

VINCENTIAN CELEBRATIONS



Rituals and Ceremonies

Dear Vincentians,

The Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (2.2) tells us that “Vincentians are called to journey together towards holiness....” Therefore, Conferences and Councils are called to deepen the spiritual dimension of our Vincentian vocation through the commissioning of new members and those in leadership; the annual renewal of our commitment; celebrating liturgical ceremonies, particularly Vincentian ceremonies, throughout the year, thus endeavoring to maintain a spirit of friendship among the members. (Part 3, Statute 4 and 9)

“Vincentian Celebrations: *Rituals and Ceremonies*” will enable all members of the Society to live the spirit of our Rule in a unified and profound way. I encourage every Conference and Council to find ways to celebrate our Vincentian Vocation in these Prayer Services for our:

- Annual Commitment
- Commissioning Ceremonies
- Funeral/Wake Services
- Vincentian Prayer Services
- Feast Day Celebrations

Symbols are essential in rituals and ceremonies in the prayer life of the Church, so you will find that the presentation of the Manual, Rule, SVDP Cross, candles, medals, medallions are an important part of our Vincentian Prayer Services.

As we pray with our “Vincentian Celebrations: *Rituals and Ceremonies*” may the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, St. Louise de Marillac, Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Blessed Rosalie Rendu penetrate our hearts so that we may indeed, “deepen the spiritual dimension of our vocation” with integrity and authenticity.

Ralph Middlecamp
National President





THE RULE

PART 3: Statutes of the National Council of the United States of America

STATUTE 4: Commissioning and Renewal Ceremonies

The commissioning of new members should take place at an appropriate time and occasion.

All members shall annually renew their promise of service to the members and to the poor, thereby deepening the spiritual dimension of their vocation.

The normal mechanism for commissioning and renewal is at a Conference or Council liturgy or at a Festival Meeting.

STATUTE 9: Festival Meetings and Conference Masses

Conferences and Councils celebrate liturgical ceremonies, particularly Vincentian ceremonies, throughout the year, endeavoring to maintain a spirit of friendship among members.

The Council of the United States has designated six days of religious observances. On these occasions, the members of Conferences and Councils demonstrate the spiritual nature of the Society by attending the Eucharist together:

- **Ozanam Sunday (the last Sunday of April)**
- **The feast day of Blessed Frederic Ozanam (September 9)**
- **The feast day of St. Vincent de Paul (September 27)**
- **The Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the Society (December 8)**
- **A Conference Mass celebrated at least once a year for all members, including spouses and children. During this Mass, it is most appropriate to commission new members into the Conference, pray for those we have visited, pray for our benefactors, pray for the poor, pray for our deceased members, and for continued good work.**
- **Another feast day of local custom, e.g. December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

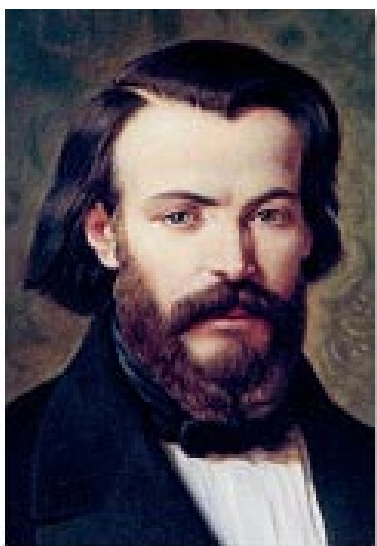
OUR VINCENTIAN FOUNDERS



St. Vincent de Paul
(1581-1660)
Founder: Ladies of Charity 1617
Founder: Congregation of the Mission 1625
Co-Founder: Daughters of Charity 1633
Feast Day: September 27



St. Louise de Marillac
(1591-1660)
Co-Founder:
Daughters of Charity 1633
Feast Day: May 9



Frederic Ozanam
(1813-1853)
Founder of the Society
of St. Vincent de Paul 1833
Beatified: August 22, 1997
Feast Day: September 9



Sr. Rosalie Rendu
(1786-1856)
Daughter of Charity
of St. Vincent de Paul 1802
Beatified: November 9, 2003
Feast Day: February 7

VINCENTIAN WORDS TO LIVE BY...



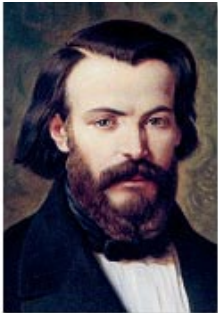
“You will find that charity is a heavy burden to carry, heavier than the soup pot or the basket of bread. It is not everything to give soup or bread, that the rich can do. You must always keep your gentleness and your smile. They are your masters, terribly sensitive and exacting, as you will see. But the uglier and dirtier they are, the more unjust and vulgar they appear, the more you must show them your love. It is only because of your love, only your love, that the poor will forgive you the bread you give them.”

St. Vincent de Paul



“As for your conduct toward the poor, may you never take the attitude of merely getting the task done. You must show them affection; serving them from the heart; inquiring of them what they might need; speaking to them gently and compassionately; procuring necessary help for them without being too bothersome or too eager.”

St. Louise de Marillac, 1647



“Knowledge of the poor and needy is not gained by pouring over books or in discussions with politicians, but by visiting the slums where they live, sitting by the bedside of the dying, feeling the cold they feel and learning from their lips the causes of their woes.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam, 1845

Words spoken to Frederic Ozanam and Companions:



“God has already touched your heart, or you would not be giving up your precious free day to serve the poor. And, because you see Christ in his poor, I know you will approach each one you visit with humility as His servant. Always remember, that if we had been through the hardships they have had to meet

—if our childhood had been one of constant want—

perhaps, we too, would have given away to envy and hatred, as I must admit have many of the poor in this quarter. But be kind and love, for love is your first gift to the poor. They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you bring them.”

Blessed Rosalie Rendu, 1833



VINCENTIAN CELEBRATIONS

Rituals and Ceremonies

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ANNUAL COMMITMENT CEREMONY

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ANNUAL COMMITMENT CEREMONY



A VINCENTIAN PROMISE AND PRAYER

- Opening Song:** (Begin with an appropriate song)
- Spiritual Advisor:** Let us ask the Holy Spirit to be with us as we once again renew our Vincentian Commitment to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
- All:** Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.
And strength us by Your Love.
- Spiritual Advisor:** Send forth your spirit and new life will be created
All: And the whole face of the earth will be renewed.
- Spiritual Advisor:** In response to the call of Christ who invites you to follow him, do you promise to be a witness to his boundless love for the poor, the lonely, the suffering and deprived, those without faith and those who feel unloved?
- All:** I do, and I ask for the grace to grow in holiness of life and to share in a longing for spiritual growth and enrichment.
- Spiritual Advisor:** Do you firmly resolve to treasure the warm friendship and unity which was from the beginning a hallmark of our Society?
- All:** I do, and I ask for the grace to grow in humility and simplicity so that true friendship may grow in my heart.
- Spiritual Advisor:** Do you promise to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that you can bring them your love.
- All:** I do, and I ask for the grace to be sensitive to their vulnerability, to respect and not to judge or blame them.
- Spiritual Advisor:** Do you promise to be generous with your time, your possessions and yourself in your mission of charity.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to always serve in justice and charity so that I can be an advocate and a voice for the poor.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to persevere in regarding your home visits as a sacred trust?

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to be more aware of the blessings I receive from those I visit.

Spiritual Advisor: Let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of our Society, as we say,

All: Hail Mary, full of grace...(continue)

Spiritual Advisor: Let us ask for the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam to fill our hearts as we pray to the Father in the words Jesus gave us,

All: Our Father...(continue)

Spiritual Advisor: Let us pray together:

Lord Jesus, you who willed to become poor,
give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor.
Help us to recognize you in them—in their hunger
and thirst, their loneliness and suffering.

Enkindle within us the fire of love that burned in
the hearts of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic, so that we
will live our mission and core values with integrity.

Grant us the grace to be faithful to the Society of
St. Vincent de Paul, so that we will grow in spirituality,
friendship and service to our suffering brothers and sisters

Amen

(Conclude with an appropriate song)

CORE VALUE COMMITMENT SERVICE



Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Leader: Spirit of the living God,

All: Come and breathe your life anew.

Leader: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and
enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.

Leader: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:
"Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them
and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and
recover their own dignity, for we are all created in
God's image. In the poor, they see the suffering
Christ." (Rule 1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frederic Ozanam was:
"To establish a network of charity and social justice
to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: As Vincentians we are:
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.

Reading from Scripture: (Matthew 28: 16-20)

The disciples made their way to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus summoned them. Jesus came forward and addressed them in these words:

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations...Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, until the end of time.” After, speaking to them, the Lord Jesus ascended into heaven.

Reflection:

As Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples must have looked up and watched until even the tiniest dot in the sky had disappeared and then they could only wonder, “what now?” How can we teach, minister and carry on without him? As they wondered, looking at each other, they began to remember and to tell stories...

Disciple I:

I remember when Jesus told us the story about the “man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell prey to robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and went off half-dead. The priest and the Levite saw him but went on. It was a Samaritan who was moved to pity, and he dressed his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and then he took him to an inn where he cared for him. He even gave the innkeeper two silver pieces telling him that if there was any further expense he would repay him on his way back. Then when Jesus asked, who was neighbor to the man, they answered “The one who treated him with compassion.” Jesus then said, “Then go and do the same.” (*Luke 10: 30-37*)

All: Lord, help us to grow in HOLINESS OF LIFE, as we strive to bring compassion to our suffering neighbors, give us the grace to be faithful to prayer, to our own conversion and to renewal.

Disciple II:

I remember when Jesus told us, how through our service of the poor, at the last judgment we will hear the words, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father. For I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me...For whatever you did for these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” This is the reason for all of our service and advocacy for the poor. (Matthew 25: 34-40)

All: Lord, give us the grace to walk in your footsteps and to bring to each one dignity and respect in our **SERVICE OF THE POOR**, for we know that by serving all who come to us, we serve you.

Disciple III:

I remember how one day, “we had been in the boat all day when a large crowd came around us-crushing us back near the sea. Jesus cured as many as he could. I remember his look as he turned, and said unexpectedly, ‘Who touched me?’ How could we see with that crowd? But there was a tiny woman trembling, begging. The look that Jesus gave her was one of such love, such respect, there was such humility in his eyes as he cured her.”
(Mark 5:1)

All: Lord, we want to imitate your **HUMILITY** in the way you brought healing by looking beyond the crowd and the busyness, to see the person. Please give us the grace first to know and accept our own poverty of spirit.

Disciple IV:

There was a time I remember when we were questioned by Jesus as to what people were saying about him. Some told him they thought he was John the Baptist, some Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. But then Jesus looked at me directly and asked, “Who do you say that I am?” I had to answer in simplicity, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.” My simplicity was rewarded when Jesus said “I was the rock of his Church.” *(Mt. 16:14)*

All: Lord, give us the grace to speak, act and conduct our daily activities in integrity and **SIMPLICITY**, and may we always trust in Divine Providence knowing that when we do your work you will always provide all that we need.

Disciple V:

“Remember the man born blind? I do, and I remember where each of us was standing as the poor man was brought to Jesus and begged him to touch him. Although we had been traveling and were tired, Jesus understood his mission. He had the charity to listen, to pray and to act. So Jesus laid his hands on his eyes and the man’s sight was restored. Jesus knew that his mission demanded kindness and love.” *(Mark 8:22-26)*

All: Lord, fill our hearts with justice and **CHARITY**, for love is our first gift to the poor. Give us the grace to stand in solidarity with them, knowing that they appreciate our kindness and love more than all else we bring to them.

Disciple VI:

“I remember that night when we ate supper and Jesus said, “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, live on in my love. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. I no longer speak of you as servants...instead I call you friends. It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit.” (John 15: 9-17)

All: Lord, fill us with dedication that is rooted in FRIENDSHIP, so that in our Community of Faith we will bring to each other and to the poor: comfort in tiredness, courage in discouragement, hope in hopelessness, and joy in sadness.

Leader:

In the Providence of God, today is a special coming together as members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Each historical period makes its demands upon the human community. In our times, the people of God repeatedly addressed the challenge of living the Gospel. Likewise, all of us are called to use our gifts and talents for the good of all. And so I ask you:

Do you promise to fulfill the responsibilities demanded by the Mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul ?

All: We do.

Do you promise to live the Core Values of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

All: We do.

Do you promise to remain faithful to spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl Frederic Ozanam?

All: We do.

Do you promise to be faithful to your call to renew the Society today and beyond?

All: We do, trusting in God’s grace and with the help of all our members.

Leader:

As the Father sent Jesus to bring the Good News to the poor- he now sends us- that is our mission, and that is our responsibility. And so as disciples I commission you to go forth filled with joy. We know what we are called to do. In the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam, we must go into the whole world, to proclaim the good news to all, especially the poor and vulnerable, knowing that the Lord is with us always, even until the end of time. Amen

OZANAM SUNDAY



ANNUAL COMMITMENT CEREMONY

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: Come and breathe your life anew.

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and
enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:
"Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them
and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and
recover their own dignity, for we are all created in
God's image. In the poor, they see the suffering
Christ." (Rule 1.8)

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And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the
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and service to people in need.

President: In our Rule and Mission Statement we find that we are inspired by Gospel values to be of service to the needy and the poor, that we grow spiritually by this service, and that we are united to all Vincentians throughout the world as we embrace works of justice and charity.

Once a year, we should take time to reflect on what we are about and to commit ourselves once again to faithfulness in carrying out our mission as Vincentians. At the Easter Vigil we renewed our baptismal vows. Through baptism we became disciples of Jesus, committed to spread his Word and his Light to all.

This commitment we make today is very much connected with those vows. Our work in the Society is one of the ways we give expression to our baptismal call to bring the love of Christ to others and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to those who are poor and suffering. Let us ask our Gracious God to keep our hearts on fire with enthusiasm, our spirits determined with perseverance and our bodies strengthened with energy to do God's will in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you commit yourself to spiritual growth, so that you may bear witness to the love of God and to see the face of Christ in the faces of those you serve?

ALL: I Do.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you commit yourself to promote a community of faith and friendship among all members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

ALL: I Do.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you commit yourself to give service to the poor in a spirit of justice and charity?

ALL: I Do.

Spiritual Advisor: BLESSING (Sprinkling with Holy Water)

May the flame of God's love light your way and lead you to grow in Vincentian spirituality and holiness.

ALL: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: May the passionate fire of God's love increase your friendship with each other, healing divisions and conflicts.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: May the Spirit strengthen you in the ways of justice and charity, and may you bring hope and healing into the hearts of all those who are poor and suffering.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: May your hands and hearts be nourished for the work that lies ahead, that you may be compassionate to human need, tender and strong in your care and faithful to the commitment of service you renew today.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Let us pray:

(Alternate sides)

- Saint Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, faithfully discovering God's action in all the events of our lives.
- Blessed Frederic Ozanam, sustain in us our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and suffering of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

(Together)

- Holy Spirit, accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by their Gospel of love. Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONIES

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COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Installation of a Conference President

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: Come and breathe your life anew.

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and
enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:
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and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and
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Spiritual Advisor: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is made up of Conferences as its primary basic unit. The Rule teaches us that: “The members meet as brothers and sisters with Christ in the midst of them, in Conferences that are genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action. Spiritual bonds and friendship between members are essential, as is the common mission to help the poor and marginalized. The entire Society is a true and unique worldwide Community of Vincentian Friends.” (Rule 3.3)

In the spirit of Jesus, the Servant leader, the office of President is a responsibility, not an honor. It is one of service and the President is the first among equals. The Rule calls the President to “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 will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.” (Rule 3.11)

And so we gather together to pray for and to commission (Name) , as the new President for the (Name) Conference.

Reading: Gospel according to John (13:12-17) read by the Retiring President:

“After he had washed their feet, Jesus put his cloak back on and reclined at table once more. He said to them: “Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—then you must wash each other’s feet. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do. I solemnly assure you, no slave is greater than his master; no messenger outranks the one who sent him. Once you know all these things, blest will you be if you put them into practice.”

Spiritual Advisor: First, let us thank our outgoing President (Name) , for his generosity in fulfilling his duties and his faithful years of service as President of (Name) Conference.

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us ask God our Father to look lovingly upon (Name) , who has been called to serve as our new Conference President.

(The outgoing President then hands the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to the new President)

Outgoing President:

Receive this Manual and Rule of the Society as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and a loving heart so that you will come to know deeply the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and may you hand this Manual and Rule to your successor after a fruitful and successful Presidency.

Spiritual Advisor:

May the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, continue to guard and guide your steps as you lead the Society. And so I now ask you:

Do you (Name) , promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, serving the Conference and those in need for the greater glory of God?

New President:

I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.

Spiritual Advisor:

Do you promise to seek consensus and not to insist on your own opinion, to see every member as a friend, to recognize their talents, to encourage each one and to develop harmony and respect between members and to always “deepen the Vincentian spirit of friendship”?

New President:

I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that our Conference may be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.

Spiritual Advisor:

Do you promise to help all members “seek and to find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that they may bring them the love of Jesus?”

New President:

I do, and I pray that we will be filled with the grace to serve those who are suffering in “charity and justice.”

Spiritual Advisor:

Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as reflected in the Manual and Rule and to promote a deeper Vincentian spirituality amongst all the members?

New President: I do, and I pray for the grace to be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

Spiritual Advisor: (Name) , you have accepted a serious responsibility as President of (Name) Conference. I ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: Hail Mary...

Spiritual Advisor: Prayer of Blessing and Commissioning

Let us now raise our hands in blessing as we pray together:

All: May God's grace and blessing be with you (Name) as we commission you as the President of the (Name) Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Let the wisdom of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic, guard and guide you as you undertake your office.

Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you. Trust him and following his example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith, and you will see everything go well. Your responsibilities, which are many, will continue to grow but believe and trust that he will not leave a heavy burden on your back without sustaining you. He will be your strength as well as your reward for the extraordinary services you render to the Society and to the poor.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)

(Symbol: The Manual and Rule is to be given to the new President)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Installation of a District Council President

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: Come and breathe your life anew.

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

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and service to people in need.

Spiritual Advisor:

The Rule teaches us that: “The Councils of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul exist to serve all the Conferences they coordinate. They are called to help the Conferences develop their spiritual life, to intensify their service and to diversify their activities so that they may always be responsive to the needs of those who suffer.

Councils are particularly called to: create new Conferences, to help existing Conferences to expand, to promote Special Works, to prepare training courses and encourage Vincentians to attend them, to foster interest in cooperation with the Vincentian Family, to promote cooperation with other organizations and Institutions, to develop friendship between members in the same area, to provide communication to and from Conferences and higher Councils. In summary, to promote the sense of belonging to a Society which encircles the world.” (Rule 3.6)

In the spirit of Jesus, the Servant leader, the office of President is a responsibility, not an honor. It is one of service and the President is the first among equals. The Rule calls the President to “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 District Council will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.” (Rule 3.11)

And so we gather together to pray for and to commission (Name) , the new President for the District Council of (Name) .

Reading: Gospel according to John (13:12-17) read by the Retiring President:

“After he had washed their feet, Jesus put his cloak back on and reclined at table once more. He said to them: “Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—then you must wash each other’s feet. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do. I solemnly assure you, no slave is greater than his master; no messenger outranks the one who sent him. Once you know all these things, blest will you be if you put them into practice.”

Spiritual Advisor: First, let us thank our outgoing President (Name) , for his generosity in fulfilling his duties and his faithful years of service as President of (Name) District Council.

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us ask God our Father to look lovingly upon (Name) , who has been called to serve as our new District Council President.

(The outgoing President then hands the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to the new President)

Outgoing President:

Receive this Manual and Rule of the Society as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and heart to come to know the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frederic Ozanam, and may you hand this Manual and Rule to your successor after a fruitful and successful Presidency.

Spiritual Advisor: May the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, continue to guard and guide your steps as you lead the Society. And so I now ask you:

Do you (Name) , promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, serving the District Council and those in need for the greater glory of God?

New President: I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to seek consensus and not to insist on your own opinion, to see every member as a friend, to recognize their talents, to encourage each one and to develop harmony and respect between members and to always “deepen the Vincentian spirit of friendship”?

New President: I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that all of our Conferences may be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to help all members “seek and to find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that they may bring them the love of Jesus?”

New President: I do, and I pray that we will be filled with the grace to serve those who are suffering in “charity and justice.”

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as reflected in the Rule and to promote a deeper Vincentian spirituality amongst all the members?

New President: I do, and I pray that I will be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

Leader: (Name) , you have accepted a serious responsibility as the District Council President. I ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: Hail Mary...

