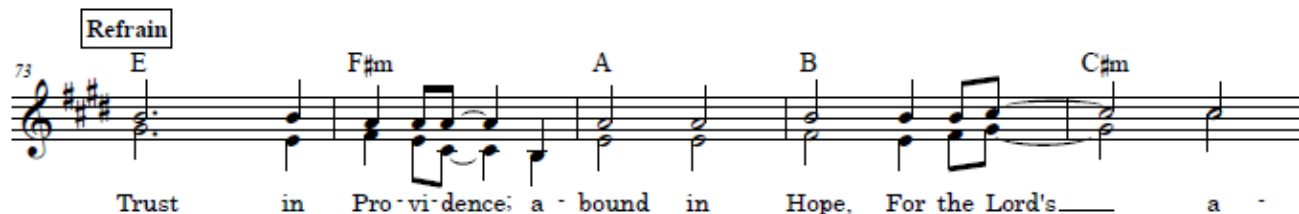
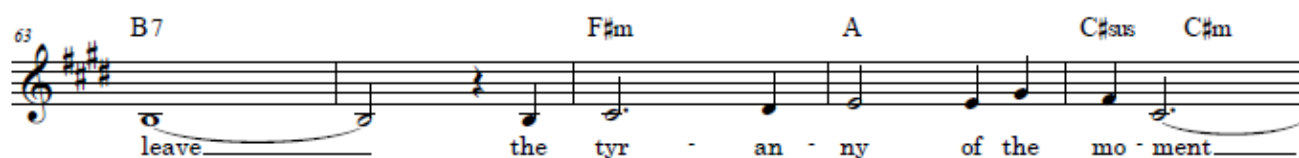
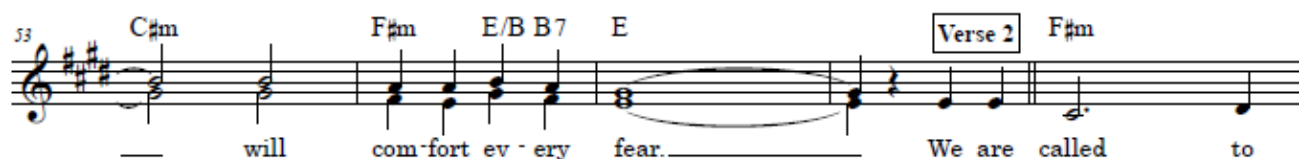
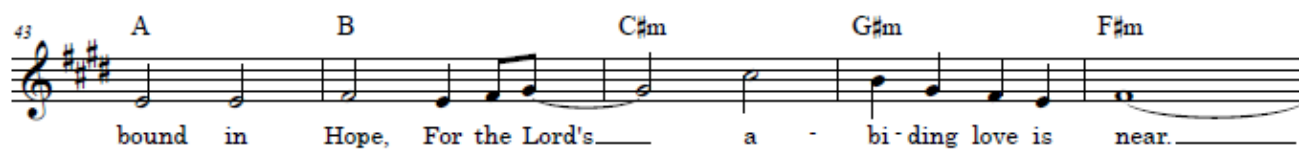
will com - fort ev - ery fear. God has

25 F#m A C#sus C#m

plans to pros - per his peo - ple to give

29 A F#m B7

hope and a fu - ture filled with peace. We



78 G#m F#m B7 E F#m

bi - ding love is near. Trust in Pro - vi - dence; a -

83 A B C#m F#m E/B B7 E

bound in hope For the Lord will com - fort ev - ery fear.

88 Verse 3 F#m A C#sus C#m

Let us loo - sen and break the dead - ly grip of

93 A F#m B7 F#m

crus - hing po - ver - ty by put - ting hope

98 A C#sus C#m A F#m

in - to ac - tion with jus - tice and Chris - tian char - i -

103 B B7 E F#m A

Refrain

ty. Trust in Pro - vi - dence; a - bound in

108 B C#m G#m F#m B7

Hope, For the Lord's a - bi - ding love is near.

113 E F#m A B C#m

Trust in Pro - vi - dence; a - bound in hope For the Lord will

118 F#m E/B B7 E E7 Bridge A

com - fort ev - ery fear. Trust and hope will form a

Trust in Providence

123 G#m F#m B7

king-dom of peace, a king-dom so sub-lime.

128 B7 E A G#m

Let us work in love to form a bet-ter world, One

133 F#m A F#m B B7

per-son, one neigh-bor-hood, one com-mu-nity__ at a time.

Refrain

138 E F#m A B C#m

Trust in Pro-vi-dence; a-bound in Hope, For the Lord's__ a-

143 G#m F#m B7 E F#m

bi-ding love is near. Trust in Pro-vi-dence; a-

148 A B C#m F#m E/B B7 E

bound in hope For the Lord__ will com-fort ev-ery fear.

Ending

153 E C#m7 E

For the Lord will com-fort, the Lord will

157 G#m E F#m E/B B7 E

com-fort, yes, the Lord__ will com-fort ev-ery fear.

*Alternate Refrain:

Trust in Providence; abound in Hope,
 For The Lord will wipe away all tears.
 Trust in Providence; abound in hope,
 For The Lord will comfort every fear.

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