We Are Called
Introducing Our New Vincentian Lifelong Engagement Model

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
HELPING NEIGHBORS STARTS AT HOME
A Quick Overview of Our Session

• Display your name (rather than something like “iPhone”)
• To reduce noise, you will be muted during the presentation
• Sections:
  • Prayer and reflection
  • Presentation (save questions for Q&A session)
  • Panel Discussion
  • Q&A session
  • Prayer
Let Us Pray

God and Father, we praise you for your son Jesus, who is Wisdom Incarnate, we thank you for our vocation and mission as Vincentians to serve Him in the poor and needy. Grant us your wise and loving Spirit today that we may be enriched in Wisdom. May we grow ever more faithful to the Vincentian charism and offer our lives in a spirit of loving service to our neighbors in need. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen
Opening Reflection

In the Catholic tradition wisdom is something that is held in high esteem and even praised. It is more than mere information because it communicates truth, which is saving and sanctifying. By faith, Catholics believe that the highest truth revealed to man about God is that He is love.

In uniting ourselves to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ we are invited to grow in wisdom about how to best know, love, and serve God. As Vincentians we do this in a specific way, a charism, or expression of God’s Holy Spirit in the Church and World.
Opening Reflection (Continued)

Today we open our hearts to the living tradition that has come before us that we may drink from the stream of its wisdom, learning from its saints, its writings, and its concrete manifestations of charity.

We also rejoice that we are members of this tradition too, that we have wisdom and experience to share, wisdom that can benefit other Vincentians and our Neighbors, especially those most in need.
VINCENTIAN LIFELONG ENGAGEMENT MODEL

The Vincentian Lifelong Engagement Model shows Vincentian formation over time. The Vincentian vocation entails growing in, and living out, the Universal Call to Holiness and Mission. We are all called to be Missionary Disciples on the path to Sainthood—in our Vincentian life and beyond.

1. **Rejoicing in the reward of eternal life in heaven, like our patron & other Vincentian saints and blessed**

2. **Embracing fully the Universal Call to Holiness and Mission in all aspects of our life to build up the Church**

3. **Achieving a thorough understanding of the Rule and Manual, engaging in Vincentian work, & participating in ongoing formation**

4. **Accompanying a new or potential member through the inquiry, discernment, and early formation process using the Admission Checklist for New Members**

5. **Creating positive awareness of the Society in your parish and community and actively inviting others to join**

"MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY INVOLVES LIFELONG FORMATION." (MANUAL 2.1)
Recruitment

• Goal: “Creating positive awareness of the Society in your parish and community and actively inviting others to join”
• “Actively inviting others to join is as important as the service rendered to the needy.” (Manual 2.1)
• There are about 3,500 Vincentians in the St. Louis Archdiocesan Council. There are more than 400,000 Catholics in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. How many of these non-Vincentians have felt a call but need to be invited?
Admission

• Goal: “Accompanying a new or potential member through the inquiry, discernment, and early formation process, using the Admission Checklist for New Members”
• Built a foundation on Friendship and joy
• Key elements of the admission process: warm welcome, key materials, Ozanam Orientation, new member ceremony, etc.
Vincentian Formational Maturity

- Goal: “Achieving a thorough understanding of the Rule and Manual, engaging in Vincentian work, & participating in ongoing formation”
- This is where we see a great flowering of the Vincentian Vocation
- The Rule mandates “the formation of its members and officers, in order to increase their knowledge of the Society, deepen their spirituality, and help them improve their serve to the poor.”
- Other key elements: full appreciation of the Three Essential Elements and Vincentian Virtues, Home Visit familiarity, knowledge of other key materials, etc.
- Commitment to the Four Areas of Formation: Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, Ministerial/Pastoral
Missionary Discipleship

• Goal: “Embracing fully the Universal Call to Holiness and Mission in all aspects of our life to build up the Church”
• Pope St. John Paul II: “The universal call to holiness is closely linked to the universal call to mission. Every member of the faithful is called to holiness and mission.” (*Redemptoris Missio*)
• “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.” (Manual 3.1)
• For more, see Missionary Discipleship in the Rule and Manual.
Sainthood

- Goal: “Rejoicing in the reward of eternal life in heaven, like our patron & other Vincentian saints and blesseds”
- God “wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim 2:4)
- Blessed Frederic Ozanam: “Ordinary Catholics are plentiful enough, everywhere; but we need saints. How to make saints without being ourselves holy?”
- See Manual 4.5 for more on “Vincentian Saints, Blesseds, and Venerables”
Upcoming Wisdom Sessions

“ServWare Configuration Options: Setting Your Conference Up For Success.”
Wednesday, February 15, 2023 from 6:00-7:00pm

“Essentials for Conference Vitality and Growth.”
Wednesday, March 8, 2023 from 6:00-7:00pm

Look for additional sessions in the months ahead!
Closing Reflection

Let us close with a meditation from the Book of Wisdom:

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

Resplendent and unfading is Wisdom, and she is readily perceived by those who love her, and found by those who seek her…

Therefore, I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded and the spirit of Wisdom came to me…
Closing Reflection (Continued)

For she is an unfailing treasure; those who gain this treasure win the friendship of God, being commended by the gifts that come from her discipline...

For she is a breath of the might of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty...

And she leads into the understanding of God, and chooses his works...

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

(Wisdom 6:12; 7:7,14, 25; 8:4 NAB)