Spiritual Advisor: Prayer of Blessing and Commissioning

Let us now raise our hands in blessing as we pray together:

All: May God's grace and blessing be with you (Name) as we commission you as the President of the (Name) District Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Let the wisdom of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic, guard and guide you as you undertake your office.

Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you. Trust him and following his example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith, and you will see everything go well. Your responsibilities, which are many, will continue to grow but believe and trust that he will not leave a heavy burden on your back without sustaining you. He will be your strength as well as your reward for the extraordinary services you render to the Society and to the poor.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Installation of an (Arch)Diocesan Council President

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: Come and breathe your life anew.

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and
enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:
"Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them
and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and
recover their own dignity, for we are all created in
God's image. In the poor, they see the suffering
Christ." (1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frederic Ozanam was:
"To establish a network of charity and social justice
to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: As Vincentians we are:
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.

Spiritual Advisor:

The Rule teaches us that: “The Councils of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul exist to serve all the Conferences they coordinate. They are called to help the Conferences develop their spiritual life, to intensify their service and to diversify their activities so that they may always be responsive to the needs of those who suffer.

Councils are particularly called to: create new Conferences, to help existing Conferences to expand, to promote Special Works, to prepare training courses and encourage Vincentians to attend them, to foster interest in cooperation with the Vincentian Family, to promote cooperation with other organizations and Institutions, to develop friendship between members in the same area, to provide communication to and from Conferences and higher Councils. In summary, to promote the sense of belonging to a Society which encircles the world.” (Rule 3.6)

In the spirit of Jesus, the Servant leader, the office of President is a responsibility, not an honor. It is one of service and the President is the first among equals. The Rule calls the President to “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 (Arch)Diocesan Council will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.” (Rule 3.11)

And so we gather together to pray for and to commission (Name), as the new President for the (Arch)Diocesan Council of (Name).

Reading: Gospel according to John (13:12-17) read by the Retiring President:

“After he had washed their feet, Jesus put his cloak back on and reclined at table once more. He said to them: “Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—then you must wash each other’s feet. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do. I solemnly assure you, no slave is greater than his master; no messenger outranks the one who sent him. Once you know all these things, blest will you be if you put them into practice.”

Spiritual Advisor: First, let us thank our outgoing President (Name) , for his generosity in fulfilling his duties and his faithful years of service as President of (Name) (Arch)Diocesan Council.

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us ask God our Father to look lovingly upon (Name) , who has been called to serve as our new (Arch)Diocesan Council President.

(The outgoing President then hands the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to the new President)

Outgoing President:

Receive this Manual and Rule of the Society as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and heart to come to know the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frederic Ozanam, and may you hand this Manual and Rule to your successor after a fruitful and successful Presidency.

Spiritual Advisor: May the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, continue to guard and guide your steps as you lead the Society. And so I now ask you:

Do you (Name) , promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, serving the (Arch)Diocesan Council and those in need for the greater glory of God?

New President: I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to seek consensus and not to insist on your own opinion, to see every member as a friend, to recognize their talents, to encourage each one and to develop harmony and respect between members and to always “deepen the Vincentian spirit of friendship”?

New President: I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that all of our Conferences may be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to help all members “seek and to find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that they may bring them the love of Jesus?”

New President: I do, and I pray that we will be filled with the grace to serve those who are suffering in “charity and justice.”

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as reflected in the Rule and to promote a deeper Vincentian spirituality amongst all the members?

New President: I do, and I pray that I will be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

Leader: (Name) , you have accepted a serious responsibility as the (Arch)Diocesan Council President. I ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: Hail Mary...

Spiritual Advisor: Prayer of Blessing and Commissioning

Let us now raise our hands in blessing as we pray together:

All: May God’s grace and blessing be with you (Name) as we commission you as the President of the (Name) (Arch)Diocese of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Let the wisdom of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic, guard and guide you as you undertake your office.

Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you. Trust him and following his example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith, and you will see everything go well. Your responsibilities, which are many, will continue to grow but believe and trust that he will not leave a heavy burden on your back without sustaining you. He will be your strength as well as your reward for the extraordinary services you render to the Society and to the poor.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Installation of a National Vice President-Region

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: Come and breathe your life anew.

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and
enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:
"Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them
and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and
recover their own dignity, for we are all created in
God's image. In the poor, they see the suffering
Christ." (1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frederic Ozanam was:
"To establish a network of charity and social justice
to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: As Vincentians we are:
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.

Spiritual Advisor:

The Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (2.2) teaches us that: “ Vincentians are called to journey together towards holiness, because true holiness is perfect union with Christ and the perfection of love, which is central to their vocation and the source of its fruitfulness. They aspire to burn with the love of God as revealed by Christ and to deepen their own faith and fidelity. Vincentians are aware of their own brokenness and need for God’s grace. They seek His glory, not their own. Their ideal is to help relieve suffering for love alone, without thinking of any reward or advantage for themselves. Vincentians draw nearer to Christ, by serving Him in the poor and one another. They grow more perfect in love by expressing compassionate and tender love to the poor and one another.”

And so, in the spirit of Jesus, the Servant leader, the office of the Regional Chair is a responsibility, not an honor. It is one of service, and the Rule calls the Regional Chair to “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 Regional Chair will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.” (Rule 3.11)

And so we gather together to pray for and to commission (Name), as the new National President of (Region).

Reading: Gospel according to John (13:12-17) read by the Retiring Regional Chair:

“After he had washed their feet, Jesus put his cloak back on and reclined at table once more. He said to them: “Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and fittingly enough, for that is what I am.

But if I washed your feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—then you must wash each other’s feet. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do. I solemnly assure you, no slave is greater than his master; no messenger outranks the one who sent him. Once you know all these things, blest will you be if you put them into practice.”

Spiritual Advisor: First, let us thank our outgoing Regional (Name), for his generosity in fulfilling his duties and his faithful years of service to the (Name) Region.

(Present the outgoing Regional Chair with a Medallion in thanksgiving for service.)

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us ask God our Father to look lovingly upon (Name), who has been called to serve as our new Regional Chair.

(The outgoing President then hands the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to the new President)

Outgoing Chair:

Receive this Manual and Rule of the Society as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and heart to come to know the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frederic Ozanam, and may you hand this Manual and Rule to your successor after a fruitful and successful Presidency.

Spiritual Advisor: May the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, continue to guard and guide your steps as you lead the Society. And so I now ask you:

Do you (Name), promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, serving the Region for the greater glory of God?

New Chair: I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to seek consensus and not to insist on your own opinion, to see every member as a friend, to recognize their talents, to encourage each one and to develop harmony and respect between members and to always “deepen the Vincentian spirit of friendship”?

New Chair: I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that all of our Conferences may be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to help all members “seek and to find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that they may bring them the love of Jesus?”

New Chair: I do, and I pray that we will be filled with the grace to serve those who are suffering in “charity and justice.”

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as reflected in the Rule and to promote a deeper Vincentian spirituality amongst all the members?

New Chair: I do, and I pray that I will be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

Leader: (Name) , you have accepted a serious responsibility as Regional Chair. I ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: Hail Mary...

Spiritual Advisor: Prayer of Blessing and Commissioning

Let us now raise our hands in blessing as we pray together:

All: May God’s grace and blessing be with you (Name) as we commission you as the Regional Chair of the (Name) Region of the Society St. Vincent de Paul. Let the wisdom of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic, guard and guide you as you undertake your office.

Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you. Trust him and following his example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith, and you will see everything go well. Your responsibilities, which are many, will continue to grow but believe and trust that he will not leave a heavy burden on your back without sustaining you. He will be your strength as well as your reward for the extraordinary services you render to the Society and to the poor.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Installation of Conference Officers

Opening Song: (Begin with an appropriate song)

President: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: And strength us by Your Love.

President: As we gather together to install our new officers, let us pray the words from the first Chapter of our Rule, asking for the grace to live them faithfully and with integrity:

(Alternate sides)

- We are called to live our Vincentian Vocation which is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. We show our commitment through person-to-person contact. As Vincentians we serve in hope. (Rule 1.2)
- We are called to give any form of personal help because “No work of charity is foreign to the Society.” It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. (Rule 1.3)
- We are called to serve anyone in need because the Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions. (Rule 1.4)
- We are called to seek out the poor because as Vincentians we strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity. (Rule 1.5)

(Together)

- We are called to always adapt to a changing world. Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. We seek to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. We give priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society. (Rule 1.6) Amen

President: First, let us thank our outgoing Officers: (Name) , Vice-President; (Name) , Secretary; and (Name) , Treasurer for their generosity in fulfilling their duties and their faithful years of service in our Conference.

I would like to invite the following people of faith, who have been chosen by their brother and sister Vincentians for leadership in the (Name) Conference, to come forward:

 (Name) , Vice- President

 (Name) , Secretary

 (Name) , Treasurer

President: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Vice- President, firmly resolve to perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's temporary absence, to accept all other duties as the President or Conference may assign, and to attend the Conference meetings?

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

President: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Secretary, promise to attend the Conference meetings ensuring that all records are kept of Aggregation, formal documents, meeting attendance, that the annual report records are maintained, that all votes are recorded, minutes kept of all proceedings, and to give notice of all meetings of the Conference.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

Leader: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Treasurer, promise to be responsible for the Conference funds, securities, maintenance of full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in official records belonging to the Conference, the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects, to attend meetings of the Conference informing members of the Conference's financial position by submitting a written statement at every meeting, to prepare a budget for the Conference that is approved annually, and to assure the disbursement of funds as may be ordered by the Conference.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

(Previous Officer hands the SVDP Vigil candle/Medal to the new Officer)

President: May the Holy Spirit enlighten you as you carry out your responsibilities. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us now ask for God's blessing on our new officers as we say,

All: Hail Mary, full of grace...

President: Let us now extend our hand in blessing over our new Conference Officers, as we pray together:

All: In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our Founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, we commission you as the Officers of the (Name) Conference.

We ask for the grace that together we may:

- grow in Vincentian spirituality,
- deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and
- serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

New Officers:

St. Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, and to faithfully discover God's action in all the events of our lives.

Sustain us in our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and sufferings of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

Accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by his Gospel of love. Amen

Closing Song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Installation of District Council Officers

Opening Song: (Begin with an appropriate song)

President: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: And strength us by Your Love.

President: As we gather together to install our new officers, let us pray the words from the first Chapter of our Rule, asking for the grace to live them faithfully and with integrity:

(Alternate sides)

- We are called to live our Vincentian Vocation which is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. We show our commitment through person-to-person contact. As Vincentians we serve in hope. (Rule 1.2)
- We are called to give any form of personal help because “No work of charity is foreign to the Society.” It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. (Rule 1.3)
- We are called to serve anyone in need because the Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions. (Rule 1.4)
- We are called to seek out the poor because as Vincentians we strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity. (Rule 1.5)

(Together)

- We are called to always adapt to a changing world. Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. We seek to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. We give priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society. (Rule 1.6) Amen

President: First, let us thank our outgoing Officers: (Name) , Vice-President; (Name) , Secretary; and (Name) , Treasurer for their generosity in fulfilling their duties and their faithful years of service in our District Council.

I would like to invite the following people of faith, who have been chosen by their brother and sister Vincentians for leadership in the (Name) District Council to come forward:

 (Name) , Vice- President

 (Name) , Secretary

 (Name) , Treasurer

President: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Vice- President, firmly resolve to perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's temporary absence, to accept all other duties as the President may assign, and to attend the District Council meetings?

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

President: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Secretary, promise to attend the District Council meetings ensuring that all records, formal documents, meeting attendance are kept; that the annual report records are maintained, that all votes are recorded, minutes kept of all proceedings, and to give notice of all meetings of the District Council.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

Leader: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Treasurer, promise to be responsible for the District Council funds, securities, maintenance of full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in official records belonging to the Council, the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects, to attend meetings of the Council informing members of the Council's financial position by submitting a written statement at every meeting, to prepare a budget for the Council that is approved annually, and to assure the disbursement of funds as may be ordered by the Council.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

(Previous Officer hands the SVDP Vigil candle/ Medal to the new Officer)

President: May the Holy Spirit enlighten you as you carry out your responsibilities. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us now ask for God's blessing on our new officers as we say,

All: Hail Mary, full of grace...

President: Let us now extend our hand in blessing over our new Conference Officers, as we pray together:

All: In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our Founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, we commission you as the Officers of the (Name) District Council.

We ask for the grace that together we may:

- grow in Vincentian spirituality,
- deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and
- serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

New Officers:

St. Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, and to faithfully discover God's action in all the events of our lives.

Sustain us in our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and sufferings of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

Accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by his Gospel of love. Amen

Closing Song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Installation of (Arch)Diocesan Council Officers

Opening Song: (Begin with an appropriate song)

President: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: And strength us by Your Love.

President: As we gather together to install our new officers, let us pray the words from the first Chapter of our Rule, asking for the grace to live them faithfully and with integrity:

(Alternate sides)

- We are called to live our Vincentian Vocation which is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. We show our commitment through person-to-person contact. As Vincentians we serve in hope. (Rule 1.2)
- We are called to give any form of personal help because “No work of charity is foreign to the Society.” It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. (Rule 1.3)
- We are called to serve anyone in need because the Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions. (Rule 1.4)
- We are called to seek out the poor because as Vincentians we strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity. (Rule 1.5)

(Together)

- We are called to always adapt to a changing world. Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. We seek to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. We give priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society. (Rule 1.6) Amen

President: First, let us thank our outgoing Officers: (Name) , Vice-President; (Name) , Secretary; and (Name) , Treasurer for their generosity in fulfilling their duties and their faithful years of service in our (Arch)Diocesan Council.

I would like to invite the following people of faith, who have been chosen by their brother and sister Vincentians for leadership in the (Name) (Arch)Diocesan Council, to come forward:

 (Name) , Vice- President

 (Name) , Secretary

 (Name) , Treasurer

President: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Vice- President, firmly resolve to perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's temporary absence, to accept all other duties as the President or Council may assign, and to attend the Council meetings?

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

President: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Secretary, promise to attend the (Arch)Diocesan Council meetings ensuring that all records, formal documents, meeting attendance are kept; that the annual report records are maintained, that all votes are recorded, minutes kept of all proceedings, and to give notice of all meetings of the (Arch)Diocesan Council.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

Leader: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Treasurer, promise to be responsible for the Arch(Diocesan) Council funds, securities, maintenance of full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in official records belonging to the Council, the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects, to attend meetings of the Council informing members of the Council's financial position by submitting a written statement at every meeting, to prepare a budget for the Council that is approved annually, and to assure the disbursement of funds as may be ordered by the Council.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

(Previous Officer hands the SVDP Vigil candle/ Medal to the new Officer)

President: May the Holy Spirit enlighten you as you carry out your responsibilities. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us now ask for God's blessing on our new officers as we say,

All: Hail Mary, full of grace...

President: Let us now extend our hand in blessing over our new (Arch) Diocesan Council Officers, as we pray together:

All: In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our Founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, we commission you as the Officers of the (Name) (Arch)Diocesan Council.

We ask for the grace that together we may:

- grow in Vincentian spirituality,
- deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and
- serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

New Officers:

St. Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, and to faithfully discover God's action in all the events of our lives.

Sustain us in our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and sufferings of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

Accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by his Gospel of love. Amen

Closing Song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Installation of Regional Officers

Opening Song: (Begin with an appropriate song)

President: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: And strength us by Your Love.

President: As we gather together to install our new officers, let us pray the words from the first Chapter of our Rule, asking for the grace to live them faithfully and with integrity:

(Alternate sides)

- We are called to live our Vincentian Vocation which is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. We show our commitment through person-to-person contact. As Vincentians we serve in hope. (Rule 1.2)
- We are called to give any form of personal help because “No work of charity is foreign to the Society.” It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. (Rule 1.3)
- We are called to serve anyone in need because the Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions. (Rule 1.4)
- We are called to seek out the poor because as Vincentians we strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity. (Rule 1.5)

(Together)

- We are called to always adapt to a changing world. Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. We seek to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. We give priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society. (Rule 1.6) Amen

President: First, let us thank our outgoing Officers: (Name) , Vice-President; (Name) , Secretary; and (Name) , Treasurer for their generosity in fulfilling their duties and their faithful years of service in our Region.

I would like to invite the following people of faith, who have been chosen by their brother and sister Vincentians for leadership in the (Name) Region, to come forward:

 (Name) , Vice- President

 (Name) , Secretary

 (Name) , Treasurer

President: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Vice-President, firmly resolve to perform the duties of the Regional Chair in the event of the Chair's temporary absence, to accept all other duties as the Regional Chair may assign, and to attend the Regional meetings?

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

President: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Secretary, promise to attend the Regional meetings ensuring that all records, formal documents, meeting attendance are kept; that the annual report records are maintained, that all votes are recorded, minutes kept of all proceedings, and to give notice of all meetings of the Region.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

Leader: As a servant leader, do you (Name) , as Treasurer, promise to be responsible for the Regional funds, securities, maintenance of full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in official records belonging to the Region, the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects, to attend meetings of the Region informing members of the Region's financial position by submitting a written statement at every meeting, to prepare a budget for the Region that is approved annually, and to assure the disbursement of funds as may be ordered by the Region.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

(Previous Officer hands the SVDP Vigil candle to the new Officer)

President: May the Holy Spirit enlighten you as you carry out your responsibilities. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us now ask for God's blessing on our new officers as we say,

All: Hail Mary, full of grace...

President: Let us now extend our hand in blessing over our new Council Officers, as we pray together:

All: In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our Founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, we commission you as the Officers of the (Name) Region.

We ask for the grace that together we may:

- grow in Vincentian spirituality,
- deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and
- serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

New Officers:

St. Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, and to faithfully discover God's action in all the events of our lives.

Sustain us in our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and sufferings of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

Accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by his Gospel of love. Amen

Closing Song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Installation of a New Member

Opening Song: (Begin with an appropriate song)

President:

As the people of God, we are called to a profound love of God and love of our neighbor. Gathered here in God's name, we testify to our common desire to be faithful in assisting one another to carry out this commandment.

Today, with joy and gratitude we join together to welcome and commission our new member. After prayer, formation and discernment, (Name) has been proposed for membership into the (Name) Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Our Conference has reached a prayerful decision to invite Name to share our mission in the service of those who are poor.

As a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you will witness to your love for God and your concern for God's poor. We now ask you to commit yourself to the mission that God, in His Providence has given to you.

I ask you:

Will you strive to affirm the dignity of each person by compassionate service to all those who are poor and suffering

New Member: Yes, I will.

President: Will you strive to grow in holiness?

New Member: Yes, I will.

President: Will you strive to attend meetings and to grow in friendship?

New Member: Yes, I will.

President: Will you strive to always promote the Mission and Values of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

New Member: Yes, I will.

President: In accepting the call to serve those who are suffering as a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, do you promise to fulfill the obligations of that ministry to best of your ability?

New Member: With God's help and with the help of those with whom I serve, I do promise to fulfill these obligations to the best of my ability.

President: I do believe and trust that you will use your God-given gifts for the good of all who are touched by the healing mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

And now I ask all of us here present: Will you support our new member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul by your loyalty, your support and your prayers?

All: We promise to support and pray for (Name) as we together carry out the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We ask God to bless your ministry with vision, strength and peace.

President: I ask all of us now to extend our hands in blessing as we commission him/her as a member of the Society by praying together:

Father, you have called (Name) to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and comfort the afflicted in the spirit St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Sister Rosalie Rendu, as a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

We pray your blessing on (Name) , and on each one of us so that together we may:

- grow in holiness,
- deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and
- serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion. Amen

President: It is an honor to welcome you as a member of our Conference, and I now present to you the pin of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
(Symbol: A SVDP pin is to be given to the new member)

Closing Song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Installation of an Executive Director

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: Come and breathe your life anew.

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and
enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:
"Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them
and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and
recover their own dignity, for we are all created in
God's image. In the poor, they see the suffering
Christ." (1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frederic Ozanam was:
"To establish a network of charity and social justice
to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: As Vincentians we are:
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.

President: As the people of God, we are called to a profound love of God and love of our neighbor. Gathered here in God's name, we testify to our common desire to be faithful in assisting one another to carry out this commandment.

We gather together today to pray for and to commission (Name), as the Executive Director of (Name).

(Name), you have witnessed to your love for God and your concern for God's poor. We ask you to recommit yourself to the mission that God in His Providence now gives to you.

I ask you:

Will you strive to affirm the dignity of each person to whom and with whom you minister?

