



Welcoming New Members

Presentation of SVDP Midyear Meeting 2019
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Link to Recorded Presentation:

<https://youtu.be/49U8ciNcCy0>



In This Session...

Participants will understand how to implement a process for recruiting and admitting new Conference members, and learn why doing so is vital to the Conference's success

Opening Prayer

A Prayer to Ignite the Fire of Our Vincentian Hearts

O God, you provide us with your Holy Spirit as light to guide us on our life's journey and to guide the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. We recognize that light as an ember in our hearts. Help us to fan that flame to be a beacon of hope to the path of our needy brothers and sisters and to revitalize our society.

We ask for your wisdom, strength, and courage to open our mind and heart as you did to the founders of our society. Help us to renew our conferences through the insight and ideas shared here today. We also ask you to open the hearts of people to consider this ministry as a way to manifest their faith by service to others.

Help all of us to see where transformation in our own lives can bring us closer to You. Help us to know that growth occurs through transformation and a willingness to accept new challenges, ideas, and opportunities as we thank you for calling us to the gift of this ministry. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Recruiting

Why Recruit?

- To keep the Conference strong and vibrant
- To offset natural attrition of members
- To bring new ideas and energy to the Conference
- To motivate current members
- To expand the works of the Conference
- To increase the Conference's diversity



Recruiting:

Make a Recruitment Plan

What types of members do you need?

- Active members or Officers?
- Home Visitors?
- Call Takers?
- Project-Oriented Associate Members?

How to Recruit

- Personal Invitation by all members
- Presentation to Parish Groups
- Ministry Fair
- Bulletin Announcements/brochures
- New Parishioner Coordinator/ Welcoming Committee
- OCIA- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
- *Invitation to Serve/**Creating a Culture of Welcome*
- Be visible!

Who to Recruit

- Anyone who is motivated to put their faith into action
- Busy, active parishioners
- Lightly involved parishioners
- Neighbors you have served
- New parishioners
- People who are diverse in age, race, gender, and financial status
- Parents at your parish school or religious education program

“Why should I join?”

- To love and serve God and neighbor
- The work is extremely rewarding
- We grow together in holiness
- Helping those in need
- Making new friends
- You are needed

What Keeps People From Joining?

- Are your meetings at a convenient time? Visit schedule? Pantry hours?
- Does your group extend a feeling of welcome?
- Do your leaders delegate duties so that everyone has something to do?

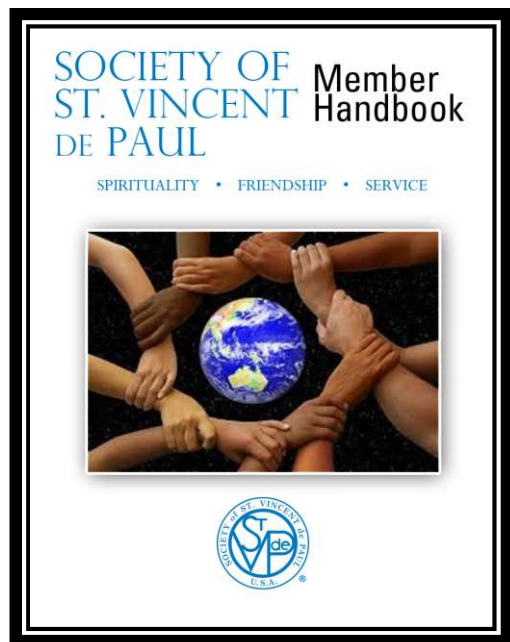
Develop a Process for Admitting New Members

SVDP National Office guidelines:

Prospective members:

- **Read Member Handbook**
- **Matched with an Active Member**
- **Invited to attend meetings**
- **Go on home visits as an observer**
- **Meet with Spiritual Advisor for formation and discernment**
- **Attend Ozanam Orientation as soon as possible**

Hold Commissioning Ceremony for all new members



An Informative Tool for Members

Society of St. Vincent de Paul *MEMBER HANDBOOK*

A Tool for New Members:

Understanding that our Vincentian vocation is a call to grow together in spirituality, friendship and service, the Member Handbook will **welcome and guide new members** on the Vincentian journey toward holiness

A Tool for Existing Members:

Deepening and reigniting the fire in their hearts, the Member Handbook will enable every member in the Conference to walk with the new member as they discover their Vincentian vocation

Member Handbook Catalog # 4900 or # 4901 (Spanish) @ \$1.50

Conference Discussion



- **Why** does our conference need additional members?
- **Who** is needed for the tasks or positions we have open?
- **How** will we spread the news?
- **Who** do we want to attract?
- **How** will we show welcome to potential members?



Have Questions? Need Resources?

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