TALKING POINTS FOR WHY GO INTO LEADERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY

There is the Potential for Growth in Personal Spirituality and Developing Friendships:
- Leadership provides an opportunity to grow closer to Christ.
- God has given us talents to serve others – we should use them.
- Christ expects us to lead our fellow Vincentians as a part of our commitment to the Vincentian vocation.
- Leadership allows us the opportunity to nurture the spiritual growth of members.
- It allows us to see the Society’s spiritual mission being played out in a wide variety of ways.
- It allows us to interact with other leaders and nurture each other’s spiritual growth.
- It allows us to develop skills to help others grow and in doing so to grow ourselves.

There are Benefits to the Society When Leaders Step Forward:
- Leaders provide an indispensable service to the Society.
- To be effective charity must be organized – St. Vincent.
- Leadership is important to serving the poor.
- Our Rule needs to be promoted.
- Our goals need promotion and visibility.

Early Elections Will Help Almost Everyone:
- Start nomination process one year in advance.
- Hold elections six months in advance.
- Incoming presidents can learn about the pros and cons of the conference/council.
- The transition becomes smoother.
- Where there is a staff, they have time to adjust.
- There is an opportunity to size up potential officers, committee chairs and board members.
- Prayer is important in the search for leaders as it allows openness, prepares conference/council for new leadership and is a time for discernment.

Help is Available to New Leaders:
- We have the Rule.
- We have the Manual.
- We have the conference and council presidents handbooks.
- We have the Vincentian Pathways Toolbox.
- We have the Invitation for Renewal leadership retreat.
- We have a national mentoring program.
- We have the Standards of Excellence.
- We have Governance-in-a-Box.
Delegation:
- Leaders are not expected to act alone – leadership is a collaborative effort.
- The Rule recognizes that family and job responsibilities come first.
- Leadership is not a personal mission but a team mission and God’s mission.
- There is a need to build a leadership team – officers and committee heads.
- The idea is to spread the work around – let others report to the president.
- Leaders oversee a collaborative effort along with the Church, the Holy Spirit and others.
- Leaders need to put trust in God and not lose sight of the spirituality of our mission.
- Leaders should always look to improve efficiency.
- Leaders must recognize that things cannot always be done as quickly as they would like.
- Leaders must use the God-given talents of others.