Executive Director: Yes, I will.

President: Will you strive to give compassionate service to those in need and inspire all those under your supervision to do the same?

Executive Director: Yes, I will.

President: Will you strive to promote the Mission and Values of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul throughout the organization?

Executive Director: Yes, I will.

President: In accepting the call to the ministry of being the Executive Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in (Name), do you promise to fulfill the obligations of that ministry to best of your ability?

Executive Director: With God's help and with the help of those with whom I will serve, I do promise to fulfill these obligations to the best of my ability.

President: (Name), we do believe and trust that you will use your God-given gifts for the good of all who are touched by the healing mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

President: And now I ask all of us here present:

Will you support (Name) in his/her ministry by your loyalty, your cooperation, and your prayers?

All: We promise to support and pray for Name) so that together we can carry the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We ask God to bless him/her and all of us, with vision, strength and peace in our privileged ministry.

President: I ask all of us now to extend our hands in blessing as we commission (Name) , praying together:

All: May the God of strength be with you
holding you in strong-fingered hands,
and may you be the sacrament of this strength
to those whose hands you serve.
May the blessings of St. Vincent be with you.

May the God of peace be with you
stilling your heart when it hammers with
fear and doubt and confusion,
and may your peace cover those who are
troubled and anxious.
May the blessings of Blessed Frederic and Sr. Rosalie
be with you. Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Installation of a Spiritual Advisor

Opening Song: (Begin with an appropriate song)

President: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: And strengthen us by Your love.

President: As we gather together to commission (Name) as the Spiritual Director for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, let us pray the words of the Rule(2.2) which calls us to journey together towards holiness:

(Alternate sides)

- Vincentians are called to journey together towards holiness, because true holiness is perfect union with Christ and the perfection of love, which is central to their vocation and the source of its fruitfulness.
- Vincentians aspire to burn with the love of God as revealed by Christ and to deepen their own faith and fidelity.
- Vincentians are aware of their own brokenness and need for God's grace. They seek His glory, not their own. Their ideal is to help relieve suffering for love alone, without thinking of any reward or advantage for themselves.
- Vincentians draw nearer to Christ, by serving Him in the poor and one another. They grow more perfect in love by expressing compassionate and tender love to the poor and one another.

(The President hands the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to the new Spiritual Director)

President:

Receive this Manual and Rule of the Society as the sign of your leadership and responsibility. May the Holy Spirit grant you a receptive mind and a loving heart so that you will come to know the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Since the beginning of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Spiritual Advisor has been appointed to help foster the spiritual life of the members under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in conformity with the Rule of the Society.

And so I now ask you:

Do you (Name) , promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, promoting the work of the Society by giving inspiration and challenge for the adoption of works in keeping with changing times and needs?

Spiritual Advisor: I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.

President: Do you promise to be a spiritual animator, developing the Vincentian spiritual life of the members so that they may better understand the meaning of charity and its practical application toward those in need?

Spiritual Advisor: I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that we all will be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.

President: Do you promise to help all members reach a deeper faith awareness of their participation in the mystery of the Church and their vocation as Christians and Vincentians to serve and minister to others as well as to each other?

Spiritual Advisor: I do, and I pray that we will be filled with the grace to identify with the poor and needy, and to foster friendship with each other and those we serve.

President: Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, attend meetings, provide scriptural and Vincentian readings and prayers, participate in the discussions and provide guidance on spiritual matters?

Spiritual Director: I do, and I pray that I will be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

Leader: (Name) , you have generously accepted an important responsibility as a Spiritual Director of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I now ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: Hail Mary...

Leader: Prayer of Blessing and Commissioning

Let us now raise our hands in blessing as we pray together:

In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our Founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, we commission you (Name) as the Spiritual Advisor of the (Name) .

We ask for the grace that with your wisdom and leadership, we may together:

- grow in holiness,
- deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and
- serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.

Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)



FUNERAL / WAKE SERVICE

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- The leader of these services can be a Conference officer or member, District or Council officer or a Spiritual Advisor.
- All Vincentians present may sit up front together as a visible group.
- At the Wake or Funeral Mass the Vincentians can form an honor guard, each holding a candle. A symbol of the Society, cross or medal, may be placed either on the casket or table.
- A SVdP symbol can also be presented to the family at the end of the service.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



VINCENTIAN WAKE SERVICE

For our Brother/Sister

Name

Earthly Birth Date

Heavenly Birth Date



(COUNCIL/CONFERENCE NAME)

DATE

Leader: We are here to celebrate our brother/sister Vincentian,
_____(Name)_____ coming to the fullness of life in the Lord.
And so we begin:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen

Leader: It is a normal human reaction to be sorrowful and to mourn the death of someone very dear to us. This sorrow is changed to a special joy when death is understood as the beginning of life with God. Our Savior reversed the sequence from birth to death. He showed that the seed must die before the flower can grow. So it is with us. We must die to attain the ultimate purpose of God's creation. At that first moment of existence God left his signature on _____(Name)_____ and on all of us. God now claims _____(Name)_____ as his own, and he/she now lives with God.

Let us pray now pray for _____(Name)_____, his/her family and friends:

Father of all consolation, death flees the brightness of the Resurrection as darkness shrinks from the light of the sun.

As you have washed us in Baptism and fed us at the table of your Son, so strengthen us to realize that in death life is not ended but changed and keep us in the unity with you and with all people, including those who have gone before us. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Reading: A reading from the Gospel of Luke (4:18-19):

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the down-trodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favor.

All: Lord, we thank you for the gift of _____(Name)_____ to the people he/she served through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In compassion, he/she reached out to those who are poor and suffering and saw your face in each of them. He/she is a life to be carried on, a heart in which one's own heart is enkindled, a model of your love to all he/she encountered.

Amen

Reading: A reading from the Gospel of John (13:34-35):

Jesus said, "My children, I am not to be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: Love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. This is how all will know you for my disciples: your love for one another."

All: Lord, our brother/sister Vincentian (Name) followed your commandment and became your disciple by loving those who were neglected and poor. We ask for the grace to continue to serve the poor in the same spirit as he/she lived. (Name) chose to embrace the needy and suffering of this world, and we now ask you Lord to embrace (Name) throughout eternal life. We ask this in your name. Amen

Leader: Let us ask the Good Shepherd to hear our requests:
Lord, grant eternal joy to our Vincentian brother/sister,
 (Name) .

All: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, be with the family of our Vincentian brother/sister,
 (Name) , in their sorrow bring them hope and peace.

All: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, may the poor continue to receive the support of
 (Name) 's prayers, and the charitable efforts of the Vincentian Family.

All: Lord, graciously hear our prayer.

Leader: In union with Vincentians everywhere, let us pray as our Lord taught us to pray:

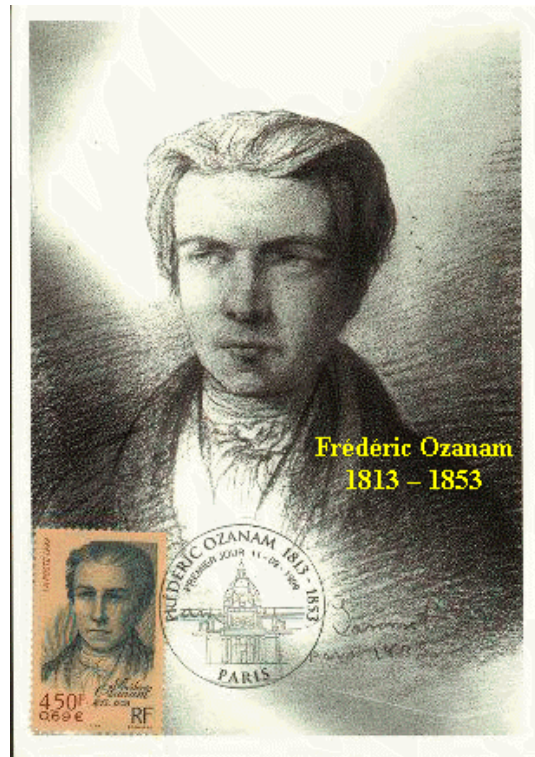
All: Our Father...

Leader: We now present to the family the (Name symbol) of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in memory of (Name) , as we pray:

Father, we entrust our beloved Vincentian (Name) to your loving care. May eternal light shine on him/her, with all your saints forever, for you are rich in mercy. May his/her devotion to your poor be an inspiration to us who remain. We ask this through Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Frederic Ozanam , Founder

VINCENTIAN FUNERAL SERVICE

For our Brother/Sister

Name

Earthly Birth Date

Heavenly Birth Date



(COUNCIL/CONFERENCE NAME)

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen

Leader: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray in behalf of our brother/sister, (Name) ,
who has faithfully served the poor in this life and seeks eternal rest.

All: God our Father, you gave St. Vincent de Paul the
courage and holiness of an Apostle for the service of the poor
and suffering, and we now give thanks for the gift that
 (Name) was to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

In compassion, he/she reached out to those who are poor and
suffering and saw your face in each of them. He/she is a life to
be carried on, a heart in which one's own heart is enkindled, a
model of your love to all he/she encountered.

Help us to be zealous in continuing his/her work in the spirit of
St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic Ozanam. We ask this in Jesus
name. Amen

Leader: Holding (Name) , his/her family and friends in prayer,
we pray:
The Lord is my shepherd; here is nothing I shall want.

All: The Lord is my shepherd; here is nothing I shall want.

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures He
gives me repose; beside restful waters He leads me; He refreshes my
soul.

All: The Lord is my shepherd; here is nothing I shall want.

Leader: He guides me in right paths for His name's sake. Even though I walk
in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side. With your rod
and staff that give me courage.

All: The Lord is my shepherd; here is nothing I shall want.

Leader: Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I
shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.

All: The Lord is my shepherd; here is nothing I shall want.

Reading: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (25:31-46)

When the Son of Man comes as King, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, and all the earth's people will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats at his left. The King will say to the people on his right, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father: Come and receive the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me." The righteous will then answer him, "When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?" The King will answer them, "I tell you, indeed, whenever you did this for one of the least brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me!"

All: Lord, our brother/sister Vincentian (Name) chose to embrace the needy and suffering of this world knowing that "whatever he/she did for one of the least important of your brothers and sisters, he/she did it for you. We now ask you Lord to embrace (Name) throughout eternal life. We ask this in your name. Amen

Leader: St. Vincent de Paul, our patron and Blessed Frederic, our founder, both had a great love and devotion for Mary, our Blessed Mother. Vincentians all over the world share in that special love and devotion. Let us ask that Mary, will welcome (Name) in heaven and present him/her to her Son, Jesus. And so we pray:

All: Hail Mary....

Leader: We now present to the family the (Name symbol) of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in memory of (Name) , as we pray:

Father, we entrust our beloved Vincentian (Name) to your mercy. You loved him/her in this life; now give him/her happiness and peace forever. The old order has passed away; welcome (Name) now into paradise where there will be no more sorrow, no more weeping, suffering or pain, but only peace and joy. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



**Frederic Ozanam
1813-1853
Founder**

VINCENTIAN MEMORIAL SERVICE

For our Brother/Sister

Name

Earthly Birth Date

Heavenly Birth Date



(COUNCIL/CONFERENCE NAME)

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen

Leader: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray in behalf of our brother/sister, (Name) ,
who has faithfully served the poor in this life and seeks eternal rest.

All: God our Father, you gave St. Vincent de Paul the
courage and holiness of an Apostle for the service of the poor
and suffering, and we now give thanks for the gift that
 (Name) was to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

In compassion, he/she reached out to those who are poor and
suffering and saw your face in each of them. He/she is a life to
be carried on, a heart in which one's own heart is enkindled, a
model of your love to all he/she encountered.

Help us to be zealous in continuing his/her work in the spirit of
St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic Ozanam. We ask this in Jesus
name. Amen

Reading: A reading from the Gospel of Mark (12:28-31):

One of the scribes who had listened to them debating and had
observed how well Jesus had answered them, now came up and
put a question to him. "Which is the first of all the
commandments?" Jesus replied, "This is the first: Listen,
Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love
the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind and
with all your strength. The second is this: you must love your
neighbor as yourself."

All: Lord, our brother/sister Vincentian (Name) chose to
embrace the needy and suffering of this world knowing that you
called us to "love our neighbor as ourselves." We now ask you Lord to
embrace (Name) throughout eternal life. We ask this in your
name. Amen

Leader: St. Vincent de Paul, our patron and Blessed Frederic, our founder,
both had a great love and devotion for Mary, our Blessed Mother.
Vincentians all over the world share in that special love and devotion.
Let us ask that Mary, will welcome (Name) in heaven and
present him/her to her Son, Jesus. And so we pray:

All: Hail Mary....

Leader: Let us now pray for our brother/sister (Name) who proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ and served the needs of the poor, that he/she may be welcomed into the company of saints. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the family and friends of (Name), that they may be consoled in the sorrow. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all those who are poor, who are abandoned and hopeless, find compassion and healing from the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all those who have gone before us, that they may enjoy God face to face. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For all of us assembled here in faith, that we may be gathered together again in God's kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We now present to the family the (Name symbol) of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in memory of (Name), as we pray:

All: Gracious God, we entrust our beloved Vincentian to your loving mercy. May his/her devotion to the poor be a continual inspiration and challenge to us who remain. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

Leader: Please extend your hand in blessing, as we pray:

Eternal rest grant to (Name), O Lord.

All: And may your perpetual light shine upon him/her.

Leader: May (Name), rest in peace.

All: Amen



VINCENTIAN PRAYER SERVICES

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FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8

Leader:

The feast of the Immaculate Conception has always been one of the four main festival days on which Vincentians are expected to gather and celebrate. This feast day celebration dates back to the very beginning of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and can be traced to Frederic Ozanam himself.

Since the earliest days of the Society, members have shown great devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. Prayers before and after each meeting are offered to place us under her protection and guidance in order to persevere in our apostolate and perfect the virtue of Christian Charity.

Ozanam, our principal founder, developed a great spirit of piety by fervent devotion to the Blessed Virgin and this virtue was explicitly expressed in the text of the decree for the introduction of his cause for beatification.

Ozanam at all times reminded members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul that Mary was the heavenly patroness of the Society. It was Ozanam who, shortly after the beginning of the Society, formally proposed that the Mother of God—Mary Immaculate—should be the heavenly patroness of the Society. It was Ozanam’s suggestion that, at each Conference meeting, the Hail Mary should be said and that the Feast of the Immaculate Conception should be a festival day of the Society. Just prior to his death in 1853, despite protests from his wife and friends, Ozanam desired to walk to the Church saying—“This is my last walk on the earth and I desire that it should be to visit my God and His Blessed Mother.”

It is no wonder the tender devotion to the Mother of God—Immaculate Mary—has been, and still is, traditional among the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for she is their heavenly patroness.

Spiritual Advisor: O God, through the intercession of Mary, conceived without sin, we now lift our voices in praise:

All: -we ask for the grace to embrace God's will as Mary did.

Spiritual Advisor: Through Mary, seat of wisdom,

All: -we ask for the grace to believe that all things are possible with God.

Spiritual Advisor: Through Mary, our Mother,

All: -we ask for the grace to bring strength to the weary and comfort to those in sorrow.

Spiritual Advisor: Through Mary, source of our joy,

All: -we ask for the grace of healing for those who are brokenhearted.

Spiritual Advisor: Through Mary, queen of all saints,

All: -we ask for the grace of recognizing the goodness in all those we serve.

Leader: In the spirit of Mary's Magnificat, we pray:

(Alternate sides)

- Our souls are filled with wonder at the gift of our loving, and our spirits take on new meaning in the giving of love. God of love, you have looked upon us with favor as we join our lives in response to you.
- Yes, from this time on, all people who look upon us will recognize us as being friends and will call us blessed, for you, the One who dwells in human hearts, have done great things for us.
- Holy, is your name, and your confirming joy reaches from age to age to those who dare to journey with us in the service of our least brothers and sisters.
- You have shown us the life-changing power of our love in the eyes of those whose lives we touch, and we recognize that the bondedness of human hearts and lives reflects one true reality, the Living God.

Leader: And so we pray together: Hail Mary...

Closing Song: (Conclude with a song to Mary)



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE December 12

Patroness of the Americas and Protector of the Unborn

Leader:

The Blessed Virgin Mary, by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, is the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas. On December 9, 1531, Our Lady appeared to Saint Juan Diego, an Indian Christian, whom she sent to the bishop with the request to build a Church in her honor on the hill where she appeared. The bishop asked Juan Diego for a sign to prove that the Virgin had appeared to him.

Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego again on December 12 and promised that his uncle would be healed. She directed Juan Diego to gather a bouquet of roses that miraculously appeared on a bush nearby (roses do not bloom at this time of the year) to present to the bishop. Juan Diego gathered the roses in his *tilma* (cloak). When he opened his *tilma* before the bishop, the roses fell to the floor, and the bishop was amazed to see the miraculous image of the Mother of God imprinted on the cloak. The image persuaded the bishop to believe what Juan Diego had told him, and the Church was built.

This image, which almost immediately inspired the conversion to Christianity of many thousands of Indians, may still be seen in the Cathedral in Mexico City. Many believe that the fact that the image remains intact on a coarse fabric woven of a cactus-like plant that ordinarily deteriorates within a few years is further indication of the miraculous nature of the image. The symbolic significance of the image include Mary's complexion, which is similar to that of the Indians who were native to the region, her pregnancy, the gold stars adorning her blue mantle that representing the heavens, the purple tassels of her sash signifying royalty.

All: Our Lady of Guadalupe, mystical rose, intercede for the Church, protect the Holy Father, help all who invoke you in their necessities. Since you are the ever Virgin Mary and Mother of the true God, obtain for us from your most holy Son the Grace of a firm faith and sure hope amid the bitterness of life, as well as an ardent love and the precious gift of final perseverance. Amen.

Spiritual Advisor:

O God of power and mercy, You blessed the Americas at Tepeyac with the presence of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe. May her prayers help all men and women to accept each other as brothers and sisters. Through Your justice present in our hearts, may Your peace reign in the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

Reading: Zechariah 2:14-17

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion; for lo, I come and I will dwell in the midst of you, says the Lord. And many nations shall join themselves to the Lord in that day, and shall be My people; and I will dwell in the midst of you, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. And the Lord will inherit Judah as His portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem."

Leader: Let us pray together to Our Lady of Guadalupe:

All: God of all peoples, you blessed the hope of the poor through the presence of the Blessed Virgin to Juan Diego at Guadalupe. Through her prayers and intercession, may all peoples learn to live together in peace and justice. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

Closing Song: (End with a song to Mary)

PRAYER MEDITATION

OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

November 27

The Medal of the Immaculate Conception, popularly known as the Miraculous Medal, was designed by the Blessed Virgin herself! No wonder, then that it wins such extraordinary graces for those who wear it and pray for Mary's intercession and help.



The First Apparition



The story begins on the night of July 18-19, 1830. A child (perhaps her guardian angel) awakened Sister (now Saint) Catherine Labouré, a novice in the community of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, and summoned her to the chapel. There she met with the Virgin Mary and spoke with her for several hours. During the conversation Mary said to her, “My child, I am going to give you a mission.”

The Second Apparition



Mary gave her this mission in a vision during evening meditation on November 27, 1830. She saw Mary standing on what seemed to be half a globe and holding a golden globe in her hands as if offering it to heaven. On the globe was the word “France,” and our Lady explained that the globe represented the whole world, but especially France. The times were difficult in France then, especially for the poor who were unemployed and often refugees from the many wars of the time. France was first to experience many of those troubles which ultimately reached many other parts of the world and are even present today. Streaming from rings Mary's fingers as she held the globe were many rays of light. Mary explained that the rays symbolize the graces she obtains for those who ask for them. However, some of the gems on the rings were dark, and Mary explained that the rays and graces were available but did not come because no one had asked for them.

The Third Apparition and the Miraculous Medal

The vision then changed to show our Lady standing on a globe with her arms now outstretched and with the dazzling rays of light still streaming from her fingers. Framing the figure was an inscription: *O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.*



The Meaning of the Front Side of the Miraculous Medal

Mary is standing upon a globe, crushing the head of a serpent beneath her foot. She stands upon the globe, as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. Her feet crush the serpent to proclaim Satan and all his followers are helpless before her (Gn 3:15). The year of 1830 on the Miraculous Medal is the year the Blessed Mother gave the design of the Miraculous Medal to Saint Catherine Labouré. The reference to Mary conceived without sin supports the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary—not to be confused with the virgin birth of Jesus, and referring to Mary's sinlessness, “full of grace” and “blessed among women” (Luke 1:28)—that was proclaimed 24 years later in 1854.

