

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT
DEPAUL
CONFERENCE SPIRITUAL
ADVISOR FORMATION

Role and Responsibilities

Advent Prayer

Lord Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, let us be especially alert to Your coming during this Advent.

As a parent listens for the cry of an infant, as a sailor watches for land, as an astronomer scans the skies, let us be attentive to Your arrival.

Let not our pride and arrogance blind us and put us to sleep.

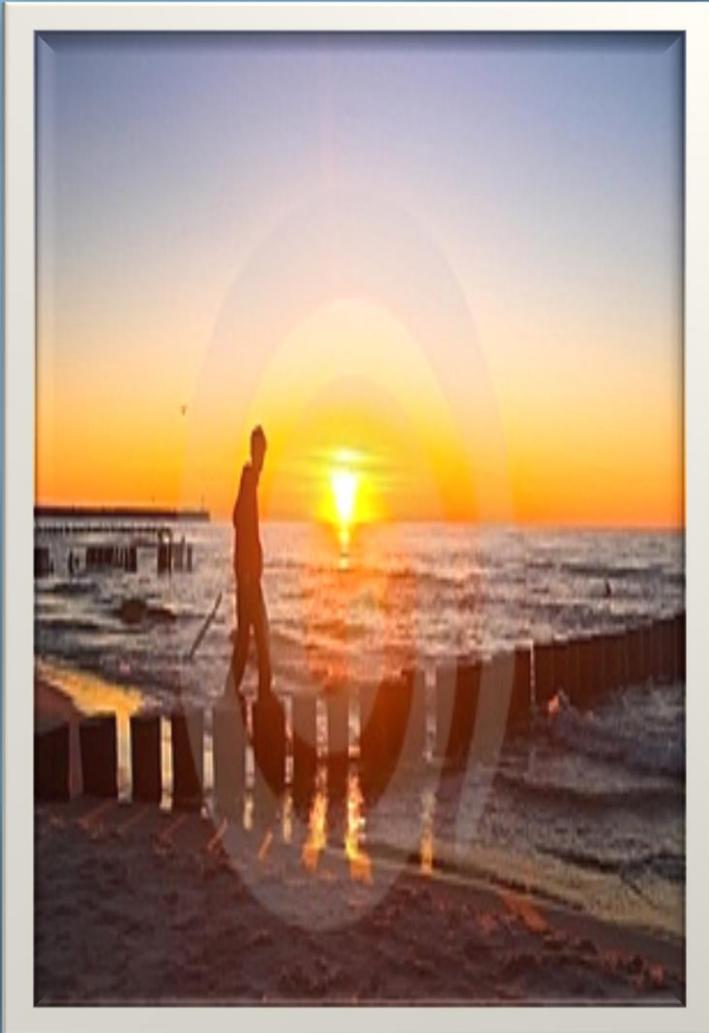
Give us the endurance to be true watchers of the night as we journey through Advent.

Help us to focus every day on Your coming in poverty, with love. Amen

Formation for Spiritual Advisors



WHY THE EMPHASIS?

