

"Whatever you did
for one of the least
of these brothers
and sisters of mine,
you did for me."

– Matthew 25:40

THE VINCENTIAN VOCATION

A GUIDE TO LIFE IN THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

"Let us embrace
with great love
the cause of
the poor. "

– Blessed Frédéric Ozanam
Founder, 1833

*Our vocation is to follow Christ by loving and serving
those who are poor and suffering.*

I. THE VINCENTIAN CREED

WHAT WE BELIEVE



Q. Who is a Vincentian?

A. A Vincentian is a Catholic disciple who seeks holiness through friendship, service, and encounter with Christ in the poor.



Q. Why does the Society exist?

A. The Society exists to grow its members in holiness and to serve Christ in those who suffer from poverty and injustice.



Q. Where do we find Christ?

A. We find Christ in the Eucharist, Scripture, the Church, one another, and especially in the poor.



Q. Who are our founders?

A. Blessed Frédéric Ozanam founded the Society in 1833, inspired by the example of St. Vincent de Paul and the Gospel call to charity.

II. THE VINCENTIAN LIFE

WHAT WE BECOME



Q. What are the essential elements of Vincentian life?

A. Three pillars: Spirituality, Friendship, and Service.



Q. Why is friendship important?

A. Friendship is not incidental; it is one of the Society's founding purposes. Vincentians grow in holiness together.



Q. What virtues should a Vincentian cultivate?

A. Humility, Simplicity, Gentleness, Selflessness, and Zeal.

Our goal:

*To become saints through
service to Christ in the poor.*

III. THE VINCENTIAN MISSION

WHAT WE DO



Q. What is a home visit?

A. A home visit is an encounter of friendship and love in which we seek to understand, accompany, and serve our neighbor.



Q. Is financial assistance our primary mission?

A. No. Our primary mission is encounter, friendship, and spiritual growth. Financial assistance is one expression of that mission.



Q. Why do we practice the Works of Mercy?

A. Because Christ commands us to love God and neighbor through concrete acts of charity.

CORPORAL

WE PRACTICE THE WORKS OF MERCY

SPIRITUAL



Feed the hungry



Shelter the homeless



Clothe the naked



Visit the sick



Visit the imprisoned



Give drink to the thirsty



Bury the dead



Counsel the doubtful



Instruct the ignorant



Comfort the afflicted



Forgive offenses



Bear wrongs patiently



Pray for the living and the dead

IV. THE VINCENTIAN CHURCH

HOW WE SERVE THE CHURCH



Q. What is the relationship between the Society and the Church?

A. The Society is a Catholic lay organization serving under the guidance of the Church while remaining faithful to its Rule.



Q. What is the Vincentian response to *Lumen Gentium*?

A. Vincentians live the universal call to holiness through friendship and service.



Q. What is the Vincentian response to *Dilexi Te*?

A. Vincentians transform charity into encounter and mercy into missionary

V. THE VINCENTIAN RULE OF LIFE

HOW WE LIVE



Q. How should a Vincentian pray?

A. Daily, personally, and communally. Prayer is the foundation of service.



Q. What does success look like?

A. Success is not measured by: dollars distributed, cases completed, or programs operated. Success is measured by: faithfulness, holiness, friendship, and love.



Q. What is the ultimate goal of a Vincentian?

A. To become a saint through service to Christ in the poor.

VI. THE VINCENTIAN MISSIONARY DISCIPLE

SENT INTO THE WORLD

Inspired by the Gospel and the teachings of the Church, we commit ourselves to:



HUMAN DIGNITY

We respect every person as a child of God.



SOLIDARITY

We stand with the poor in love and justice.



SUBSIDIARITY

We empower people and communities to flourish.



SYSTEMIC CHANGE

We address root causes of poverty and injustice.



ADVOCACY

We speak and act on behalf of those who are unheard.



EVANGELIZATION

We reveal Christ through our words and actions.



HOPE

We bring hope where there is despair.

OUR MISSION

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization that leads women and men to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering.

TOGETHER, WE BUILD A MORE JUST, FRATERNAL, AND HOPEFUL WORLD.

"Let us love the poor, serve them, and walk with them, so that together we may build a more just, fraternal, and hopeful world."

– Pope Leo XIV, *Dilexi Te*

OUR COMMITMENT

We pledge to live the Vincentian vocation with humility, joy, and perseverance—seeing Christ in the poor and striving to be the love of Christ in the world.

