Conference Closure Commemoration

The loss of a Conference can be difficult for Vincentians, parishioners, and the community. An event to recognize members, recount achievements, and reminisce about special memories can provide comfort, healing, and closure for current and former Conference members.

Below is an outline of commemoration activities, which a Conference may use, in whole or in part, at the discretion of its members. In conjunction with the activities below, consider a commemorative Mass to recognize the Conference. We invite you to submit a Conference Legacy Document for the Council archives.

Before the Commemorative Event:
- Current Vincentians make a list of as many former Conference members as they can.
- Determine a date, time, and location for the event.
- Invite all current and former Conference Vincentians, as well as all current Vincentians from other pastorate conferences, to attend.
- Inform current and former Conference Vincentians of the opportunity to share favorite stories or visits. Allow written submissions from those unable to attend.

Commemorative Event Agenda:
- Opening prayer
- Spiritual reflection from outgoing Spiritual Advisor
- Outgoing President's remarks
  - Personal history with Conference and Society
  - Conference information
    - Founding and aggregation years (if known)
    - Total outlays, annual or (if possible) Conference lifetime
    - Total visits and Neighbors served
    - Total members
    - Major works (food pantry, helping other areas, fundraisers, etc.)
  - Story guidelines
    - Time limit, based on number of people present
    - Reminder to avoid identifying information
- Stories
  - Ask current and former Conference member to share their favorite stories or most memorable/impactful visits.
  - Read aloud the written submissions from those unable to attend.
  - Record the meeting or have Secretary take notes.
- New President's remarks
  - Honoring legacy of closing conference
  - Continuing mission as larger conference
- Closing prayer
- Refreshments and social time

After the Commemorative Event:
- Compile Conference information and select stories into a Conference Legacy Document.
- Submit Conference Legacy Document to newly merged Conference.
- Submit Conference Legacy Document to Council office.