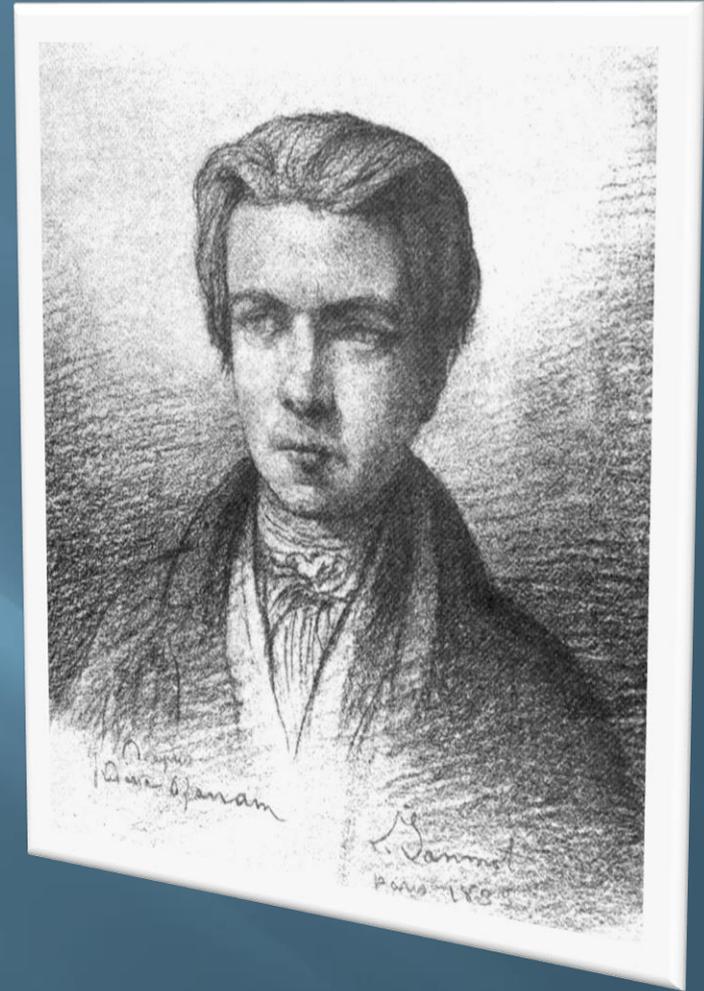


- ❖ Tradition
- ❖ Rule
- ❖ Members asking for a deeper understanding of their spirituality and heritage

The primary purpose
of the Society of
St. Vincent de Paul:

**TO INCREASE THE
HOLINESS OF ITS
MEMBERS**

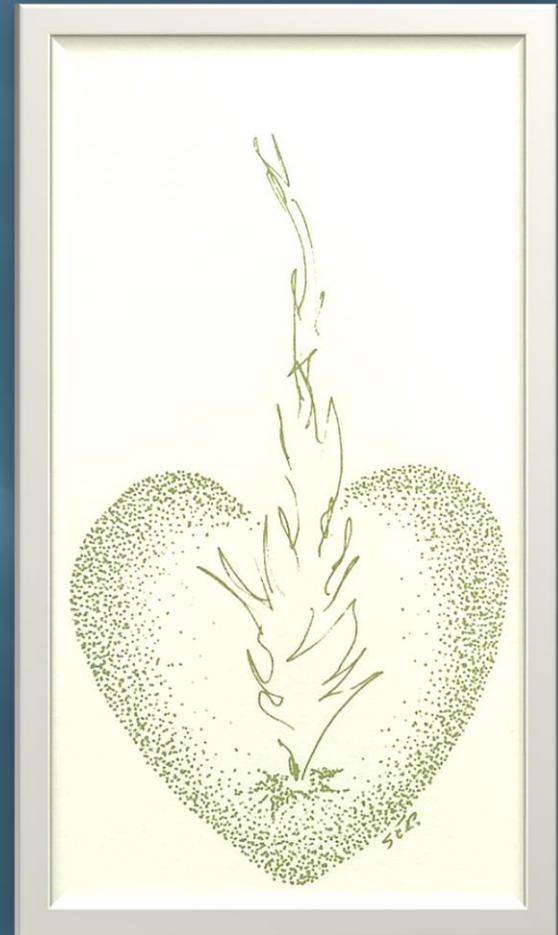
The Rule, Part 1, Section 1.2



RULE

*They aspire to burn
with the love of God
as revealed by
Christ, and to
deepen their own
faith and fidelity.*

