Missionary Discipleship in the Rule and Manual

The Universal Call to Holiness:

- “[T]he primary purpose of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is to increase the holiness of its members” (Manual 2.5)

- “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.” (Rule 2.2)

- “The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is composed of women and men who seek personal holiness by works of charity. In this essential way, the Society differs from charitable associations or agencies whose principal objective is not the spiritual advancement of their members but the doing of good for others.” (Manual 3.1)

The Universal Call to Mission:

- “The Society’s special ministry of aid to the needy should be seen in the broader context of the Church’s saving mission and understood as part of it. The Church, like the Lord Jesus, exists to announce the coming of God’s Kingdom, to be a sign of its presence in time, and to usher in the Kingdom of God through various good works. The Church’s mission is to bring the Gospel and holiness to all and to transform and renew all creation by making present Christ’s redemption.” (Manual 2.1)

- “Though a Catholic lay organization with its own identity, mission, and voice, the Society is very much a part of the Church and its mission. From the beginning of the Society, Vincentians were called to be public witnesses of and for the Church.” (Manual 2.2)

- “The Church was founded to spread the kingdom of Christ throughout the world and to make all people partakers in the redemption and salvation. All activities of the Society aim at extending the Reign of God, whether these activities relate to the spiritual growth and formation of the individual Vincentian, or to the corporate body of the Society as such, or to the acts of mercy and justice performed in the name of Jesus Christ.” (Manual 3.1)

“The universal call to holiness is closely linked to the universal call to mission. Every member of the faithful is called to holiness and to mission.”
(Pope St. John Paul II in Redemptoris Missio)