The vision turned and showed the design of the reverse side of the medal. Twelve stars encircled a large “M” from which arose a cross. Below are two hearts with flames arising from them. One heart is encircled in thorns and the other is pierced by a sword.



The Meaning of the Back Side of the Miraculous Medal

The twelve stars can refer to the Apostles, who represent the entire Church as it surrounds Mary. They also recall the vision of Saint John, writer of the Book of Revelation (12:1), in which “a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of 12 stars.” The cross can symbolize Christ and our redemption, with the bar under the cross a sign of the earth. The “M” stands for Mary, and the interleaving of her initial and the cross shows Mary’s close involvement with Jesus and our world. In this we see Mary’s part in our salvation and her role as mother of the Church. The two hearts represent the love of Jesus and Mary for us. (See also Lk 2:35).

Then Mary spoke to Catherine: “Have a medal struck upon this model. Those who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck.” Catherine explained the entire series of apparitions to her confessor, and she worked through him to carry out Mary’s instructions. She did not reveal that she received the Medal until soon before her death 47 years later.

With approval of the Church, the first Medals were made in 1832 and were distributed in Paris. Almost immediately the blessings that Mary had promised began to shower down on those who wore her Medal. The devotion spread like wildfire. Marvels of grace and health, peace and prosperity, following in its wake. Before long people were calling it the “Miraculous” Medal. And in 1836, a Canonical inquiry undertaken at Paris declared the apparitions to be genuine.

There is no superstition, nothing of magic, connected with the Miraculous Medal. The Miraculous Medal is not a “good-luck charm”. Rather, it is a great testimony to faith and the power of trusting prayer. Its greatest miracles are those of patience, forgiveness, repentance, and faith. God uses a Medal, not as a sacrament, but as an agent, an instrument, in bringing to pass certain marvelous results. “The weak things of this earth hath God chosen to confound the strong.”

When our Blessed Mother gave the design of the medal to Saint Catherine Labouré she said, “Now it must be given to the whole world and to every person.”



Beatitude Prayer



Leader: Lord, be with us, and give us the grace to live the Beatitudes, the blessings of happiness that Jesus taught us:

(Each person will read a Beatitude):

- Happy are those who know how to laugh at themselves, they will never run out of amusement.
- Happy are those who know how to distinguish between a mountain and a molehill, they will be spared much trouble.
- Happy are those who know how to rest and to sleep without looking for excuses, they will become wise.
- Happy are those who can be silent and who can listen, they shall learn many new things.
- Happy are those who are intelligent enough not to take themselves seriously, they shall be appreciated by those around them.
- Happy are those who are attentive to others without thinking themselves indispensable, they will sow joy.
- Happy are those who know how to take little things and serious things peacefully, they will go far in life.
- Happy are those who can admire a smile and ignore a frown, they will travel in sunshine.
- Happy are those who think before acting and who pray before thinking, they will avoid much foolishness.
- Happy are those who can be silent and smile when interrupted, contradicted or stepped on, the Gospel is beginning to penetrate their heart.
- Happy especially are you who can recognize the Lord in all whom you meet, you have found true light and veritable wisdom.

Together:

Lord, grant us the wisdom to recognize you in all of the events of each day and in all of those with whom we live and work, so that as Vincentians we will truly become Beatitude People. Amen





BLESSING CEREMONY

St. Vincent de Paul Store

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: Come and breathe your life anew.

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and
enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:
"Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them
and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and
recover their own dignity, for we are all created in
God's image. In the poor, they see the suffering
Christ." (1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frederic Ozanam was:
"To establish a network of charity and social justice
to circle the world."

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: As Vincentians we are:
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.

Spiritual Advisor: (Presenting a Cross)

**May this crucifix always remind all who serve in this Store,
that they have the responsibility to live the Mission and Values
of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.**

AT THE ENTRANCE:

**Leader: Almighty and everlasting God grant to this Store the grace of
loving compassion to all those who walk through these doors.**

**Bless those who donate merchandise to this store, reward them
for their generosity and kindness.**

**Bless all the volunteers who give of their time and love to bring
your goodness and concern to those who come to shop and to
visit.**

**Bless all who work here, guide them in all of their decisions so
that through them all may find your peace and goodness.**

All: Amen

IN THE SALES AREA:

**Leader: Compassionate God, may your peace always stay in this store,
making it a place where we can each grow into better friends
with you and with one another and give us grateful hearts so
that we will always be mindful of your generosity and goodness
to us. We ask this grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

All: Amen

IN THE SORTING AREA:

**Leader: Creator God, your blessed Son worked with his hands in the
carpenter shop in Nazareth. Be with all those who work in this
area, that laboring as workers with you they may share the joy
of your creation. We ask this grace through Jesus Christ our
Lord.**

All: Amen

IN THE EMPLOYEE AREA:

Leader: Sustainer God, guard and protect the employees who strive to serve our suffering brothers and sisters. Give them the grace to treat each person with respect and dignity. Bless this place for food and drink, so that the time together will bring refreshment and fulfillment for their busy lives. We ask this grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Leader: Let us ask the blessing of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic upon our new store, as we pray:

All: Lord Jesus, deepen our Vincentian spirit of friendship as we carry out the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Make us responsive to the Christian calling to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that we may bring them your love.

Help us to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in our mission of charity and perfect in us Your love, so that we may become more like you, and more inspired by the lives of St. Vincent and Bl. Frederic. Amen

FINAL BLESSING:

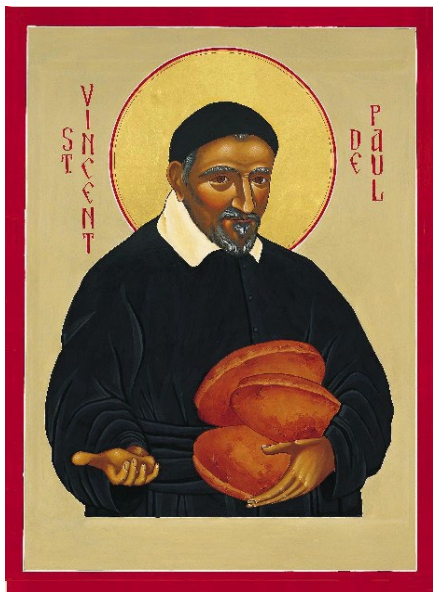
Spiritual Advisor: Lord God, we ask that you bless all those benefactors and Vincentians, those living and deceased, whose generosity, foresight and prudence have made this new St. Vincent de Paul Store possible.



May our new Store always be a source of healing and hope to all those who need your mercy and kindness. Give us the grace to live the Mission and Values of the Society, so that we will be worthy to bear the name of St. Vincent de Paul.

This we ask in Jesus name. Amen

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)



(Alternate sides)

A GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: **Today we gather.
Meeting together to consider
where we stand
and who we are.**

**We come to organize ourselves
into a deeper understanding
of who we are called to be.
And so we pray:**

- **Be with us, O God,
in this space and time
as we affirm and shape the changes
in our understanding of our Vincentian spirit.**
- **We desire not to fly apart
in a fantasy of dreams
but rather to move the boundaries
that we have set before
in order to encompass and embrace
the living and breathing insights of each and all.**
- **We work in prayer and dialogue.
In going back to see where we have been,
we steady ourselves for the meeting today.
Each step along the way we clear the stones
and obstacles, healing and refreshing each other.
We listen openly to each one's thoughts and
hear each one's proposal for the renewal.**
- **Knowing you are here, God,
we are freer in our interaction,
more daring in the sharing of our own visions,
loving in our confrontation,
deeply silent in consideration, and accepting in
the choices that will help us to define our Vincentian spirit.**

(Together)

**In this your presence,
we meet to order ourselves anew,
to consider where we stand and who we are.
Today we gather in your name. Amen**

Leader: We now pray to the Holy Spirit to be with us:

(Alternate Sides)

- ***C*ome, Spirit, Comforter and Consoler.**
Heal the wounded. Soothe the anxious.
Be consolation for all who grieve and ache.
- ***C*ome, Spirit, who energizes our being.**
Keep us from the tangles of toil and travail.
Lead us to moments of prayer and solitude.
- ***C*ome, Spirit, consuming Fire of Love.**
Fill us with enthusiasm for your vision.
May the desire for truth be vibrant in us.
- ***C*ome, Spirit, joy of our souls.**
Dance amid life's hills and valleys,
Center us in the chaos of our lives.
- ***C*ome, Spirit of wisdom and insight.**
Draw us toward your goodness and light.
Direct our growth and guide our ways.
- ***C*ome, Spirit, strength of wounded ones.**
Be warmth in the hearts of those grown cold.
Empower the powerless. Rekindle the weary.

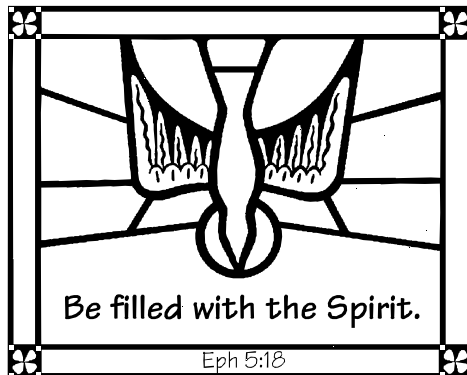
(Together)

- ***C*ome Spirit, source of our Peace.**
Deepen in us the action of peacemakers.
Heal our hearts and
center our lives in your love. Amen

Closing Song; (Conclude with an appropriate song)



HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER



Leader:

**Holy Spirit, please abide with us,
so that our hearts may burn within us,
and our imagination be fired with the passion to do Your will.
Give us the grace to walk together in your light and love.
Amen**

(Alternate sides)

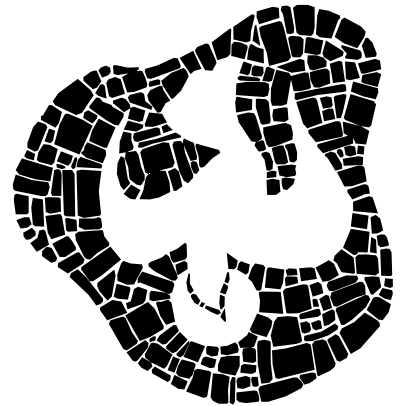
- **Come, Holy Spirit,
Open our eyes to see,
Open our ears to hear,
Open our hearts to show the love that drives out fear.**
- **Spirit of light and truth,
Pierce through the darkness of our minds.
So that praying together and searching together,
we may better respond to the needs of those we serve.**
- **Spirit of strength and life,
Give us the courage to endure.
So that striving together and working together,
we may create our future full of hope.**
- **Spirit of creativity and joy,
We follow your call to serve and not be served.
Bless us with insight and wisdom.
that we may renew the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.**

(Together):

**O God, continue to grace us with your love,
through the gifts of the Spirit,
that we may reach out to touch you
in the poor and the suffering,
as witnesses to the Gospel values
of Jesus, your Son. Amen**

Leader: Let us pray (alternate sides)

- **O Holy Spirit, let us never be afraid of a new idea,
or unreceptive to a new thought,
lest we pull down the shades of our minds
and exclude your Holy Light.**
- **Give us the grace of humility
and the spirit of an open mind,
the courage to persist in the face of difficulties
and a steady confidence in the power of truth.**
- **Help us all to learn something this day,
that we shall be wiser at it close
and closer to You.**
- **You, have brought us to this new day
and further opportunity.
Help us to work with You so that it may be a good day
with good things done.**
- **We know that a different world
cannot be built by indifferent people.
May there be no apathy in this place,
no lukewarmness or mediocrity.**



Together:

**O God of Love, help us to feel deeply the flow
of Your life in our innermost hearts.
For it is Your life that bonds us together with one another.
It is Your love that joins our yearning for new visions
as we long to become one with You
in the great act of giving life to a transformed Society of St.
Vincent de Paul. We ask for Your wisdom, grace and
understanding to lead us into the future. Amen**

Closing song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)



HOME VISIT PRAYERS

PRAYER BEFORE A VISIT:

Father, we ask you to provide all that we need as we do the work you have given us to do. Fill our hearts with your love, help us to listen with compassion and to speak with kindness and confidence.

Jesus, we pray for the grace to go with out our preconceived judgments so that we can be true peacemakers. Stir in us the fire of your love and guide us with discernment. Fill our hearts with wisdom, generosity and kindness.

Holy Spirit, inspire us with joy and patience. Be at work in us so that we will bring good news to the downcast, healing to the brokenhearted, hope to the destitute, love and compassion to all who are suffering.

PRAYER WITH THE FAMILY:

God, our Father, thank you for this visit and the opportunity to meet with (Names). Lord you know each of us. You knew us from the day we were born, you know our hearts, our needs, and everything about us. You told us that you will never leave us or forsake us. You ask us to seek, and ye shall find, knock and the door will be opened, ask and it shall be given. We are all asking today for each of our needs, some spoken and some in our hearts. And so we pray together: Our Father...

Please Lord, walk with us and give us your strength in our worries and difficulties. Amen

PRAYER AFTER THE VISIT:

Thank you Lord for all the blessings you have given us today. We ask you to continue to bless the ones we have visited, please inspire them to trust in you and come to you for their needs. We pray (names of each person and specific needs). We pray that our work may be continued by your Vincentian servants and completed by your grace, in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Bl. Frederic Ozanam. Amen



LEADERSHIP PRAYER

Leader: Lord, God of Unity and Strength,
we approach this meeting as a time of communion
with You and with each other.
May the spirit of prayer not only begin our work
but sustain it and conclude it as well.

(Alternate sides):

- As we explore the impact of our decisions
on the Society of St. Vincent de Paul,
may our love for You and
our reverence for one another unite us.
- As we face the challenges and difficulties,
give us the grace to share our wisdom and insights,
to respect and to listen to each other and
together may we discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us.
- When we struggle, help us to be respectful.
- When we speak, inspire us to be kind.
- When we listen, give us understanding.
- When we decide, grant us courage.

(Together):

Gracious God, open our minds,
inspire our wills, guide our actions,
draw us into one and support our faith.
Give us the grace to discover and discern Your will.
Amen

Reading: (Words of Frederic Ozanam)

**“A patron is a model one must strive to imitate,
as he himself imitated the model of Jesus Christ.
He is a life to be carried on,
a heart in which one’s own heart is enkindled,
an intelligence from which light should be sought;
he is a model on earth and a protector in heaven.
A twofold devotion is owed him,
imitation and invocation...
Let us work in the light of St. Vincent de Paul:
let us honor our Father in this patron so worthy of love,
and we shall live long.” (Frederic Ozanam)**

Leader:

**Let us pause for a moment of silence, asking the Holy Spirit
to fill our hearts and minds with the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul,
and Blessed Frederic Ozanam...**

Let us pray:

**Compassionate God, you called Vincent to minister to the
needs of your people,**

**All: Give us courage to walk in his footsteps as we seek to serve
those who are suffering and poor.**

**Creator God, by your grace Frederic gave birth to the Society of St.
Vincent de Paul,**

**All: Give to all members, throughout the world, faithfulness to his
spirit.**

**Spirit of God, by your grace you call us out of ourselves to become
disciples,**

All: Give us eyes of faith and compassionate hearts.

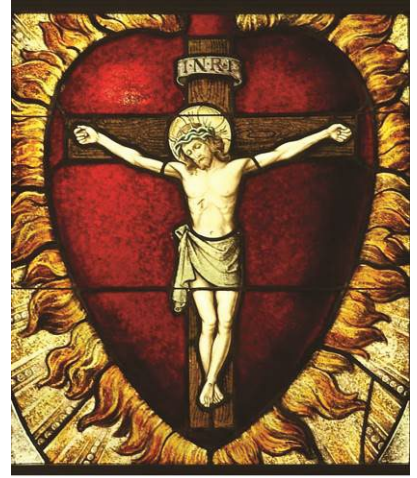
**Gracious God, you invite us to participate in the building up of our
Society,**

**All: Give us your wisdom to guide our discernment and decisions.
Amen**

Closing Song: (End with an appropriate song)

PRIEST GRATITUDE PRAYER

Vincentian Priest Cross Presentation



Leader:

We gather together today in gratitude and appreciation for the guidance, encouragement and inspiration that Fr. _____ has given to us in our Vincentian vocation as members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. In thanksgiving to you we pray:

May God the Father who made you, bless you.

May God the Son send his grace upon you.

May the Holy Spirit move within you and give you a loving heart. Amen

Deacon: A reading from Scripture (Mt. 25: 31-46)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him and say, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and cloth you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?” And the king will say to them in reply, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me.” (Matthew 25: 31-46)

Deacon: Blesses the Cross

**May this Vincentian Cross and the one who wears it be blessed,
In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen**

Leader: Father (name) in gratitude for your support and encouragement we present to you this VINCENTIAN CROSS.

Let us now extend our hands over Father _____ as we ask God to bless him for giving us eyes to see and ears to hear the suffering of our brothers and sisters:

- ❖ For inspiring us to see that:
 To the hungry, Vincentian Compassion comes as a hot meal
 To the homeless, a safe place to sleep
 To the poor, new clothes to wear
 To those who thirst, clean water
All: We give you thanks.

- ❖ For urging us to hear the cries of the poor understanding that:
 To the sick, Vincentian Kindness comes as a healing hand
 To those in sorrow, a peaceful presence
 To the elderly, a sympathetic ear
 To the lost, a guiding voice
All: We give you thanks.

- ❖ For stirring our hearts to appreciate that:
 To the lonely, Vincentian Understanding comes as a caring visit
 To the fearful, a reassuring calm
 To the refugee, a warm welcome
 To the prisoner, a spirit reborn
All: We give you thanks.

- ❖ For supporting us to comprehend that:
 To the unemployed, Vincentian Advocacy comes as a long-sought job
 To those who fail, a second chance
 To the addict, twelve steps to freedom
 To the dying, an unwavering hope
All: We give you thanks.

Let us pray together: (Numbers 6:24-26)

**Father,
 May the Lord bless you and keep you,
 The Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you,
 The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.
 Amen**



A PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION



Forgive your
brother or sister
from your heart.”

Mt 18:35

Leader:

Lord, come and stand among us so that all we say and do will be filled with the your sacred medicine of healing. Remind us how short our lives are so that we will not delay this reunion of hearts. Inspire us to see how this estrangement can serve to bring us even closer together, closer than we were before all this happened.

(Alternate sides:)

- **Come, Lord of Healing and Unity, we are in need of Your divine assistance.**
- **We need to approach each other, to share our feelings and to find a way to peace and understanding.**
- **We are now estranged, and the canyon between us is painful and empty of you. Help us to be honest as we seek reunion.**
- **Open to our vision the ways by which we have failed and have been lacking in consideration. Let our hearts be ready to see how we have sinned.**
- **We need Your help so that we may move beyond our own feelings to an awareness of the other who is also suffering.**
- **You, Searcher of Hearts, know how all of us in our own ways are at fault. Teach us to be humble as we seek reunion.**

Spiritual Advisor:

We ask Christ, St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Frederic Ozanam and Blessed Rosalie Rendu, to give us the courage to open our hearts, to let go of hurts, our anger and the past. We pray for the grace to grow spiritually, emotionally and organizationally. Quiet your heart, and ask the Holy Spirit to be with you.

Take a piece of paper and write down two or three specific hurts or painful experiences that have happened to you.

(Allow about 5-10 minutes of quiet reflection time)

Now tear up the hurts in small pieces and put them in a basket.

(Once all of the pieces are in the basket, the leader places them in an appropriate container and in front of the group burns the papers offering all of the hurts to God.)

Spiritual Advisor: Let us now pray

(Alternate sides)

- **Lord of Compassion,
Give us the grace to be servants of pardon, and
ministers of reconciliation as we heal the past.**
- **Give us the grace to be honest with each other
so that old scars can be healed and joy once
again can fill our lives.**
- **Give us the grace to forgive one another for any way
in which we have caused pain to one another,
or may have torn apart the fabric of unity
and support in our Conference/Council.**
- **Lord, You truly know that we all have made mistakes
and have failed;
look upon us who have been offended and lift our hearts;
look upon us who have given offense
and help us heal the hurt of our actions and words.**

Together:

**Lord, fill us with Your healing power and grace.
As we embrace each other in reconciliation,
may we be enveloped by You, united in your peace
and in your love. Amen**



A PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Leader:

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will descend on us as we begin our meeting. God who is in heaven and yet with us, your love is revealed through our understanding and celebration of your mysteries. See your people gathered here in prayer. We ask for the grace to be open to receive the Spirit's flame as we strive to renew the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. With one voice may we praise your name in joy and thanksgiving as we explore the very best ways to serve the poor and each other as we ponder the question: What is a "Live Organization?"