RULE - Part I – Sec. 2.2

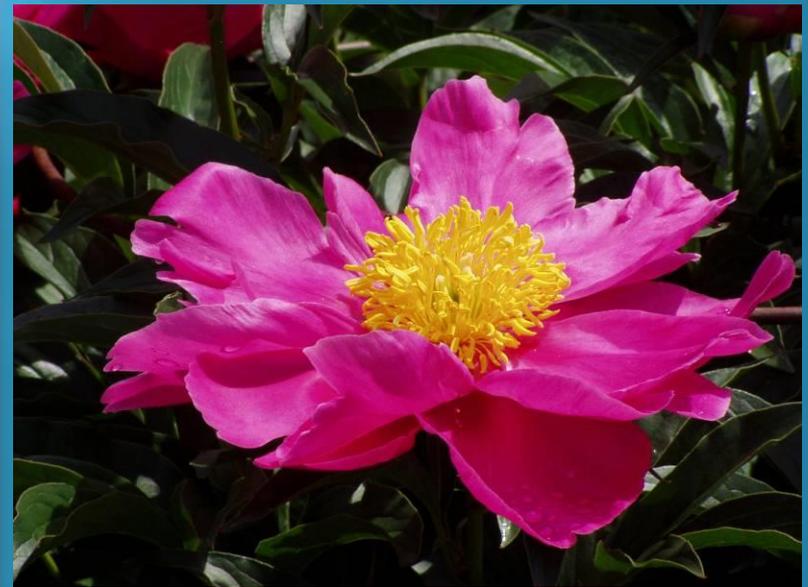


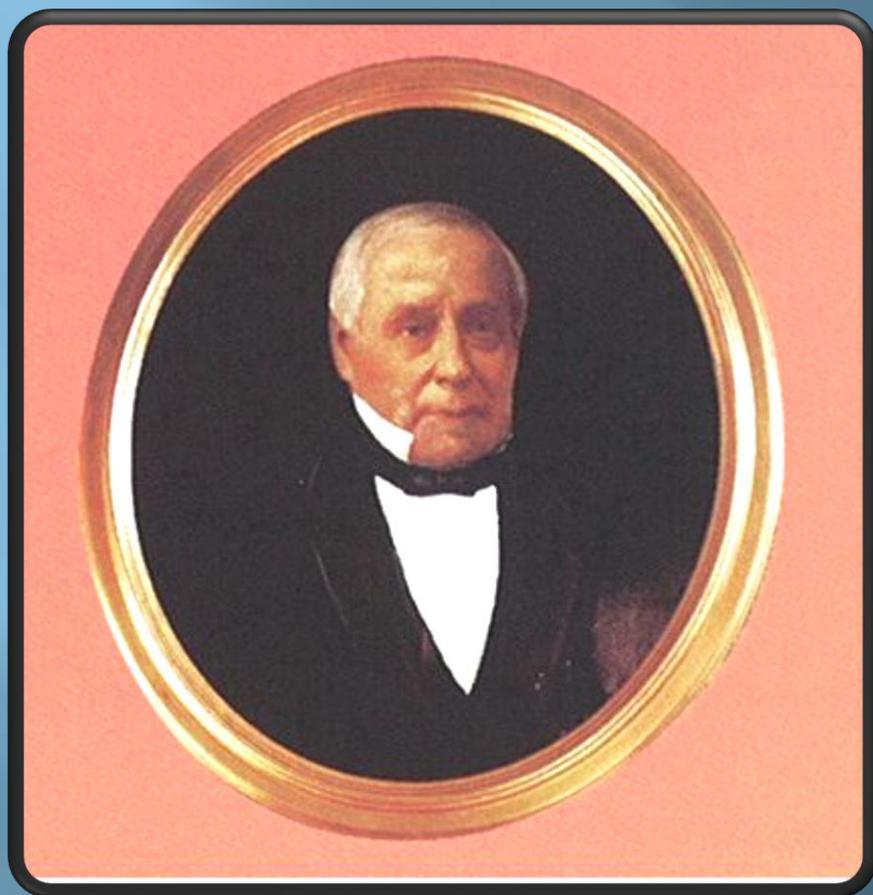
Vincentians are called to **journey together toward holiness.**

Rule: Part 1: 2.2

Time needs to be spent for this purpose in conference meetings.

Rule: Part 3, Statute 7





Emmanuel
Baily assured
the spiritual
growth of the
early young
Vincentians.



Good Spiritual
Advisors
are needed
today to help
the Society be
true to its
founding
spirituality

What is the Role of the Spiritual Advisor?

