INCREASING MEMBERSHIP: Sharing with Energy of the Heart

Growth and Revitalization: Witness and Share

Presented at: NCR Meeting Rochester, MN June 2017
By: Jeanne Harper and Ed Koerner
Jeanne Harper & Ed Koerner Join us to learn about starting new conferences & revitalizing existing ones - How to approach a pastor - How to start a Conference from scratch - How to guide a new Conference - Formation within the Conference - How to intervene when a Conference becomes stagnant.

Want to experience how you can share what you do in the Society in an inviting and inspiring manner?

This workshop will allow participants to explore creative methods to effectively witness and share their love of “our little Society” so that others will WANT to join in their work of “living out the Gospel message…by encountering the suffering Christ in those we serve”!

The Workshop will create awareness moments so that participants can experience a personal realization that their own hope, joy and peace can successfully be utilized to spread the Good News and inspire others to follow!

A goal is for Vincentians to “See…the miraculous in the details of everyday life…”

When you leave the workshop Romans 15:13 will be felt by participants: “May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

And when “abound in hope” participants will increase membership in their conferences!!

SHARE IN DYAD – each dyad talk about ONE of the 5 discussion subjects:
  - Who would we approach for growth of new Conferences??
  - What would/could we do
  - How would we do it
  - When could we do it
  - Where could we do it

Write the notes on white paper
Bl. Frederic’s deepest desire to set his heart afire was to “Embrace the whole world in a network of charity”

So how are we going to EVANGELIZE – provide Growth and Revitalization of the Society into new parts of our world!!
Goals for today:

- Share OUR Mission with renewed energy
- Share with JOY
  - STORIES!! PARABLES!!

This is a BEST PRACTICE --- so please share

We have MANY Growth and Revitalization tools and handouts for us to present to you for your infor….we will do that on the National Website.
Spirit and Mystery of Charity

Let us be committed and keep our hands to the plow.

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What keeps your heart afire?

How is Christ in your life?

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Share with Partner….what drew you to become a Vincentian – a Servant Leader
“We must begin by establishing the kingdom of God in OURSELVES and ONLY then in others...tend to our interior life..if we fail to do that, we miss everything!”

St. Vincent de Paul

Personal Spiritual Growth is primary

If we do not attend our own conference meetings
If we do not pray
If we walk around with eyes closed

Growing the Society is simply sharing the JOY inside...so others can get a glimpse of the passion we feel about our work!!
Discuss in your small group of 3-4 people

Bill Migley has created spread sheets for Councils if interested of all open parishes, Catholic Schools, Seminaries, etc

When we think of Evangelization or growing the Society---- WHO comes in mind!!
What parishes do NOT have SVdP?

What parishes are close to others who could mentor?
HOW – with ZEAL:

► Meet with Pastor – Council mtg?
► Invitation to Serve?
► Have events to INVOLVE immediately!!

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Faith: Fire in our Hearts

Faith comes from loving openly the Christ in others so that it can take hold in our own heart!

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What happens when we see life as a problem --- negative thoughts, issues come to mind

But if we look at the same item as a COG – we can’t help from smiling! And Knowing that God is in control – we are simply bringing His News to His People…

Seeing his Son’s face in those we serve….
Creative Opportunities are disguised by hard work so most people don’t recognize them.

(source unknown)

Stepping out of our Comfort zone, and not accepting status quo --- that is Vincentian Spirit – growing in our personal sanctification
The poor will disturb our consciences…
It is THEY who can light a fire which does not go out! Tell their story!

So use their STORIES to inform of the MISSION of our Great Little Society!!!
1833 to the present ……
SO WHEN is it time??
We are not CREATURES of circumstance; We are CREATORS of circumstance.

SO WHEN is a great time?
Before an event? Like Ozanam feast days or Ozanam Sunday or April 23rd??
September – beginning of fall
Spring – renewed energy
Christmas
Lent
???
Serving the poor is an opportunity to encounter the suffering Christ – to see his face in them – to make the love of God a reality in their lives.

WHEN ---utilizing times of Home visits, projects, events, disaster,
WHERE – daily mass – offer opportunities for others to get involved?
WHERE is the RIGHT TIME??
RIGHT PLACE??
Ways of inspiring ourselves to be all that the Father asks of us…

• What Special Vincentian Projects or Events inspire you? Christmas Gift Baskets? Thanksgiving? Back to School?

• Partners share --- what are personal ways of inspiring yourself???

• Fast, Eat, Sleep & Live healthy
• Retreats, daily mass, sacraments
• Music
• Meditation
• Prayerful readings
• Conference mtgs
• Other….
Evangelization, a new road?!
Journey with the Lord.
Be open to the WHO, WHAT, HOW, WHEN, and WHERE!!
You make a difference
Thank you!