(Each one read a line)

- **A live organization has parking problems; a dying organization doesn't.**
- **A live organization often changes the way things are done to do things better; a dying organization doesn't need to change a thing.**
- **A live organization invites people to risk involvement and new ideas; a dying organization plays it safe and never risks anything.**
- **A live organization uses its traditions, resources and buildings to serve God and people; a dying organization uses people to serve its traditions and buildings.**
- **A live organization celebrates the future with hope; a dying organization worries.**
- **A live organization has lots of noise, excitement and sometimes confusion around it; a dying organization enjoys and encourages peace and quiet.**
- **A live organization forgives and seeks forgiveness; a dying organization never makes a mistake.**
- **A live organization is filled with and makes room for donors and lots of volunteers; a dying organization is filled with only memories of great days gone forever.**
- **A live organization looks for challenges and opportunities; a dying organization looks for problems, dangers and who to blame.**

- A live organization engages in ministry evangelized; a dying organization fossilizes.
- A live organization supports its vision and mission; a dying organization sees no need for either.

Leader:

God of history and of our heart,
so much has happened to us during these whirlwind days:
we've been brave and scared;
we've decided, and we've waffled;
we've laughed and we've cried.
You know our frail heart and our frayed history,
and now another time begins.
O God, help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul
to believe in beginnings and
help each member to make beginnings:



(Alternate Sides)

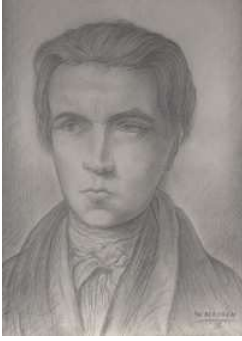
- to begin going out of our weary minds into fresh dreams,
- to dare to make our own bold tracks in the land of now;
- to begin forgiving, that we may know truth;
- to begin questioning the unquestionable, that we may know truth;
- to begin sacrificing, that we may accomplish justice;
- to begin risking, that we may make peace.

(Together)

God, help us to believe in beginnings.
To trust that in the necessary but difficult journey
in the darkness of the cocoon,
a transformation is occurring
and that new life like a butterfly will emerge.

Help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to make a beginning,
to be a beginning,
so that we may not just grow old,
but grow new each day of this amazing life
you call us to live with the passion of Vincent and Frederic.
May you grace us with strength and courage,
as we walk with you trusting in your Providence. Amen.





RETIREMENT PRAYER

IN THANKSGIVING FOR SERVICE IN THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen

Leader: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray in thanksgiving for, (Name) , who has faithfully served the poor in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for (years) , and is now retiring.

All: God our Father, you gave St. Vincent de Paul the courage and holiness of an Apostle for the service of the poor and suffering, and we now give thanks for the gift that (Name) has been to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

In compassion, he/she has reached out to those who are poor and suffering and saw your face in each of them. He/she is a life to be carried on, a heart in which one's own heart is enkindled, a model of your love to all he/she encountered.

Help us to be zealous in continuing his/her work in the spirit of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic Ozanam. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Reading: A reading from the Gospel of Mark (12:28-31):

One of the scribes who had listened to them debating and had observed how well Jesus had answered them, now came up and put a question to him. "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: you must love your neighbor as yourself."

All: Lord, (Name) lived the Gospel by choosing to embrace the needy and suffering knowing that you called us to “love our neighbor as ourselves.” We now ask you for the grace to carrying on the work of the Society in his/her spirit. We ask this in your name. Amen

Leader: St. Vincent de Paul, our patron and Blessed Frederic, our founder, both had a great love and devotion for Mary, our Blessed Mother. Vincentians all over the world share in that special love and devotion. Let us ask that Mary, will guard and protect (Name) and so we pray:

All: Hail Mary....

Leader: Please extend your hand over (Name) in blessing , as we pray in thanksgiving:

For all who give You a face, O God.
By spreading Your love in the world,
All: We praise you.

Leader: For all who give You hands, O God,
by doing their best towards others,
All: We praise you.

Leader: For all who give You a mouth , O God,
by defending the weak and oppressed,
All: We praise you.

Leader: For all who give You eyes, O God,
by seeing love in the hearts of others,
All: We praise you.

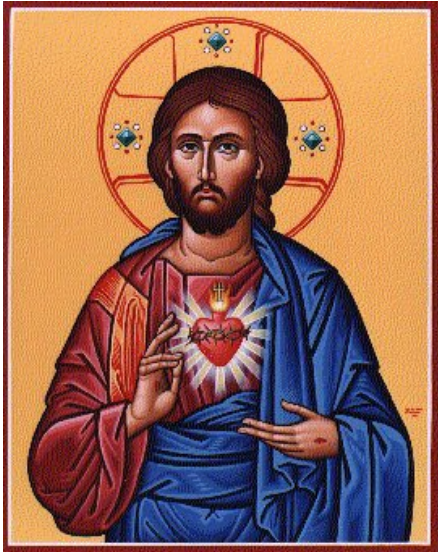
Leader: For all who give You a heart, O God,
by helping the weak,
All: We praise you.

Leader: For all who reveal You, O God,
by reflecting Your beauty in their lives,
All: We praise you.

Leader: For Your peace and grace on (Name) , O God,
who made real Your presence in our world,

All: We give thanks and praise. Amen





THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART

(Friday after the Second Sunday after Pentecost)

Leader:

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been solemnly consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus from February 5, 1872. At that time, an Act of Consecration was drawn up at the request of the Society and this act of consecration is renewed annually by all units of the Society.

Reader:

When we pray to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we try to make ourselves more conscious of the personal love which Jesus Christ has for each of us. Jesus said to us: “*This is my commandment-love one another as I have loved you.*” Jesus had a very big heart. We know many big-hearted people. Devotion to the Sacred Heart means that we, in turn, must try to be big-hearted persons. When we think of generosity, we think of money, but there are many things other than money with which we can be generous. We can be generous in forgiving. We can be generous in trying to understand others. We can be generous with the time we give to others, and I am sure you can think of many other ways in which we can be generous to others. Jesus was generous with all that He had to give and he had little or no money.

Spiritual Advisor:

O God, through the example of your Son, Jesus, you taught us that there is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. We earnestly pray:

All:

-Teach us to love one another.

Spiritual Advisor:

With tender compassion, O God, you have come into our midst and lifted us to your heart, binding us with love. With grateful hearts we pray:

All:

-Teach us to love one another.

Spiritual Advisor: For the broken-hearted, that God's healing love may come to them through the compassion of others,

All: -Teach us to love one another.

Spiritual Advisor: For families, that they may be grounded in love and strengthened by the love of the Sacred Heart,

All: -Teach us to love one another.

Spiritual Advisor: For the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, that we may bear witness to the love of the Sacred Heart,

All: -Teach us to love one another.

Spiritual Advisor: Let us now renew our Consecration to the Sacred Heart, in unison with all the Vincentians throughout the world:

Act of Consecration

Lord Jesus, Who seeing the cold indifference of the world, and in order to revive charity among all people, has unveiled before them Your Sacred Heart and revealed the infinite riches of Your divine love, behold us prostrate before You, we who form only one Family, by the bond of fraternal charity, scattered, it is true, throughout the world, but united under the standard of St. Vincent de Paul, and forming only one body and one soul in the common spirit of the apostolate of charity.

We dedicate and consecrate to Your divine person and to Your Sacred Heart this our Council (or Conference), and all the members who compose it, the poor whom we visit in Your name, the youth and children to whom we respond in order to maintain them in Your service; in a word, all those of whom we have the care, and all the works we have undertaken in various places for Your Glory.

Quite unworthy though we are, we beseech You to receive this offering in the odor of sweetness; inflame us with that fire, which from the depths of Your Heart, You desire to see burning more and more each day, in order that, filled with the tenderness of Your Heart, we may learn to despise things here below, to love and help our neighbor, by word and example, and that, among the vicissitudes of this world, we may fix our hearts on the riches and happiness that shall never end. Amen

Closing Song: (Close with an appropriate song)

VINCENTIANS SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST



Leader: Let us give thanks to God for calling us to serve the poor in the spirit of Jesus, as followers of Vincent and Frederic, especially for the grace that in the poor, “VINCENTIANS SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST”:

(Alternate sides)

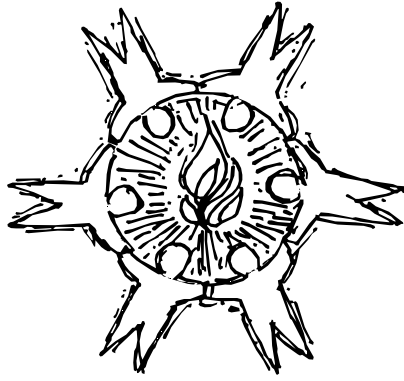
- Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus.
Faces beaming with success,
Demanding faces with eyebrows raised,
Intensely strained and challenging faces,
Faces daring glances asking that I do my very best for them.
- Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus.
Caring faces, gentle, kind and understanding.
Faces that bear the marks of the years of their giving.
Comforting faces, soft, smiling, relaxed,
Inviting me to trust and to love the poor.
- Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus.
Smooth-skinned young faces whose expressions
change in seconds with an array of emotion.
Lined faces of those who hold wisdom close to the heart.
Peaceful faces awaiting with expectancy, in hope and trust.
Faces aglow with goodness and peace.

- **Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus.**
Tragic faces manifesting physical or emotional pain
with head bent and eyes closed
with pain's unwritten statements.
Yes, I thought I saw you in the sad faces with
tears gently slipping down with hurt that knew no words.
All those faces waiting to be touched gently by their God.
- **Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus.**
All of them teaching me of life without words.
All gifts to me, sealed in human wrappings.
Lined and unlined, smooth and rough,
all emerging from your created masterpiece.
They are your face made visible to me.
- **Many faces I have thought were you, Jesus**
Each face manifesting you,
proclaiming you in deep emotions.
We reverence these faces of our past,
our present,
and the faces that will be in our tomorrow.

Together: **O God, we find you in the human faces**
that surround our daily lives,
for you are there.
Help us to serve you in all the faces of the poor,
and give us your grace so that we may be aware
of your presence alive in our midst.
Amen

Closing Song: **(Close with an appropriate song)**





THANKSGIVING PRAYER

(For the completion of Term of Office)

Leader:

We gather together to give thanks to (Name) ,
for his/her dedication and generosity in responding to the call
of leadership as the (President/Officer) of our
Conference/Council.

We are grateful for (Name) 's gifts which were so
generously given to us and to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
We ask for God's blessing to be upon him/her, as we pray:

God of Community,
who call us to be in friendship with one another,
and who promise to dwell wherever two or three are
gathered in your name, hear our prayer:

(Alternate sides):

- By your Spirit, Lord, you have graced each of us with differing gifts:
to one you have given the gift of speaking wisely,
to another, the utterance of knowledge
to another, faith
to another, gifts of healing.
- To some you have given the gift of prophecy,
to another, the working of miracles
to another, discernment of spirits
to another, various kinds of tongues, and
to another, the interpretation of tongues.
- For these and all gifts by which you bless our
Community, and especially by the leadership of
 (Name) we give you thanks.
- Open our eyes, O God,
to perceive the gifts you have placed within us and
to honor the differing gifts which our sisters and
brothers offer.

(Together)



**Bless our hands, our hearts, our vision,
so that we may work together for the bringing together
of your Kingdom;
in our differences, may we find grace
in our laboring, may we find justice
in our suffering, may we find hope
in our sharing, may we find faith
in our gratitude, may we find love.**

Amen

Spiritual Advisor:

**Holy Spirit of God, we ask you to bless us as we gather today.
As we stand together in thanksgiving for the past, and
now looking toward the future we ask you to keep us faithful to
the spirit of our patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our founder,
Blessed Frederic Ozanam. And so we pray:**

**When we come face to face with the challenge of self-giving, when we are
asked to go the extra mile, to take the risk of reaching out to another...**

All: Fill us with the energy of your love, Spirit of God.

**When someone needs a simple gesture of thoughtfulness, when a look of love
is all another asks from us...**

All: Create in us the energy of your kindness, Spirit of God.

**When difficult and fearful times threaten to drown our trust in you, and
during those life experiences when we are tempted to doubt all the ways we
have known you...**

All: Renew in us the energy of trusting in you, Spirit of God.

**When we celebrate and give thanks for our vocation to be Vincentians,
searching together to be authentic servants of the poor,**

All: Move us with the energy of your guidance, Spirit of God.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,	Pray for us.
St. Vincent de Paul,	Pray for us.
Blessed Frederic Ozanam,	Pray for us.
Blessed Rosalie Rendu,	Pray for us.

Amen



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PRAYER

Leader: We come together to give thanks for all the volunteers who have given countless dedicated hours of loving service to the suffering poor in the spirit of St. Vincent and Bl. Frederic, and so we pray:

(Alternate sides)

- **Lord, thank you for the Volunteer moment,
for each moment that brings:
 compassionate hearts
 and generous hands,
 and the ready smile,
for my full heart,
 and the hope straining in me.
Stretch me, Lord,
 to grow with whatever comes as a gift
 and to praise you in it.**
- **Lord, thank you for the Volunteer moment,
for each moment:
 the busy times, the good tired,
 the quiet reflection,
 and the slowing down,
for my contented heart
 and the wisdom growing inside me.
Gentle me, Lord,
 to feel whatever comes as a gift
 and to praise you in it.**
- **Lord, thank you for the volunteer moment,
for each moment:
 the emotional times,
 the hard decisions,
 and the unceasing demands,
for my intense heart
 and the truth expanding in me.
Ground me, Lord,
 to be open to whatever comes as a gift
 and to praise you in it.**

- **Lord, thank you for the Volunteer moment,
for each moment:
the sacred time,
the pain in the heart of the poor,
their tears in unutterable sadness
and their trembling gratitude,
for the Vincentian heart in me,
and the joy and love that is filling me.
Soften me,
to receive whatever comes as a gift,
that I may be grateful
and praise you in it all.**



Leader:

**Lord, let us not so much be concerned to be cared for
as to care, not so much to be materially secure as to know
that we are loved by You.**

**Let us not look to be served,
but to place ourselves at the service of others,
no matter what the cost to self interest,
for it is in loving vulnerability that we, like Jesus,
experience the fullness of what it means to be human.
It is in serving that we discover the healing springs of life.**

Let us pray together:

**We ask your blessing on us, O God:
In our discouragement and fatigue,
grant us laughter and support.
In our vision, give us zeal.
In our weakness, give us acceptance.
In our questioning,
grant that we may stand in truth.
Bless us now, in all things good and human.
For all things now and still to be,
we pray in thanks. Amen**

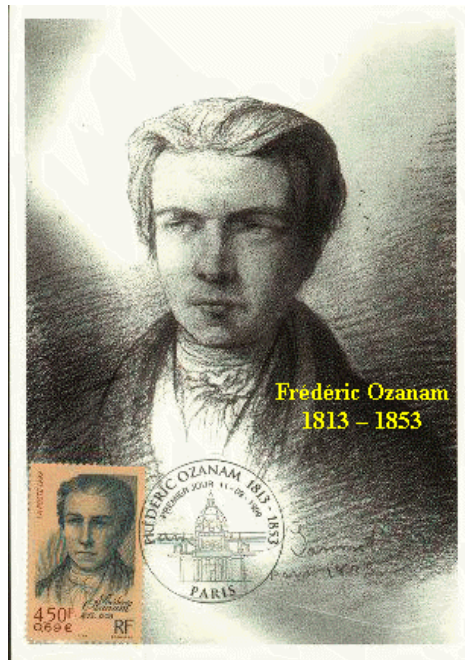




BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM

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LITURGY IN HONOR OF BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM
Feast: September 9



First Reading: (1 John 4:7-16)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and has knowledge of God. The one without love has known nothing of God, for God is love. God's love was revealed in our midst in this way: he sent his only Son to the world that we might have life through him. Love, then, consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that he has loved us and has sent his Son as an offering for our sins. Beloved, if God has loved us so, we must have the same love for one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another God dwells in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. The way we know we remain in him and he in us is that he has given us of his Spirit. We have seen for ourselves, and can testify, that the Father has sent the Son as savior of the world. When anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: (Ps 72: 2-4, 12-14, 16-19)

Response: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

O God, give your judgment to the king, your justice to the son of kings; that he may govern your people with justice, your oppressed with right judgment; that the mountains may yield their bounty for the people, and the hills great abundance; that he may defend the oppressed among the people, save the poor and crush the oppressor.

Response: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

For he rescues the poor when they cry out, the oppressed who have no one to help. He shows pity to the needy and the poor and saves the lives of the poor. From extortion and violence he frees them, for precious is their blood in his sight.

Response: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

May wheat abound in the land, flourish even on the mountain heights. May his fruit increase like Lebanon's, his wheat like the grasses of the land. May his name be blessed forever; as long as the sun, may his name endure. May the tribes of the earth give blessings with his name; may all the nations regard him as favored.

Response: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful deeds. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may all the earth be filled with the Lord's glory. Amen and Amen.

Response: The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

**Alleluia: I give you a new commandment:
 love one another as I have loved you. (John 13:34)**

Alleluia

Gospel: **A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke (10:25-37)**

On one occasion a lawyer stood up to pose this problem to Jesus: “Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?” Jesus answered him: “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” He replied:

**“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your strength,
and with all your mind;
and your neighbor as yourself.”**

Jesus said, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you shall live.” But because he wished to justify himself he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied: “There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell in with robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and then went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; he saw him but continued on. Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; he saw him and went on. But a Samaritan who was journeying along came on him and was moved to pity at the sight. He approached him and dressed his wounds, pouring in oil and wine as a means to heal. He then hoisted him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, where he cared for him. The next day he took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request: ‘Look after him, and if there is any further expense I will repay you on my way back.’

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the man who fell in with the robbers?” The answer came, “The one who treated him with compassion.” Jesus said to him, “Then go and do the same.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

(Beatification Ceremony)

Introduction:

Let us implore God, our Father, through the intercession of Frederic Ozanam and using his own words, that his Beatification may deeply affect our hearts and our lives and be the pledge of a renewal for the Church and for the world. (Our Response is: Lord hear our prayer)

- 1) *“I have known the doubts of the present century, but all my life I have been convinced that there is no rest for the spirit and the heart except in the faith of the Church and under its authority.” (Frederic Ozanam)***

Let us remember before God, the Church, Mother and Guardian of Truth, our Pope, the Bishops, and all the Pastors that may assist youth and adults who are experiencing spiritual restlessness to discover the essential direction of their faith for their development. We pray to the Lord...

- 2) *“Charity must never look to the past, but always to the future, because the number of its past good works is still very small, and because the present and future miseries that it must alleviate are infinite.” (Frederic Ozanam)***

Let us remember before God, the people hindered in their development by the exploitation of wealthy nations, the people hurt by struggles for power, people devastated by discord, racial hatred and war that they may be able to fight efficaciously against poverty and live in peace. We pray to the Lord...

- 3) *“The question which divides the men of our day is no longer a question of political forms, it is a social question: It is knowing what will overcome the sense of egoism or the spirit of sacrifice, and whether society will only be a big exploitation for the benefit of the strongest or a consecration of each for the good of all and especially for the protection of the weak.” (Frederic Ozanam)***

Let us remember before God those responses in the areas of politics, social services and trade unions, that they may have the concern of establishing a society where the deprived, the weak and the marginalized might be restored completely to their human dignity. We pray to the Lord...

- 4) *“The order of society rests on two virtues; justice and charity.***

Justice supposes already a lot of love. One must love persons very much in order to be able to respect people's rights which rub against our rights and when their liberty impedes our liberty. However, justice has limits; but charity has none." (Frederic Ozanam)

Let us remember before God, the poor who are the preferred children of God and the image of Christ in our midst that they may find hands to help them, words to comfort them and hearts to love them.

We pray to the Lord...

- 5) *"We do not have two lives, one to seek Truth and the other to practice it." (Frederic Ozanam)*

Let us remember before God, professors and teachers that they may, like Frederic Ozanam, have a passion for Truth and that they may know how to communicate it to their students.

We pray to the Lord...

- 6) *"The principle of true friendship is charity, and charity cannot exist in the hearts of many without it expanding outward. It is a fire which dies without food, and the food of charity is good works." (Frederic Ozanam)*

Let us remember before God, the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul that kindness may dwell in their homes, so that they may share the joys and hopes, the sorrows and anxieties of the people of our times.