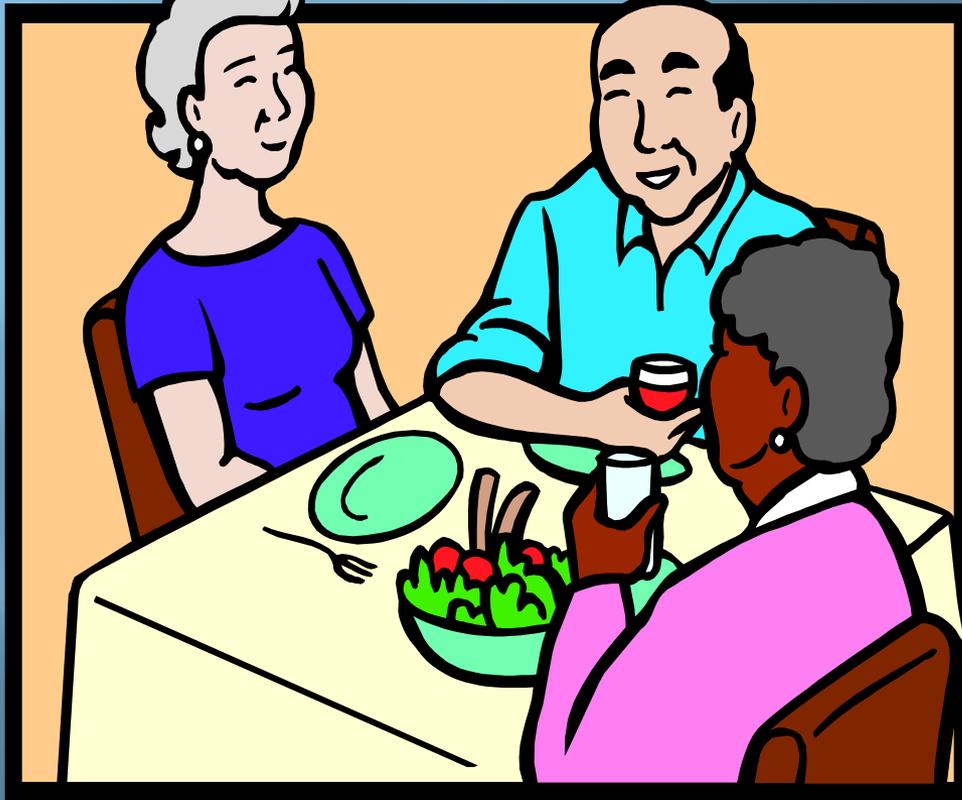
- Spiritual Animator
- Develop Vincentian Spiritual Life
- Inspire & challenge toward new works
- Provide guidance on spiritual matters
- Keep focus on practical love toward the poor

➤ Be a Spiritual Animator



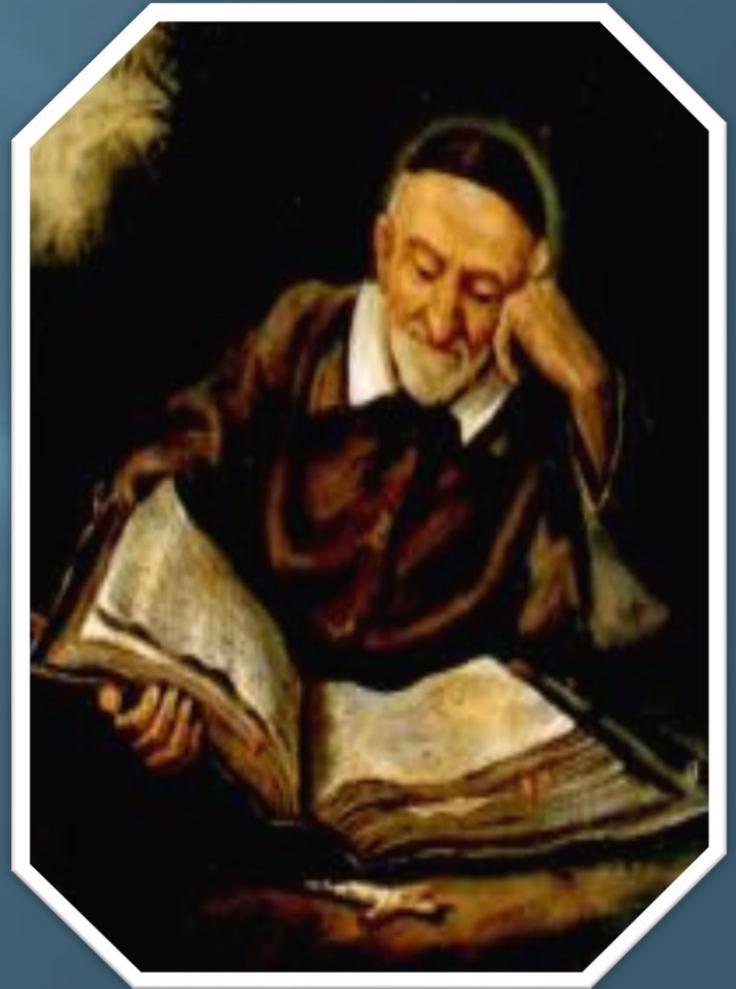
- ✓ Bring to life
- ✓ Enliven
- ✓ Rouse
- ✓ Stir
- ✓ Stimulate

