“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

This is my command: Love each other.
“I am the vine; you are the branches. Go now and bear much fruit. . . . “I have chosen you. You have not chosen me.” (John 15)
The Vincentian Tradition of Servant Leadership

Servant Leadership
(Rule: Part 3, Statute 11)

Leadership positions in the Society, at any level, are always to be accepted as service to Christ, the members and the poor. Servant leadership is done in imitation of Jesus who said: “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.”
The Vincentian Tradition of Servant Leadership

Presidents as Servant Leaders

(Rule: Part 1, 3.11)

Following Christ’s example, the Presidents at all levels of the Society endeavor to be servant leaders. They provide an encouraging atmosphere in which the talents, capacities and spiritual charism of the members are identified, developed and put to the service of the poor and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The President of the Conference or Council will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.

See pp. 4-5; 23-25 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President
Servant Leadership Cross

SPIRITUALITY
Vocation
Mission
Vision
Values
Prayer

FRIENDSHIP
Community of Faith
Solidarity
Mutual example
Good Will
Empowerment

SERVICE
Home Visit
Charity and Justice
Voice of the Poor
Catholic Social
Teaching
Systemic Change

SERVANT LEADERSHIP
Characteristics
Duties
Competencies
Discernment
Transformation

Pathway Toolbox:
https://members.ssvpusa.org/formation/vincentian-pathway-toolbox/
Seven Duties of Conference Presidents

- Commitment
- Comprehension
- Communication
- Cultivation
- Collaboration
- Chairperson
- Contributions/Compliance

Pp. 6-8 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President
Duty 1: Commitment

Make a solemn commitment to

- grow in understanding of and living out the Vincentian charism.
- support the mission of the Society.
- foster the spirituality of the Society
- serve no longer than two consecutive three-year terms so that new leadership might take over.
- attend the regularly scheduled meetings of the District Council
- be adequately prepared to discuss and bring to consensus and/or vote issues and policies that will be brought forward.
- share ideas and concerns.
Our Mission Statement

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.
Inspired by Gospel values, the SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL, Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.
Our Identity Statement Part 2

As a reflection of the whole family of God, members, who are known as **VINCENTIANS**, are drawn from **every ethnic and cultural background, age group and economic level**. Vincentians are united in an **international society** of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, which is nourished by **prayer and reflection**, mutually supportive gatherings and **adherence to a basic Rule**.
Our Identity Statement Part 3

Organized locally, Vincentians witness God’s love by **embracing all works of charity and justice.** The Society **collaborates with other people** of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making **no distinction in those served**, because in them Vincentians see the face of Christ.

See pp. 13-14 *Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President*
Note the words of Pope Francis

In the poor, we see the face of Christ who for our sake became poor.

Pope Francis
Our Essential Elements

• Sanctification (spirituality):
  • Grow in holiness

• Solidarity (Friendship):
  • Build community

• Service:
  • Help those in need and be in “solidarity” with them

See pp. 14 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President
Seven Cultural Beliefs:
Rule Part III, Statute 2

- I grow in holiness through my prayer, Vincentian service and friendship. (Rule 1: 2.2)
- I advocate with the poor for just policies and practices at local, state and national levels. (Rule 1:7.5)
- I contribute to the success of our Vincentian work when I support ONE Society. (Rule 1:3.3)
- I foster ownership by involving membership in planning and decision making. (Rule 3: Statute 22)
- I develop myself and others to become Servant Leaders. (Rule 1: 3.11)
- I build a strong Society by holding myself and others accountable to our Mission, the Essential Elements and good Governance. (Rule 3: Statute 5)
- I strengthen the Society by embracing new and diverse ideas and people. (Rule 1:1.3)

See pp. 15 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President
Duty 2: Comprehension

Comprehend

• the Rule of the Society and how it applies at all levels.

• the essential structure, operations, and functions of each unit of the Society

• the life and spiritual legacy of St. Vincent de Paul, and the role of Louise de Marillac

• the life and spiritual legacy of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and the role of Blessed Rosalie Rendu.
The Rule

Comprehend

• the Rule of the Society and how it applies at all levels.
The Essential Structure: Membership

Comprehend the essential structure, operations, and functions of each unit of the Society

**Active Members:** Participate regularly in the prayer life, meetings and charitable activities through personal contact with the poor of the Vincentian Conference or Council into which they have been received.

**Associate Members:** Affiliated with the Society by formal action of the Conference or Council with which the member will be joined. Associate Members include those who sincerely and publicly accept the Society's Rule but may or may not belong to the Catholic Church and may or may not attend Conference meetings or engage in the works of the Society on a regular basis.

*See pp. 9-12 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President*
The Essential Structure: Organization of Our Society

- People Living in Poverty
- Conferences
- District Councils
- (Arch)Diocesan Councils
- U.S. National Council
- International Confederation of St. Vincent de Paul
The Essential Structure: 8 Regions
The Essential Structure: National Council

National Council

- National President
  - Leads
  - National Board
  - Regional VPs

- Board members are:
  - 5 National officers
  - 8 elected
  - 8 Special appointments

- National Vice Presidents

- CEO
  - Board Committees
  - Executive Committee

- All Staff
  - Perform functions and support Council/Board and Committee work
Legacy: Our Vincentian Heritage
Duty 3: Communication

Communicate effectively in order to:

• share information about issues, decisions, and policies with conference members in a timely fashion.

• express in appropriate ways and through appropriate channels any concerns, issues, and ideas.