We pray to the Lord...

- 7) *"Hope! The fault of many Christians of our day is to hope too little. They believe that every battle and every obstacle will be the downfall of the Church. They are the apostles in the boat during the storm: they forget that the Savior is with them." (Frederic Ozanam)*

Let us pray for one another. That in a world dominated by fear, a world which seems to have no future, we all may be artisans of peace: messengers of hope and joy.

We pray to the Lord...



PRAYER SERVICE

FEAST OF BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM

September 9

Leader:

As we celebrate the feast of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, let us pray with the words of Scripture found in the gospel of Matthew (25:31-46):

Jesus said, “When the Christ comes in glory, with all the angels around and sits on a glorious throne, all nations will be gathered. The Christ will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates sheep from goats, moving the sheep to the right and the goats to the left...Then the Christ will say to those on the right: “Come, Blessed ones, inherit God’s reign prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for...”

(Alternate sides)

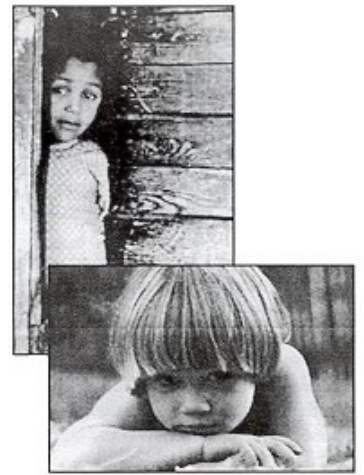
- *I was hungry* and you prepared the food and shared it with me in your dining rooms always treating me with dignity, and you also fed me from your food pantries, especially helping me to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- *I was thirsty* and you shared your drink with me when I was sick; and you helped me find ways to break my addictions and find what would truly satisfy my thirst.
- *I was a stranger* and you welcomed me, and you fought in every way you could against the barriers of race and class and gender that separate us from each other.
- *I was naked* and you helped clothe me by running St. Vincent de Paul Stores, giving me respect as I purchased clothing and furniture for my family that I could afford.
- *I was ill* and you visited me in my home, brought me medical assistance and helped with my medicines, and when I was sick with worry, you help pay my bills giving me hope and courage.
- *I was in prison* and you came to see me, provided legal aid, often you contacted my family for me, and you always prayed with me.

Leader:

Then Vincentians will answer. “But, Lord we don’t deserve any reward for these things! We were blessed when we did them, and we found that we always stood on holy ground, for:

(Alternate sides)

- *When you were hungry*, we felt the presence of the Holy Spirit among the people at the dining room, we were blessed by the friendships that grew among so many barriers, and we became part of a wonderful community of people.
- *When you were thirsty*, we were touched by your agonies and your honesty at 12 Step meetings, we rediscovered ourselves and our deeper thirsts as we listened to yours, and we became able to believe that God really loves us in the midst of our weaknesses.
- *When you were a stranger*, we were enriched when you broke down our racial fears and cultural stereotypes to share your life with us, and we were blessed when you helped us to move beyond “Us and Them” simply to WE.
- *When you were naked*, we were the ones moved by your pain and in your humility in asking for help; we felt the peaceful conviction grow within us that we are privileged to be in the struggle together.
- *When you were ill and dying*, we felt great awe at being able to touch and anoint your suffering body.
- *When you were in prison*, we were touched by sharing in your brokenness, we were blessed with greater sensitivity and prayerfulness and hope.



Leader:



Then, Christ will answer: “Now you have a true glimpse, a real taste of what the Reign of God will be like in its fullness! But there is so much yet to do. Throw yourselves into the work. Bring everyone onto this holy ground to join you to carry on the work of Frederic Ozanam, and always give thanks for the vocation of being a Vincentian!” Amen

Closing Song:

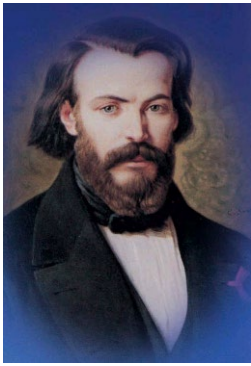
(Conclude with an appropriate song)

PRAYERS FOR THE CANONIZATION OF FREDERIC OZANAM



"PETITION OF PRAYER"

God, our Father, you alone have the power to bestow those precious gifts of yours which we rightly call miracles. If it be your will, be pleased to grant such a gift on behalf of *(name)*. We humbly ask that you grant this favor so that Blessed Frederic Ozanam may be canonized by our Holy Mother the Church. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen



Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

Leader: _____

In the hope of obtaining a miracle through the intercession of
Blessed Frederic Ozanam we pray for

(Name/s): _____

(Together)

Lord, You made Blessed Frederic Ozanam a witness of the
Gospel, full of wonder at the mystery of the Church.

You inspired him to alleviate poverty and injustice and endowed
him with untiring generosity in the service of all who were
suffering.

In family life, he revealed a most genuine love as a son, brother,
husband and father. In secular life, his ardent passion for the truth
enlightened his thought, writing and teaching.

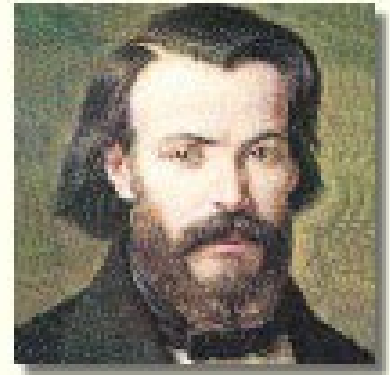
His vision for our society was a network of charity encircling
the world and he instilled St Vincent de Paul's spirit of love,
boldness and humility. His prophetic social vision appears in
every aspect of his short life, together with the radiance of his
virtues.

We thank you Lord, for those many gifts and we ask, if it is your
will, the grace of a miracle through the intercession of Blessed
Frederic Ozanam.

May the Church proclaim his holiness, as a saint, a providential
light for today's world! We make this prayer through Jesus
Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE VISION OF FREDERIC

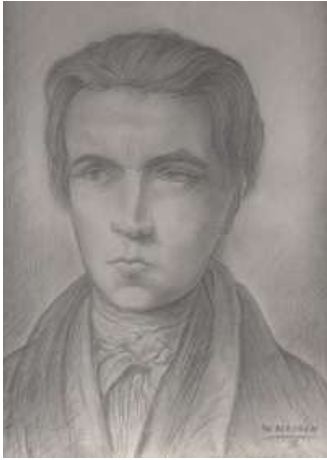
Leader: Blessed Frederic Ozanam envisioned the establishment of a network of charity and social justice encircling the globe.
(Rule 2.4)



Alternate sides:

- For the Lord God said:
I myself will dream a dream within you.
Good dreams come from me, you know.
My dreams seem impossible.
- Not too practical,
not for the cautious man or woman,
a little risky sometimes, a trifle brash, perhaps.
- Some of my friends prefer
to rest more comfortably,
in a sounder sleep with visionless eyes.
- But from those who share my dream,
I ask a little patience, a little humor,
some small courage and a listening heart.
I will do the rest.
- Then they will risk,
and wonder at their daring;
run, and marvel at their speed;
build, and stand in awe at the beauty of their mission.
- You will meet me often as you work:
in your companions who share your risk;
in your friends, who believe enough
- To lend their own dreams
their own hands, their own hearts,
to your mission.
- There will be sun-filled days
and sometimes it will rain. A little variety!
Both come from me. So come now. Be content.
- It is my dream you dream:
my house you build; my caring you witness;
my love you share; my vision you live.
And this is *the heart of the matter*.

A LITANY IN HONOR OF BLESSED FREDERIC OZANAM



Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Christ hear us.

Christ graciously hear us.

God, Creator of the world,
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God, the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier,

have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception,
St. Vincent de Paul, Father of the Poor,

pray for us.
pray for us.

Frederic Ozanam, defender of faith,
Frederic Ozanam, promoter of hope,
Frederic Ozanam, apostle of charity,
Frederic Ozanam, exemplary husband and father,
Frederic Ozanam, lover of poverty and the poor,

pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.

Frederic Ozanam, advocate of the dignity of the human person,
Frederic Ozanam, pioneer of the social doctrine of the Church,
Frederic Ozanam, servant of truth,
Frederic Ozanam, model for Catholic teachers and professors,
Frederic Ozanam, exemplar for authors and journalists,

pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.

Frederic Ozanam, mediator for Catholic lawyers,
Frederic Ozanam, lay missionary,
Frederic Ozanam, faithful son of the Church,
Frederic Ozanam, initiator of collaborative ministry,
Frederic Ozanam, model of courageous commitment,

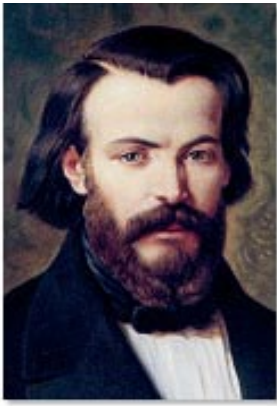
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.

Frederic Ozanam, grand figure of the Catholic laity,
Frederic Ozanam, example of Christian holiness,
Frederic Ozanam, founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul,
Frederic Ozanam, disciple of St. Vincent de Paul,
Frederic Ozanam, our intercessor at the throne of God,

pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.

Let us pray,

God, you raised up Blessed Frederic, setting him ablaze with the spirit of
your love, to encourage groups of lay people in the service of the poor.
Grant that following his example we may carry out your commandment
to love, and so become like yeast in the world of our day.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



VINCENTIAN WORDS TO LIVE BY...

Blessed Frederic Ozanam Quotes

“Knowledge of the poor and needy is not gained by pouring over books or in discussions with politicians, but by visiting the slums where they live, sitting by the bedside of the dying, feeling the cold they feel and learning from their lips the causes of their woes. Blessed Frederic Ozanam, 1845

“Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveler who has been attacked. But, it is justice’s role to prevent the attacks.” Blessed Frederic Ozanam

“Help honors when to the bread that nourishes it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand that lifts up the sinking courage; when it treats the poor man with respect, not only as an equal but as a superior, since he is suffering what perhaps we are incapable of suffering; since he is the messenger of God to us, sent to prove our justice and our charity, and to save us by our works.” Bl. Frederic Ozanam

“... the poor we see with the eyes of flesh; they are there and we can put finger and hand in their wounds and the scars of the crown of thorns are visible on their foreheads; and at this point incredulity no longer has place and we should fall at their feet and say with the Apostle, *Tu est Dominus et Deus meus (You are my Lord and my God!)*. You are our masters, and we will be your servants. You are for us the sacred images of that God whom we do not see, and not knowing how to love Him otherwise shall we not love Him in your person?” Bl. Frederic Ozanam

“The problem that divides men and women in our day is ...whether society will be only a great exploitation to the profit of the strongest or a consecration of each individual for the good of all and especially for the protection of the weak. There are a great many men and women who have too much and who wish to have more; there are a great many others who do not have enough, who have nothing, and who are willing to take if someone gives to them. Between these two classes of men, a confrontation is coming, and this menacing confrontation will be terrible: on the one side, the power of gold, on the other the power of despair.

We must cast ourselves between these two enemy armies, if not to prevent, at least to deaden the shock. And our youth and our mediocrity does not make our role of mediators easier than our title of Christian makes us responsible. In this, there is the possible usefulness of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Bl. Frederic Ozanam, November 13, 1836)



BLESSED ROSALIE RENDU

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LITURGY IN HONOR OF BLESSED ROSALIE RENDU

Feast: February 7



First Reading: (1Cor 12:31-13:1-13)

Now I will show you the way which surpasses all the others. If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries, if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Love never fails. Prophecies will cease, tongues will be silent, knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child I used to talk like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became a man I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I shall know even as I am known. There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71, 1-6; 15-17

Response: I will sing of your salvation

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, and deliver me;
incline your ear to me, and save me.

Response: I will sing of your salvation

Be my rock of safety,
For you are my rock and my fortress.
O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.

Response: I will sing of your salvation

For you are my hope, O Lord;
my trust, O God, from my youth.
On you I depend from birth;
from my mother's womb you are my strength.

Response: I will sing of your salvation

My mouth shall declare your justice,
day by day your salvation.
O God, you have taught me from my youth,
and till the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds.

Response: I will sing of your salvation

Alleluia:

Whatever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters,
you do for me.

Alleluia

Gospel: (Matthew 25: 31-40)

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, he will sit upon his royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats at his left. The King will say to the people on his right, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father: Come and receive the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.” The righteous will then answer him, “When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?” The King will answer them, “I tell you, indeed, whenever you did this for one of the least brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me!”



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant:

With humble hearts, we come before God to speak for our needs and those of the world.

Leader:

**For the grace, to have eyes to see, hearts to love and hands to serve,
the most destitute in the spirit of Blessed Rosalie,**

We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who care for the sick, and for those who need healing,

We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who face catastrophe and for those who come to their aid,

We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

**For those who bear insult and injustice, and suffer from persecution and
prejudice, that they find justice and compassion,**

We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer.

**For solidarity among the Vincentian Family, so that the spirit of Sister
Rosalie Rendu and Frederic Ozanam will live on in the bonds of friendship
among us,**

We pray to the Lord...

Lord hear our prayer

Celebrant:

**Merciful God, you sent your Son to reconcile us to you. Hear and answer
the needs of the poor and all those we hold in the depths of our hearts.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our saving Lord. Amen**

PRAYER SERVICE



BLESSED ROSALIE RENDU, DC

Feast Day-February 7

Leader: **Call to Prayer**

Sister Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, served the poor in a very densely populated quarter of Paris where the people were without bread and without God. Sister Rosalie's name was a promise of hope.

There was a bond in the mutual concern for others that united Sister Rosalie and Monsieur Bailly, professor and director of *The Catholic Tribune*. He wrote on one occasion in 1833: "I am sending you two young men who have left our history conference...Their charity is spirited, but they are young and impetuous. They have already committed themselves to certain praiseworthy acts but in little harmony with their possibilities. They have already distributed their winter provision of wood. They need direction. You alone, my mother, are qualified to guide them. Their names are Monsieur Ozanam and Monsieur Le Tallandier. Both are students. "The Apostle of a Top Hat"

And so, with love and devotion Sister Rosalie taught the founding members of the Society how to befriend the poor with dignity, love, kindness and respect in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul."

Leader: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives,
All: And strengthen us by Your love.

Leader: Send forth Your Spirit and new life will be created,
All: And the whole face of the earth will be renewed.

Leader: Let us ask for the grace to live the spirit of St. Vincent, Blessed
Frederic and Blessed Rosalie Rendu:

(Alternate sides)

- If our life in Christ means anything to you,
if love can persuade at all,
or the spirit that we have in common,
or any tenderness and sympathy,
then be united in your convictions and united in your love,
with a common purpose and a common mind.
- That is the one thing which would make me completely happy.
There must be no competition among you, no deceit;
but everyone is to be self-effacing.
- Always consider the other person to be better than yourself,
so that nobody thinks of his own interest first
but everyone thinks of other people's interest instead.
In your minds you must be the same as Jesus Christ.
- His state was divine, yet he did not cling
to his equality with God but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave, and became human;
and being as all humans are, he was humbler yet,
even to accept death, death on a cross.

(Together)

- But God raised him high and gave him the name
which is above all other names so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ is Lord
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

(Philippians 2:1-11)

Reading: Words Sr. Rosalie spoke to Frederic Ozanam and Companions:

“God has already touched your heart, or you would not be giving up your precious free day to serve the poor. And, because you see Christ in his poor, I know you will approach each one you visit with humility as His servant.

Always remember, that if we had been through the hardships they have had to meet —if our childhood had been one of constant want— perhaps, we too, would have given away to envy and hatred, as I must admit have many of the poor in this quarter.

But be kind and love, for love is your first gift to the poor. They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you bring them.”

(Blessed Rosalie Rendu, 1833)

Leader: Invoking the names of God, we pray:

God of Compassion, you move deep within us making us aware of those who are suffering and poor.

All: Give us loving hearts as we touch the pain of others.

Leader: God of Peace, you are the center of our lives, a strong current of calmness in the whirlwind of our struggles.

All: We look to you for strength and constant assurance of hope.

Leader: God of Hope, you are the anchor of our souls, firmly keeping us from becoming lost in the sea of uncertainties.

All: Steady us when all our usual resources fail us.

Leader: God of Freedom, open clenched hands, life the barriers, loosen our wings.

All: Free us of the strong grasp of our demands when we want everything our way.

Leader: God of Truth, reach into our inner space, enlarge our capacity to receive, help us to recognize and accept your challenges to growth.

All: May we trust in your presence among us as we strive to be friends with you, friends with each other and friends with the poor. Amen

Closing song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)



MEDITATION

BLESSED ROSALIE RENDU, DC

By Robert P. Maloney, C.M.

In an era in which there was no telephone, no e-mail, no fax, no radio, no television, the news of Rosalie Rendu's death spread only by word of mouth. From the emperor to the poorest urban dweller, all Paris mourned. They mourned her because they loved her. Fifty thousand people from all strata of society came together two days later for her funeral. Her works were prodigious. She ran a school, a day-care center, a nursery school, an orphanage, a home for the elderly, a center for the distribution of food, a pharmacy, a clothes dispensary. She organized the Children of Mary and the Ladies of Charity. She helped Frederic Ozanam in the founding of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which now has 560,000 members. She cared for the sick and the dying during three cholera epidemics. She ministered to the wounded during two revolutions. Rich and poor, clergy and lay, men and women, the young and the elderly knocked on her door. No Daughter of Charity was better known in her lifetime than she.

Now she is beatified for us. The Church in holding her up before us says to us: Look at this extraordinary woman. Learn from her. She loved God deeply and she loved the poor practically. Let her teach you. So what can Rosalie Rendu teach us today? Let me suggest to you three things:

- I. First, she was very concrete, very effective in the service of the poor. In the later years of her life, a long line formed outside her office every day. Witnesses say that she jotted down little notes to remind herself of what each person asked of her and that she always gave some response even if she was often not capable of fully satisfying everyone's petitions.**

To use a modern term, she was an extraordinary "networker." Like St. Vincent himself, she knew how to raise the consciousness of the rich to the needs of the poor. The emperor himself, politicians, ambassadors, writers, the Archbishop of Paris, superiors general, priests, sisters, brother, all at one time or another knocked on her door to ask how they might help in alleviating the needs of the poor. And she enlisted the poor themselves to serve the poor. She asked the askers to do something for others. She was a concrete, practical, lover of the poor.

- II. While her friends describe her as “tender” in her relationships, they also testify that she was absolutely fearless. No task was too formidable for Rosalie, no situation too dangerous.**

In the 1840’s and 1850’s, during three cholera epidemics, as many as 150 people died each day in the parish where she and the sisters worked. Rosalie, undaunted, roamed the streets to attend to the sick, accompany the dying and bury the dead.

During the Revolution of 1848, when the Archbishop of Paris was shot and killed, a general decided on a massive bombardment of the neighborhood where Rosalie lived, but first sent a messenger to offer the sisters safe conduct out. Rosalie responded to the messenger, “Sir, please thank the general and tell him that we are the servants of the poor and also their mothers and that we want to die with them.” From that day on, Rosalie and the general became friends who deeply admired one another.

- III. This country girl who was so effective in the city, this tender woman who was so intrepid, this unschooled servant of the poor who networked so well with intellectuals and the rich, had enormous faith. She believed that Christ lives in the person of the poor. She believed that God’s love conquers all. She believed that God was calling her to focus all her creative energy on the thousands of uninstructed, sick, jobless, homeless people in the poorest neighborhood of Paris. And she did this for more than 50 years. Her faith radiated out in her tenderness, in her fearlessness, in her small, practical efforts at helping individuals, in her larger, creative, structured forms of serving the whole neighborhood.**

**Her faith was transparent to others. They saw it.
They admired it. They were drawn to it.**

My brothers and sisters, I now ask you to meditate with me on the life of this wonderful woman. The Church holds her up before us as an example of what it means to be a genuine servant of the poor. Reflect on her practical charity, her tenderness, her fearlessness, her faith. Love her in the beauty of her life and in her remarkable works. As the Church beatifies her, I think of Shakespeare’s eloquent words:

*When she shall die,
Take her and cut her out in little stars,
And she will make the face of heaven so fine
That all the world will be in love with night...*



VINCENTIAN WORDS TO LIVE BY...

