

## **Frédéric's E-Gazette**

### **Q&A 7-20-2017**

**Q: At a recent multi-Conference gathering, someone suggested that if someone in need requests assistance more than once, the individual will be asked to perform some sort of "community service" in order to be served beyond the initial time. This service might include stocking shelves at a local food bank, tending a community garden, or some other similar task. Is this in keeping with either the spirit or the letter of the Vincentian Rule?**

A: The works of the Society have always been in imitation of Jesus. The assistance provided by Jesus was unconditional. He did not require those He helped to do anything in order to receive His assistance. "Systemic Change" calls for us to work on systems toward helping those in poverty to move out of poverty, to reduce or eliminate rules and systems that keep people buried in poverty, to change systems - not to impose more of a burden on those we serve. Once you require someone to do work in order to receive something in return (food, clothing, furniture, rent payment, utility bill payment, etc.), it falls into the realm of an employer-employee relationship and then there are laws that have to be followed in that respect. What you are describing is not something the Society endorses.

**Q: We are having our annual awards banquet and I am chair for the nominations of awards. No one can seem to agree on the order of the awards. Which award is the very highest, which award next, etc.? Also, is there someplace I could find this defined?**

A: Awards are unique to each Council and Conference granting them. There is no set order defined by the National Council. I'm not even aware of an order defined by tradition. Again, each Council and Conference grants their own awards and decides the order of importance.