• remain informed about national, regional, district, and local issues.
Duty 4: Cultivation

Cultivate members through formation by

- developing members both new and old (Ozanam Orientations, Serving in Hope modules, Days of Recollection, Retreats, Invitation to Serve, etc.)
- finding, training, and encouraging Spiritual Advisors.
- Increasing and encouraging both active and associate membership in the Conference.
- Encouraging the establishment of a VOP Committee.
- Cooperating in the implementation of the National Strategic Plan.
- Providing training and other formation that helps all members understand and address the root causes of poverty.
- Developing processes that encourage Systemic Change.

See pp. 28-30 Vincentian Leadership: Conference President
Duty 5: Collaboration

Collaborate with:

• other Conferences in the local area, the state, the region, in the United States or abroad.

• other members of the Vincentian family.

• other individuals and non-profit organizations, both secular and religious.

• The pastor and keep him informed about the work of the Society.
Duty 6: Chairperson

Conference Presidents must:

• conduct regular, orderly meetings of the conference.

• delegate duties in a reasonable manner.

• make appropriate appointments of officers and committee members

• facilitate and participate in discussions about decisions and policies for the Conference.

See pp. 44-49 Vincentian Leadership: Conference President
CONSENSUS

“A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.”
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

www.cmoec.com
Conference Presidents oversee contributions to and compliance with the National Council, Region, and Local Councils in order to

• ensure that all solidarity contributions are paid in a timely manner (when applicable).

• assure that the Conference submits annual reports on time.

• facilitate and ensure compliance with Diocesan and/or National Council safe environment policies.

• be alert to issues of accountability and good governance.

See pp. 49-50 Vincentian Leadership: Conference President
Duty 7: Contributions/Compliance

Conference Presidents oversee contributions to and compliance with the National Council, Region, and Local Councils in order to

• ensure that all solidarity contributions are paid in a timely manner (when applicable).

• assure that the Conference submits annual reports on time.

• facilitate and ensure compliance with Diocesan and/or National Council safe environment policies.

• be alert to issues of accountability and good governance.

See pp. 49-50 Vincentian Leadership: Conference President
Duty 7: Contributions/Compliance

Conference Presidents oversee contributions to and compliance with the National Council, Region, and Local Councils in order to

See pp. 49-50 Vincentian Leadership: Conference President
ACCOUNTABILITY
is the glue that ties COMMITMENT to RESULTS
# Ideas for Delegating Conference Responsibilities

Every active conference member should have his or her own special responsibility. This increases involvement and it spreads the work around. Every conference is unique, so your responsibilities will be unique too. Here’s some ideas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Coordinate overall activities of the Conference.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President(s)</td>
<td>Assume duties of President when President is not available. Can also chair a committee or project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Notify members of meetings, take minutes, and handle correspondence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Handle conference finances. Work with Secretary on Annual Report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Advisor</td>
<td>Prepare and lead prayer, spiritual reading and reflection at each meeting. Plan retreats etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Secretary</td>
<td>Takes minutes when secretary is unavailable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Spiritual Advisor</td>
<td>Lead reflections when Spiritual Advisor is unavailable. Help plan retreats and celebrations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Treasurer</td>
<td>Assists treasurer with some portion of bookkeeping and making payments. For instance, if you pay utility bills at a kiosk, perhaps a second person could do that.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Council Representative</td>
<td>Represent Conference on the Pastoral Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Liaison</td>
<td>Coordinate parish youth activities in support of the Conference, work with Religious Ed staff.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Contact with Friends in Need</td>
<td>Take phone calls, get contact info and the nature of the request. This may be a rotating responsibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Visit Scheduler</td>
<td>Match up requests with available home visit teams. This may be a rotating responsibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Visit Captain</td>
<td>Work with new home visitors, set up training, ensure procedures are up-to-date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Supply Coordinator</td>
<td>Coordinate food gathering to ensure adequate supplies are on hand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Storage Coordinator</td>
<td>Set up and maintain storage for food in a safe and organized fashion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Bag/Box Committee Chair</td>
<td>Organize people to pack food for delivery to those in need. If you have a walk-in food bank or food pantry, there will be additional roles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Records Coordinator</td>
<td>Maintains records of people helped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members Portal Coordinator</td>
<td>Assist President by updating National membership database and providing members with up-to-date lists of member contact information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Hospitality Coordinator</td>
<td>Coordinate ministering to Conference members when needed – get-well cards, sympathy cards, assistance for those who are ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment Chair</td>
<td>Organize annual (or more often) recruiting efforts. Take potential new members out for coffee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Bulletin Correspondent</td>
<td>Let the parish know what is going on via regular bulletin announcements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reminder Calls</td>
<td>Call every member two or three days before meeting and leave a message.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXX Project Chair</td>
<td>Chair of a project such as Thanksgiving Baskets, Christmas Gift Tree, Bundle Sunday, Donut Sales, Prison Outreach, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Collector</td>
<td>Keeps referral sheets and resources up-to-date and available for members and those in need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voice of the Poor Chair</td>
<td>Keeps track of Council Voice of the Poor activities and brings issues to the Conference for consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Liaison</td>
<td>Reads and reports in conference meetings on the e-Gazette, VOP newsletter, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“I am the vine; you are the branches. Go now and bear much fruit. . . . “I have chosen you. You have not chosen me.” (John 15)
Questions/Discussion

• If you are viewing this on a live webinar with a facilitator, you will be instructed on how to ask any questions you may have.

• If you are not viewing this as a part of a live webinar, please refer any questions you may have to Tim Williams, National Director of Formation at:
  Tim Williams twilliams@svdpusa.org

Thank you and God Bless