Blessed Rosalie Rendu Quotes

Words spoken to Frederic Ozanam and Companions:

“God has already touched your heart, or you would not be giving up your precious free day to serve the poor. And, because you see Christ in his poor, I know you will approach each one you visit with humility as His servant. Always remember, that if we had been through the hardships they have had to meet —if our childhood had been one of constant want— perhaps, we too, would have given away to envy and hatred, as I must admit have many of the poor in this quarter.

But be kind and love, for love is your first gift to the poor. They will appreciate your kindness and your love more than all else you bring them.” Blessed Rosalie Rendu, 1833

**“Hunt down poverty in order to give humanity its dignity.”
Blessed Rosalie Rendu**

“There is something that is choking me, and takes away my appetite...the thought that so many families lack bread.” Blessed Rosalie Rendu

**“There are many ways of providing charity. The assistance of money or assistance in-kind that we give to the poor will not last long. We must aspire to a more complete and longer lasting benefit: study their abilities, their level of instruction and try to get them work to help them out of their difficulties.”
Blessed Rosalie Rendu**

“One night I dreamed that I stood at the judgment seat of God. God received me with great severity and was about to pronounce my sentence when, suddenly, I was surrounded by an immense crowd of people carrying old boots, shoes, and hats. They presented all these things to God saying: ‘She was the one who gave us all these things.’ Then Jesus Christ turned toward me and said: ‘Because you gave all these second-hand clothes in my name, I open heaven to you. Enter for all eternity.’” Blessed Rosalie Rendu

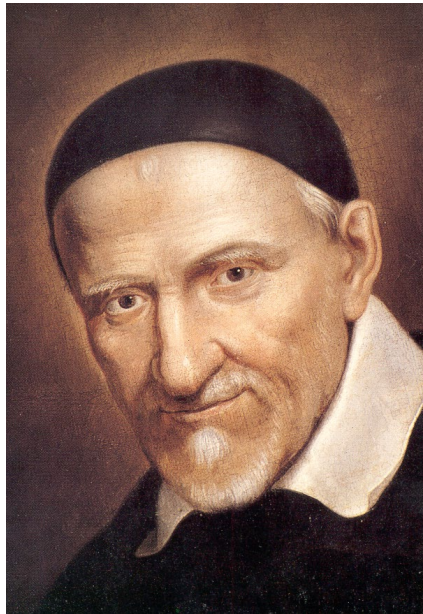


SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

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LITURGY IN HONOR OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Feast Day: September 27



Reading I: A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Is. 52:7-10):

**How beautiful on the mountain,
are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness,
proclaims salvation, and tells Zion,
“Your God is King !”**

**Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices,
they shout for joy together,
for they see Yahweh face to face, as he returns to Zion.**

**Break into shouts of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for Yahweh is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.**

**Yahweh bares his holy arm,
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth
shall see the salvation of God.**

This is the word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: (Ps. 39 (40) 10-12, 17-18)

Response: I have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help

**I have always proclaimed the righteousness of Yahweh
in the Great Assembly; nor do I mean to stop proclaiming,
as you know well.**

Response: I have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help

**I have never kept your righteousness to myself,
But have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help;
I have made no secret of your love and faithfulness
in the Great Assembly.**

Response: I have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help

**For your part, Yahweh, do not withhold
Your kindness from me!
May your love and faithfulness
constantly preserve me.**

Response: I have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help

**But joy and gladness for all who seek you!
To all who love your saving power
give constant cause to say, 'God is great!'
To me, poor wretch,
come quickly, Lord!**

Response: I have spoken of your faithfulness and saving help

**Reading II: A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians
(1Cor 1:26-31; 2:1-2):**

**Take yourselves for instance, brothers and sisters,
at the time when you were called: how many were
influential people, or came from noble families?**

**No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is
foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is
strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning;
those whom the world thinks common and contemptible
are the ones that God has chosen—those who are nothing
at all to show up those who are everything.**

**The human race has nothing to boast about to God,
but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and
by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue,
and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says:
if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.**

**As for me, brothers and sisters, when I came to you,
it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy,
but simply to tell what God had guaranteed.
During my stay with you, the only knowledge I
claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him
as the crucified Christ.**

This is the word of the Lord.

Alleluia:

As you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Alleluia

Gospel: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:1-12)

**When Jesus saw the crowds,
he went up on the mountainside.
After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him,
and he began to teach them:**

**“How blest are the poor in spirit;
the reign of God is theirs.**

**Blest too are the sorrowing;
they shall be consoled.**

**Blest are the lowly;
they shall inherit the land.**

**Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness;
they shall have their fill.**

**Blest are they who show mercy;
mercy shall be theirs.**

**Blest are the single-hearted;
for they shall see God.**

**Bless too the peacemakers;
they shall be called children of God.**

**Blest are those persecuted for holiness sake;
the reign of God is theirs.**

**Blest are you when they insult you
and persecute you
and utter every kind of slander against you
because of me.**

**Be glad and rejoice,
for your reward in heaven is great.”**

This is the gospel of the Lord.



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant:

Knowing God's love for us, let us present our needs and intentions.

Leader:

**For all the servants of the poor, that the spirit of St. Vincent De Paul
will live in their hearts,**

We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer

**For wise people, old and young, who are poor in spirit,
that they be filled with the wonder of God's love,**

We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer

**For all those who are sorrowful, and those who hunger and thirst,
that they come to know the healing and grace of God's mercy,**

We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer

**For those who feel abandoned, alone or unloved, that they receive
comfort and support from the loving service given by the members
OF our Society,**

We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer

**For the grace to serve the poor with gentleness and kindness in the spirit of
St. Vincent de Paul, loving them tenderly and respecting them deeply.**

We pray to the Lord...

Lord, hear our prayer

Celebrant:

**God of mercy, in your unbounded love you gave us your Son. Set our
hearts on fire with the love of Jesus, give us eyes that see the poor and
hands to serve. Hear our prayers through that Christ our Lord. Amen**

PRAYER SERVICE



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Feast Day-September 27

Leader: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives,

All: And strengthen us by Your love.

Leader: Send forth Your Spirit and new life will be created,

All: And the whole face of the earth will be renewed.

Leader: Let us reflect on the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
recalling His unity and presence among us:

“Where two or three are gathered together in My Name,
there am I in the midst of them.”

All: Lord Jesus, deepen our Vincentian spirit of friendship during this meeting, make us responsive to the Christian calling to see and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that we may bring them Your love. Help us to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves in this mission of charity. Perfect in us Your love and teach us to share more fully in the Eucharistic Sacrifice offered for all.
Amen

Reading: Let us listen to the words of St. Vincent de Paul:

**“Jesus, You have called me to evangelize persons
who are bruised and burdened,
and my purpose is to make you known.
When you lived on this earth,
your thoughts and actions were of mercy,
forgiveness and healing for all people,
because you knew it was your Father’s Will that all be saved.**

**Teach me by your example,
and grant me all the virtues necessary to be a true evangelizer,
help me, through the fervor of my zeal, set the world on fire.
I want to give myself to You, body and soul,
mind and heart and spirit and always to do what pleases you.
In your mercy, grant me the grace
to have You continue in me and through me
Your Work, O Blessed Savior. Amen**

Leader: Let us pray: (Please alternate sides)

- **Loving Creator,
we ask for the insight to understand
the needs of people today
that we might grasp the complexity
of the situations that face us,
and the absolute demands of human need.**
- **The hungry have a right to food,
the homeless to shelter,
the oppressed to freedom
and the ill to health care.**
- **God, enable each of us to risk
being in solidarity with our brothers and sisters,
to be contagious in our love for all,
as we transmit our charism
of the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.**
- **Do not allow our fear, ignorance or pride
to limit the action of your Spirit,
nor allow our selfishness to prevent your
Divine creativity within us from bearing fruit.
We ask this in Jesus name. Amen**



Closing Song: (End with an appropriate Song)



THE FIRE OF VINCENTIAN CHARISM PRAYER SERVICE

Leader:

**O God, your love ignites our hearts, captures our imaginations, shapes our dreams, and awakens possibilities.
Make us disciples on fire with your love so that we can become true followers of St. Vincent de Paul.**

Help us, O God, to enkindle in others a sense of hope that transformation is possible...and give us the grace to transmit to others the fire of the charism of St. Vincent.

Leader: Let us pray (alternate sides)

- **When the heart is on fire, light comes from within.
With the eyes of an enlightened heart we can see the hope to which we are called.
By responding to the call to be a Vincentian,
we proclaim that the quest to be a servant of the poor is the fire of our lives.**
- **The path to seeing with the eyes of the heart is discovered in the journey of discipleship. It is not an easy journey.
It is an ongoing effort to live the gospel with integrity—always trying, sometimes succeeding, often failing,
recognizing the need for patience, and then trying again.**
- **Discipleship is a way of being in the world that affects every relationship.
Disciples shape one another according to the action of the Spirit in their lives.
The energy of the disciples flows from faith in what is unseen yet believed.
At its very core, discipleship is a call to a love so radical that it never gives up on God, one's neighbor, or one's self.**
- **Disciples are called to love well, as Jesus did, with hope, truth, fidelity and compassion.
This leads inevitably to taking a stand with the Christ of the paschal mystery who willingly laid down his life in love
so that all may have life in abundance.**



Leader: We remember the times of our lives,
when we felt God's warmth within us
and we were on fire to do his will.

All: God of Fire, burst into flame in our lives.

Leader: We remember the people of Faith gone before us, ...
messengers of a gracious God.

All: God of Fire, fan our faith into flame.

Leader: We remember those in our lives today,
whose flaming hearts have encouraged
and touched us on our journey.

All: God of Fire, fuel us into thankfulness.

Leader: We remember our journey,
and how we need to trust in God's love
and to pray to live as illuminators
in our world.

All: God of Fire, empower us to trust.

Leader: God of fire, send your sparks to enlighten our lives
and fill us with your passionate life.
Transform us with your love and touch us
with your goodness.
May the truth we seek and accept,
fuel all we are and do.

All: May God the Father who made us, bless us.
May God the Son send his grace among us.
May the Holy Spirit move within us and give us
eyes that see, ears that hear, hearts that love,
and hands that do God's work.

May the God of peace watch over us
and lead us as we walk together,
as Vincentians, into the future.
Amen

Closing song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)

A VINCENTIAN HEART

PRAYER SERVICE



Leader: Lord, we ask for the grace to have a Vincentian heart.
We give you our gifts and talents, our dreams and visions
so that we may carry the mission of St. Vincent to the poor.

Lord, we ask for the grace to have hands that work for justice,
so that we may show your gospel to all those suffering from prejudice
and inequality.

Lord, we ask for the grace to have hearts of love and compassion,
so that we may bring your mercy to the broken hearts of the poor.

Amen

(Alternate sides)

- **Blessed are You, God of the Impossible,
for You never get discouraged and never cease to hope,
believe and strive for a happier, fairer, and wiser world.**
- **Blessed are You, God of the Covenant,
for You make promises and never break them,
for You trust us to do good and love us when we fail,
and You daily renew our confidence and courage.**

- Blessed are You, God of Unconditional Love,
help us to believe in ourselves as You believe in us.
Help us to see our potential as You see it, as we work
together as members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
- Blessed are You, God of Providence,
for You challenge us to constantly move beyond
our pasts and call us into fresh possibilities for the future.

Leader:

O God, constantly provide us with the new opportunities,
which Your Covenant promises, and inspire us with the dreams
to follow new paths of potential growth and goodness for the
Society of St. Vincent de Paul. And give us all a Vincentian heart,
as we pray:

Together:

Lord Jesus, you willed to become poor,
give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor;
help us to recognize you in them—in their thirst,
their hunger, their loneliness, and their misfortune.

Enkindle within our Vincentian Family
unity, simplicity, humility,
and the fire of love
that burned in St. Vincent de Paul

Strengthen us, so that, faithful to the practice of these
virtues, we may contemplate you and serve you in the
person of the poor, and may one day be united with you
and them in your Kingdom.

Amen

Closing song: (Conclude with an appropriate song)





VINCENTIAN WORDS TO LIVE BY...

St. Vincent de Paul Quotes

“After the love of God, your principal concern must be to serve the poor with great gentleness and cordiality, sympathizing with them in their ailments and listening to their little complaints...for they look on you as people sent by God to help them. You are therefore intended to represent the goodness of God in the eyes of the poor.”

St. Vincent de Paul, 1657

“This is my prayer to you, O Lord! Give to me your special favor. Pour out your truth and mercy on me in an abundance that will enable me to put your love into practice, filling me with true affection for you, for my neighbor, and also for myself.”

St. Vincent de Paul

“Lord Jesus, teach me by your example. Make me, through the vigor of my efforts, set the world on fire. I want to give myself to you, body and soul, heart and mind and spirit so that I may always do what gladdens you. In your mercy, grant me the grace to have you continue in me and through me your saving work.”

St. Vincent de Paul

“I should not judge the poor peasants, men or women, by their exterior nor by their apparent mental capacities. All the more is this so since very frequently they scarcely seem to have the appearance or intelligence of reasonable beings...But turn the medal, and you will see by the light of faith that the Son of God, whose will it was to be poor, is represented to us by these people.”

St. Vincent de Paul

“To make God known to the poor, to tell them that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand and that it is for the poor. O how great that is, so sublime is it to preach the gospel to the poor that is, above all, the office of the Son of God.”

St. Vincent de Paul



SAINT LOUISE DE MARILLAC

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LITURGY IN HONOR OF SAINT LOUISE DE MARILLAC
Feast Day- May 9



First Reading: Isaiah 58:1a, 5-11

**Thus says the Lord:
Shout for all you are worth, raise your voice like a trumpet.
Is not this the sort of fast that pleases me
—it is the Lord Yahweh who speaks—
to break unjust fetters and undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke,
to share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor,
to clothe the man you see to be naked
and not turn from your own kin?**

**Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over
your integrity will go before you and the glory of Yahweh behind you.
Cry, and Yahweh will answer; call, and he will say, ‘I am here’.**

**If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked work,
if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.**

**Yahweh will always guide you, giving you relief in desert places.
He will give strength to your bones
and you shall be like a watered garden.
like a spring of water whose waters never run dry.**

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33: 2-3, 17-18, 19 and 23

Response: A cry goes up from the poor one, and Yahweh hears.

**I will bless Yahweh at all times,
his praise shall be on my lips continually;
my soul glories in Yahweh,
let the humble hear and rejoice.**

Response: A cry goes up from the poor one, and Yahweh hears.

**The face of Yahweh frowns on evil men,
to wipe their memory from the earth;
the eyes of Yahweh are turned towards the virtuous,
his ears to their cry.**

Response: A cry goes up from the poor one, and Yahweh hears.

**Yahweh is near to the broken-hearted,
he helps those whose spirit is crushed.
Yahweh himself ransoms the souls of his servants,
and those who take shelter in him have nothing to pay.**

Response: A cry goes up from the poor one, and Yahweh hears.

Second Reading: Acts 9:36-42

At Jaffa there was a woman disciple called Tabitha, or Dorcas in Greek, who never tired of doing good or giving in charity. But the time came when she got ill and died, and they washed her and laid her out in a room upstairs. Lydda is not far from Jaffa, so when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two men with an urgent message for him, "Come and visit us as soon as possible."

Peter went back with them straightaway, and on his arrival they took him to the upstairs room, where all the widows stood round him in tears, showing him tunics and other clothes Dorcas had made when she was with them. Peter sent them all out of the room and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to the dead woman and said, "Tabitha, stand up." She opened her eyes, looked at Peter and sat up. Peter helped her to her feet, then he called in the saints and widows and showed them she was alive. The whole of Jaffa heard about it and many believed in the Lord.

Alleluia:

**Come, you whom my Father has blessed,
take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the
foundation of the world.**

Gospel: (Matthew 25: 31-40)

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, he will sit upon his royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats at his left. The King will say to the people on his right, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father: Come and receive the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.” The righteous will then answer him, “When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?” The King will answer them, “I tell you, indeed, whenever you did this for one of the least brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me!”

Next he will say to those on his left hand, “Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me.” Then it will be their turn to ask, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?” Then he will answer, “I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.” And they will go away to eternal punishment and the virtuous to eternal life.



PRAYER

Saint Louise de Marillac

Feast Day- May 9

Leader: Lord, grant to us the heart and spirit of Louise de Marillac:
(alternate sides)

- Lord, we ask for the grace to have...
Her listening heart
Her love and respect
Her ability to empower
Her strength and dignity
And her faith amidst turmoil.
- Lord, we ask for the grace to have...
Her organizational genius
Her deep spirit of prayer
Her dedication to the poor
Her simplicity and laughter
And her humble, servant leadership.
- Lord, we ask for the grace to have...
Her compassion and sensitivity
Her understanding of suffering
Her total commitment to God
Her abandonment to Providence
And her faithfulness to the will of God.
- Lord, we ask for the grace to have...
Her gift of discernment
Her willingness to take risks
Her ability to negotiate
Her clarity of vision and mission
And her dedication to the service of the poor.

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Corinthians:

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge—for this too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

Response to the Reading: The Litany of Charity

Leader:

All:

In our loneliness...	the Charity of Christ embraces us.
In our desire for love...	the Charity of Christ overwhelms us.
In our brokenness...	the Charity of Christ heals us.
In our weariness...	the Charity of Christ re-creates us.
In our comfort and complacency...	the Charity of Christ challenges us.
In our uncertainty...	the Charity of Christ reassures us.
In our searching...	the Charity of Christ gathers us.
In our need to minister...	the Charity of Christ provokes us.
In our desire to serve...	the Charity of Christ compels us.
In our witness to the Gospel...	the Charity of Christ speaks in us.
In our enthusiasm...	the Charity of Christ impels us.
In our busyness and activity...	the Charity of Christ centers us.
In our care for those who are poor...	the Charity of Christ drives us on.
In our hunger for justice...	the Charity of Christ nourishes us.
In our zeal for the kingdom...	the Charity of Christ enflames us.
In our vision for the future...	the Charity of Christ dreams in us.
In our love for one another...	the Charity of Christ lives on.

For the spirit of Louise to live on in us, we pray...

Amen





PRAYER SERVICE

CONTEMPLATIVE IN ACTION

Saint Louise de Marillac

Leader:

On November 29, 1633 Louise de Marillac, together with St. Vincent read, to write and to serve the poor in health care, social ministry and education. Above all she rooted the Daughters of Charity in the Vincentian spirituality of finding Jesus in the poor and the poor in Jesus, teaching them to be contemplatives in action. She taught the Sisters to serve the poor “with respect, mildness, cordiality and compassion.”

As wife, mother, teacher and foundress Louise welcomed the grace of God into her life, which transformed her fretful heart into a courageous, generous, and compassionate heart that loved intensely. She had a heart that welcomed poor, hopeless, alienated, and abandoned people. She took a small group of women and molded them into a community of total dedication: “Given to God for the Service of the Poor.” She also organized, directed, and animated the Confraternities and Ladies of Charity. Louise was able to do this because she loved and hoped in God.

Thus our Vincentian spirituality was formed through the collaboration of St. Vincent and St. Louise de Marillac. We have a charism that has been created through the mutuality of this holy woman and this holy man who brought their feminine and their masculine insights, gifts, talents together in finding the face of Christ in the poor. And, together they gave us a heart so that the poor could find the goodness of God in us.

Louise taught us: “You see a great deal of stress that you are unable to relieve. God sees it also. Bear the pain with them, doing all you can to give them whatever help you can, then remain in peace.”

Leader:

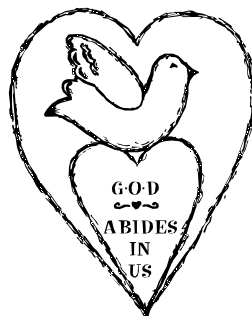
At some future date, when the high court of history sits in judgment of each of us, recording whether in our brief span of service we fulfilled our responsibilities, our success or failure in whatever we do, will be measured by answers to four questions:

Alternate sides:

- **Were we truly spiritual men and women of courage, with the courage to stand up, when necessary, to our associates, and the courage to resist pressures public as well as private?**
- **Were we truly spiritual men and women of judgment, with perceptive judgment of the future as well as the past, of our own mistakes as well as the mistakes of others, with enough wisdom to know what we did not know, and enough candor to admit it?**
- **Were we truly spiritual men and women of integrity, who never ran out on either the principles in which we believed or the people who believed in us, whom no kind of ambition could ever divert from the fulfillment of our sacred trust?**
- **Were we truly spiritual men and women of dedication, with an honor mortgaged to no single individual or group, and compromised by no private obligation or aim, but devoted only to serving one another and all the people of God?**

Together:

**Almighty God,
We do not ask that you make life easy for us,
but that problems will not intimidate us.
We do not ask that we shall have no enemies,
but that we respect them and the truth they have to offer.
We do not ask for success in every venture,
but that when we fail, we can still go on with a fresh beginning.
And in Jesus' name we ask for this grace. Amen**





MEDITATION

LOUISE... A WOMAN WHO LOVED TO LAUGH

Sr. Elizabeth Charpy, a Daughter of Charity in Paris who has spent 20 years in researching and writing about Louise, tells us from her fund of knowledge and insight that:

“Louise reveals herself as a woman profoundly affected by her background (birth and social milieu), as a woman involved in the political and religious events of her epoch, a woman full of life, who loved to laugh. Louise was a woman who reacted intensively to each situation which presented itself. She appears as a theologian and a mystic: she has an experience of God and received from it love and respect for each person.”

It is amazing to come to know Louise as a “woman who loved to laugh!” Monsignor Jean Calvet in his biography also captured Louise as being “charming and witty”! Indeed, wherever the Vincentian Family are gathered, there is laughter...this is a gift and grace given to us by Louise and Vincent! Now in the Providence of God we are discovering the real Louise as a warm, compassionate and joyful woman. She was a woman with a strong personality and a strong character.

Fr. Dirvin continued by saying: “It was easy to assume that the dynamic Vincent de Paul had taken a weak woman and made her an automaton in carrying out obediently, humbly and without a thought of her own, his charitable plans. But such an assumption does little honor to Vincent, who grasped the potentialities of this woman from their first meeting, and it gives little honor to God who had prepared her for service by an exquisite refinement in the furnace of suffering.”

Fr. Dirvin also challenges us by saying: “We also need to discover the delightful affection, intimacy and dedication between Vincent and Louise, which made their cooperative ventures fruitful and permanent.” It is true that as we discover their deep friendship and true partnership, we will be able to discern the demands of the grace of true collaboration which is our charism.

In 1991 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Louise’s birth, the West Central Province of the US commissioned Robert Lentz to paint the above icon of St. Louise. In 1910 Marillac Provincial House in St. Louis, MO had the honor of being the first Province of the Daughters of Charity in the world named for St. Louise. It took almost 300 years for us to honor Louise! The book, Louise de Marillac, by Joseph Dirvin, CM was sent to the artist for his reflection and prayer. We waited to see what he would capture as the grace of Louise. The icon was finished and sent to us, and it beautifully shows Louise holding one of the foundlings.

An icon is a form of sacred art, where the artist creates a painting through prayer and meditation. And so, in praying with an icon, you don’t pray to it, you don’t stop to just look at it. The grace comes when you pray through the icon to find the mystery and the hidden message. It is like the icon on the computer, that you click on and a whole world appears.

So let us pray and reflect as we look through the icon of Louise to find the grace given. First of all, the words in Greek are “Holy or Sante” on the left and “Louise” on the right....the holiness of Louise. We see that Louise is standing between the Church and what is called a House of Charity: a hospital, an orphanage, a school, a social agency. This captures the grace of Louise being a “Contemplative in Action,” a woman of prayer and a woman of service. On the left, there are also buildings next to the Church, these represent: St. Laurent, the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity and St. Lazare the Motherhouse of the Vincentian priests. The door of the House of Charity is very large as it is open to all those who are suffering and poor.

There is a sense of movement, a sense of urgency in Louise. It is like she is caught by surprise and she is in a hurry as she is out in the streets taking care of the poor. She is wrapped in humility, simplicity and charity. Her face

reflects peace and compassion, and looking carefully you can see a lovely gentle smile. Her eyes look directly into ours.

Her hands are strong and feminine...hands that are generous, compassionate and kind. Louise is holding the infant, with great motherly love and tenderness. The child is one of the foundlings, one of the abandoned, illegitimate children deserted in the streets of Paris. This icon also captures the profound grace of Louise, of how she embraced her own wound of being rejected and abandoned because she was illegitimate. Over the years, through her deep faith and trust in God she accepted her own wound of being deprived of a mother's love and the warmth of belonging to a family. Uniting her suffering to the suffering of Jesus crucified, she found peace, love and a compassionate heart. It was then that she became a loving mother to her Daughters and to all those who were poor and suffering.

An ancient story tells us:

The Master was in an expansive mood so his disciples sought to learn from him the stages he had passed through in his quest for the divine.

- “God first led me by the hand,” the Master said, “into the Land of Action and there I dwelt for several years.
- Then He returned and led me to the Land of Sorrows, there I lived until my heart was purged of every inordinate attachment.
- That is when I found myself in the Land of Love whose burning flames consumed whatever was left in me of self.
- This brought me to the Land of Silence where the mysteries of life and death were bared before my wondering eyes.”

“Was that the final stage of your quest?” they asked.

- “No,” the Master said, “One day God said, “Today I shall take you to the innermost sanctuary of the Temple, to the heart of God himself. And I was led to the Land of Laughter.”

And so we find that God led Louise to the heart of God himself, to the “Land of Laughter.”



VINCENTIAN WORDS TO LIVE BY...

Saint Louise de Marillac Quotes

“Continue to serve the poor with great meekness, respect, and cordiality, always seeing God in them.”

“Be at peace and continue working as you have always done...the trouble you have already taken will not be lost. You know that after the rain comes the sunshine.”

“The thought that God is ever with us should fill us with joy.”

“Let us be without anxiety as to what may happen to us, strengthening ourselves in divine love which produces confidence in the Providence of God.”

“We must never fear to undertake whatever the will of God requires either for His service or that of His poor.”

“How good it is to trust in God! Turn to Him often, then, as children look to their father and mother in their needs.”

“Walk courageously from moment to moment in the way God has placed you that you may come to Him.”

“Let us receive all trials as from the hand of our heavenly Father, who knows what is best for each one of us.”

“More is required of us than to go, to come, and to give; our intentions should be pure and thoroughly devoid of self-interest.”



VINCENTIAN RESOURCES

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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.**

(Approved April 14, 2018)

OUR IDENTITY STATEMENT

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service, to those who are needy and suffering, in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

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.

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.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES FOR MISSION

I. (Luke 4:14-21)

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and his reputation spread throughout the region. He as teaching in their synagogues, and all were loud in his praise. He came to Nazareth where he had been reared, and entering the synagogue on the Sabbath as he was in the habit of doing, he stood up to do the reading. When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, he unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it is written:

**“The spirit of the Lord is upon me; therefore,
he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring glad
tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives,
recovery of sight to the blind and release to prisoners,
to announce a year of favor from the Lord.”**

**Rolling up the scroll he gave it back to the assistant and sat down. All in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him. Then he began by saying to them,
“Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”**

II. (Is. 52:7-10)

**How beautiful on the mountain, are the feet of one who brings good news,
who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion,
“Your God is King !”**

**Listen! Your watchmen raise their voices, they shout for joy together,
for they see Yahweh face to face, as he returns to Zion. Break into shouts of
joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem; for Yahweh is consoling his people,
redeeming Jerusalem.**

**Yahweh bares his holy arm, in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of
the earth shall see the salvation of God.**



CORE VALUES

OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

HOLINESS OF LIFE

Growth in intimacy with Jesus is a life-long process
Prayer is Essential: personal and communal

SERVICE OF THE POOR

The dignity of the human poor
The preferential option of the poor
The identification of Jesus with the poor

HUMILITY

The virtue of humility: personal and corporate
Poverty in spirit is the primary Beatitude

SIMPLICITY

The virtue of Simplicity
Jesus is the Evangelizer and Servant of the Poor
Divine Providence

CHARITY

The Society is concerned with charity and justice
The virtue of charity within and outside of the Society
Solidarity

COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Friendship
Community

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES FOR CORE VALUES

HOLINESS OF LIFE:

I. (Mt. 5: 1-12)

When Jesus saw the crowds he went up on the mountainside. After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them:

**“How blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs.
Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.
Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.
Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are the single-hearted for they shall see God.
Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God.
Blest are those persecuted for holiness’ sake; the reign of God is theirs.
Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.
Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in heaven; they persecuted the prophets before you in the very same way.**

II. (2 Cor. 1;5-10)

Because we possess this ministry through God’s mercy, we do not give in to discouragement. It is not ourselves we preach but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ.

This treasure we possess in earthen vessels, to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but we are not crushed; full of doubts, we never despair. We are persecuted but never abandoned; we are struck down but never destroyed. Continually we carry about in our bodies the dying of Jesus, so that in our bodies the life of Jesus may also be revealed.

SERVICE OF THE POOR:

I. (Matthew 25: 31-40)

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, he will sit upon his royal throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats at his left. The King will say to the people on his right, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father: Come and receive the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.” The righteous will then answer him, “When, Lord, did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you in our homes, or naked and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?” The King will answer them, “I tell you, indeed, whenever you did this for one of the least brothers or sisters of mine, you did it for me!”

II. Luke (10:25-37)

On one occasion a lawyer stood up to pose this problem to Jesus: “Teacher, what must I do to inherit everlasting life?” Jesus answered him: “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” He replied: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus said, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you shall live.” But because he wished to justify himself he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied: “There was a man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho who fell in with robbers. They stripped him, beat him, and then went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road; he saw him but continued on. Likewise there was a Levite who came the same way; he saw him and went on. But a Samaritan who was journeying along came on him and was moved to pity at the sight. He approached him and dressed his wounds, pouring in oil and wine as a means to heal. He then hoisted him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, where he cared for him. The next day he took out two silver pieces and gave them to the innkeeper with the request: ‘Look after him, and if there is any further expense I will repay you on my way back.’

Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the man who fell in with the robbers?” The answer came, “The one who treated him with compassion.” Jesus said to him, “Then go and do the same.”

HUMILITY:

I. (John 13: 3-6; 13-17)

Jesus fully—aware that he had come from God and was going to God, the Father who had handed everything over to him—rose from the meal and took off his cloak. He picked up a towel and tied it around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet and dry them with the towel he had around him....After he had washed their feet, he put his cloak back on and reclined at table once more. He said to them:

“Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me a ‘Teacher and Lord,’ and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—then you must wash each other’s feet.

What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do. I solemnly assure you, no slave is greater than his master; no messenger outranks the one who sent him. Once you know all these things, blest are you if you put them into practice.”

II. (Mt. 11: 25-30)

On one occasion Jesus spoke thus: “Father, Lord of heaven and earth, to you I offer praise; for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever you have revealed to the merest children. Father, it is true. You have graciously willed it so. Everything has been given over to me by my Father. No one knows the Father but the Son—and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Your souls will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden light.”

III. (Micah 6:8)

**You have been told, O man, what is good, and what the Lord requires of you:
Only to do right and to love goodness,
and to walk humbly with your God.**

SIMPLICITY:

I. (1Cor 1:26-31; 2:1-2)

Take yourselves for instance, brothers and sisters, at the time when you were called: how many were influential people, or came from noble families?

No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen—those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything.

The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

As for me, brothers and sisters, when I came to you, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ.

II. (Luke 12: 22-31)

Jesus said to his disciples: "This is why I warn you, Do not be concerned for your life, what you are to eat, or for your body, what you are to wear. Life is more important than food and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they do not sow, they do not reap, they have neither cellar nor barn—yet God feeds them. How much more important you are than the birds! Which of you by worrying can add a moment to his life-span? If the smallest things are beyond your power, why be anxious about the rest?

Or take the lilies: they do not spin, they do not weave; but I tell you, Solomon in all his splendor was not arrayed like any one of them. If God clothes in such splendor the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown on the fire tomorrow, how much more will he provide for you, O weak in faith! It is not for you to be in search of what you are to eat or drink. Stop worrying. The unbelievers of this world are always running after these things. Your Father knows that you need such things. See out instead his kingship over you, and the rest will follow in turn.

CHARITY:

I. (1Cor 12:31-13:1-13)

Now I will show you the way which surpasses all the others. If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries, if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Love never fails. Prophecies will cease, tongues will be silent, knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child I used to talk like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. When I became a man I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I shall know even as I am known. There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love.

II. (John 15: 16-17)

**It was not you who chose me,
it was I who chose you
to go forth and bear fruit.
Your fruit must endure,
so that all you ask the Father in my name
he will give you.
The command I give you is this,
that you love one another.**

COMMUNITY OF FAITH:

I. (John 13: 34)

I give you a new commandment: Love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. This is how all will know you for my disciples: your love for one another.

II. (John 15: 9-15)

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you, live on in my love. You will live in my love if you keep my commandments, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and live in his love. All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer speak of you as slaves, for a slave does not know what his master is about. Instead, I call you friends, since I have made known to you all that I have heard from my Father."

III. (Galatians 5: 22-26)

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patient endurance, kindness, generosity, faith, mildness, and chastity. Against such there is no law! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the spirit, let us follow the spirit's lead. Let us never be boastful, or challenging, or jealous toward one another.

IV. (1Cor. 3: 1,3-9)

Brothers and sisters, the trouble was that I could not talk to you as spiritual people but only as people of flesh, as infants in Christ. For as long as there are jealousy and quarrels among you, are you not of the flesh? And is not your behavior that of ordinary people? When someone says, "I belong to Paul," and someone else, "I belong to Apollos," is it not clear that you are still at the human level? After all who is Apollos? And who is Paul? Simply ministers through whom you became believers, each of them doing only what the Lord assigned them.

I planted the seed and Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. This means that neither he who plants nor he who waters is of any special account, only God, who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters work to the same end. Each will receive his wages in proportion to his toil. We are God's co-workers, while you are his cultivation, his building.



SONGS FOR PRAYER SERVICES

TO LEAD A BETTER LIFE

(by Ray Sickinger)

To lead a better life and to do a little good
was your fervent wish Frederic Ozanam.
May we help the poor, our loving God adore.
Just like our Blessed Frederic Ozanam.
Just like our Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

Humble let us serve the poor.
This truth we will come to know;
The poor will be our masters;
The way of love they will show.

A faith that has no living works is a faith that will surely die.
In our hearts a deep pride lurks overcome
by the poor person's cry.
Suffering serves a role in God's eternal plan.
It opens up our hardened hearts to lend a loving hand.

IN THE ARMS OF ST. VINCENT

(by Ray Sickinger)

Come into the Arms of St. Vincent,
bring all of your pain and despair.
Enter the Arms of St. Vincent,
find Christ's joy-filled love awaiting there.

See in the face of the sick and the poor,
the image of Christ our true light.
When you help the least,
you open the door to a refuge,
from darkness and night.

The lowly he'll raise on high in his realm,
the kingdom of love and of light.
Open your eyes to the service of God and
He will restore your clear sight.

Come into the Arms of St. Vincent,
bring all of your pain and despair.
Enter the Arms of St. Vincent,
find Christ's joy-filled love awaiting there.

MISSION SONG

(Based on the words of St. Vincent)

**O Messiah, breathe your spirit!
Wind and fire come upon us once more.
Send us out, impelled, impassioned,
With a word of hope for the poor.**

**May your gospel be our beacon,
Light our step to a land you will show.
Not enough that we should know you
If our neighbor doesn't know.**

**There is nothing else that we long for.
There is nothing else that we see.
But as you are the rock of your people,
Make your people the rock of the weak.**

**Que vivamos tu promesa de cumplir lo que ya se anuncio.
No es bastante estar seguros si el projimo no tiene ilusion.
Que este mundo sea tu cuerpo; hasta entonces no basta cantar.
No es bastante el amarte, si el projimo nos pide amor.**

**No hay nada mas que anhelamos,
No hay nada mas que buscar.
Como tu eres roca para el pueblo,
Haz que el sea la roca para el debil.
Que este mundo sea tu cuerpo; hasta entonces no basta cantar.
No es bastante el amarte, si el projimo nos pide amor.**

**O Messiah, send your spirit.
Wind and fire come upon us once more
Send us now, impelled, impassioned,
As your word of hope to the poor.
Send us now, impelled , impassioned,
As your word of hope to the poor.**

(Vision(CD Title) by Rory Cooney- GIA Publications, Inc.)

Find us Faithful

**We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road
And those who've gone before us line the way
Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary
Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace.**

**Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses
Let us run the race not only for the prize
But as those who've gone before us,
Let us leave to those behind us the heritage of faithfulness
Passed on through Godly lives.**

**May all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light their way
May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to obey
May all who come behind us find us faithful.**

**After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone
And our children sift through all we've left behind
May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover
Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find.**

**May all who come behind us find us faithful
May the fire of our devotion light their way
May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them to obey
May all who come behind us find us faithful.**

(People Need the Lord (CD Title) by Steve Green: The Sparrow Corporation)

WHO WILL SPEAK?

The world that the Church must serve is the world of the poor. Persecution of the Church is the result of defending the poor. My life has been threatened many times. I have to confess that, as a Christian, I do not believe in death without resurrection. If they kill me, I will rise again in the Salvadoran people.
(Words of Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador)

Who will speak for the poor and the broken?
Who will speak for the peoples oppressed?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will speak if you don't?

Who will speak if you don't?
Who will speak if you don't?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will speak if you don't?

Who will speak for the ones who are voiceless,
Speak the truth in the places of power?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will speak if you don't?

Who will speak for the children of violence?
Who will speak for the women abused?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will speak if you don't?

Who will speak for the shunned and the outcast?
Who will speak for all people with AIDS?
Who will speak so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will speak if you don't?

Who will work for the thousands of homeless?
Who will work in the ghettos and streets?
Who will work so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will work if you don't?

Who will care for the plants and the creatures?
Who will care for the land and the sea?
Who will work so their voice will be heard?
Oh, who will work if you don't?

(Agape(CD Title) by Marty Haugen GIA Publications, Inc.)

Here I Am, Lord

**I the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am Lord.
Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord,
If you lead me,
I will hold your people in my heart.**

(Daniel Schutte and New Dawn Music, OCP)

Holy Ground

**This is holy ground, we're standing on Holy Ground,
For the Lord is present and where he is, is Holy.
This is Holy ground, we're standing on Holy Ground,
For the Lord is present and where He is, is Holy.**

**These are Holy hands, He's given us Holy hands,
He works through these hands and so these hands are Holy.
These are Holy hands, He's given us Holy hands,
He works through these hands and so these hands are Holy.**

(Be Exalted(CD Title) by John Michael Talbot- The Sparrow Corporation)

BLEST ARE THEY

**Blest are they, the poor in spirit,
Theirs is the kingdom of God!
Blest are they, full of sorrow,
They shall be consoled.**

Refrain:

**Rejoice and be glad!
Blessed are you, holy are you!
Yours is the kingdom of God!**

**Blest are they, the lowly ones,
They shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst,
They shall have their fill.**

(Sing Refrain)

**Blest are they who show mercy,
Mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart,
They shall see God!**

(Sing Refrain)

**Blest are they who seek peace;
They are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith,
The glory of God is theirs.**

(Sing Refrain)

**Blest are you who suffer hate,
All because of Me.
Rejoice and be glad., yours is the kingdom,
Shine for all to see.**

(David Hass, GIA)

CITY OF GOD

**Awake from your slumber!
Arise from you sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.**

**Let us build the city of God.
May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love,
Has turned the night into day!**

**We are sons of the morning;
We are daughters of day.
The one who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
A light for his people to set their hearts free.**

(Daniel Schutte and New Dawn Music, OCP)

WE ARE CALLED

**Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God!**

**We are called to act with justice,
We are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God!**

**Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So all hatred and blindness will be no more!**

**We are called to act with justice,
We are called to love tenderly,
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God!**

(David Haas, GIA)

THE CRY OF THE POOR

The Lord hears the cry of the poor, Blessed be the Lord.

**I will bless the Lord at all times, with praise ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord, who will hear the cry of the poor.**

The Lord hears the cry of the poor, Blessed be the Lord.

**Let the lowly hear and be glad: the Lord listens to their pleas;
and to hearts broken God is near, who will hear the cry of the poor.**

(John Foley,SJ and New Dawn Music)

BE NOT AFRAID

**You shall cross the barren desert,
But you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
Though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign
Lands and all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.**

**Refrain: Be not afraid. I go before you always.
Come follow me, and I will give you rest.**

**If you pass through raging waters in the sea,
You shall not drown.
If you walk amid the burning flames,
You shall not be harmed.
If you stand before the power of hell
And death is at your side,
Know that I am with you through it all**

Sing Refrain:

**Blessed are you poor,
For the kingdom shall be theirs.
Blest are you that weep and mourn,
For one day you shall laugh.
And if wicked tongues insult and hate
You all because of Me,
Blessed, blessed are you!**

(Bob Dufford,SJ and New Dawn Music)



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