➤ Provide Guidance on Spiritual Matters

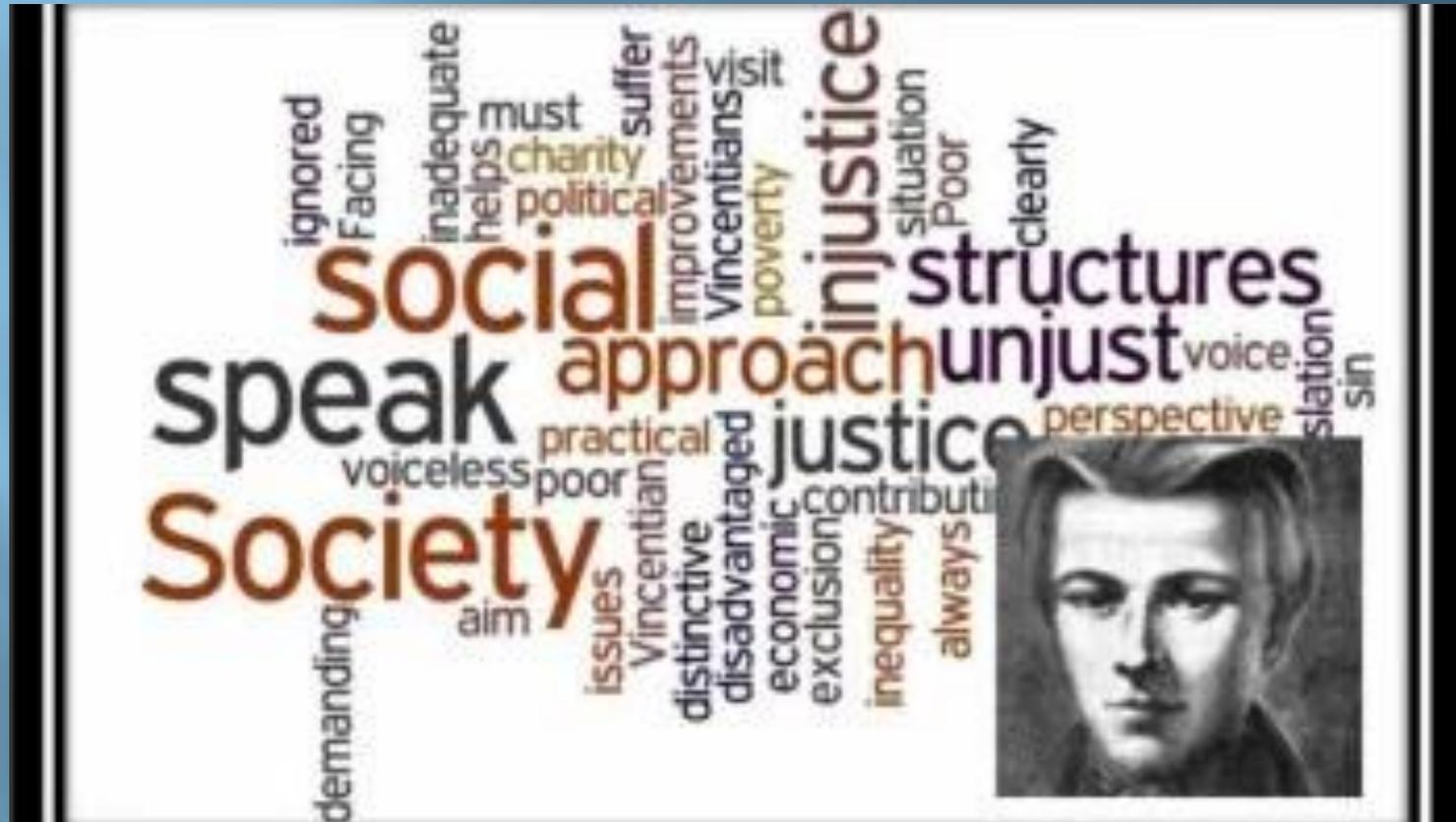


➤ Assist with development of Vincentian Spiritual Life

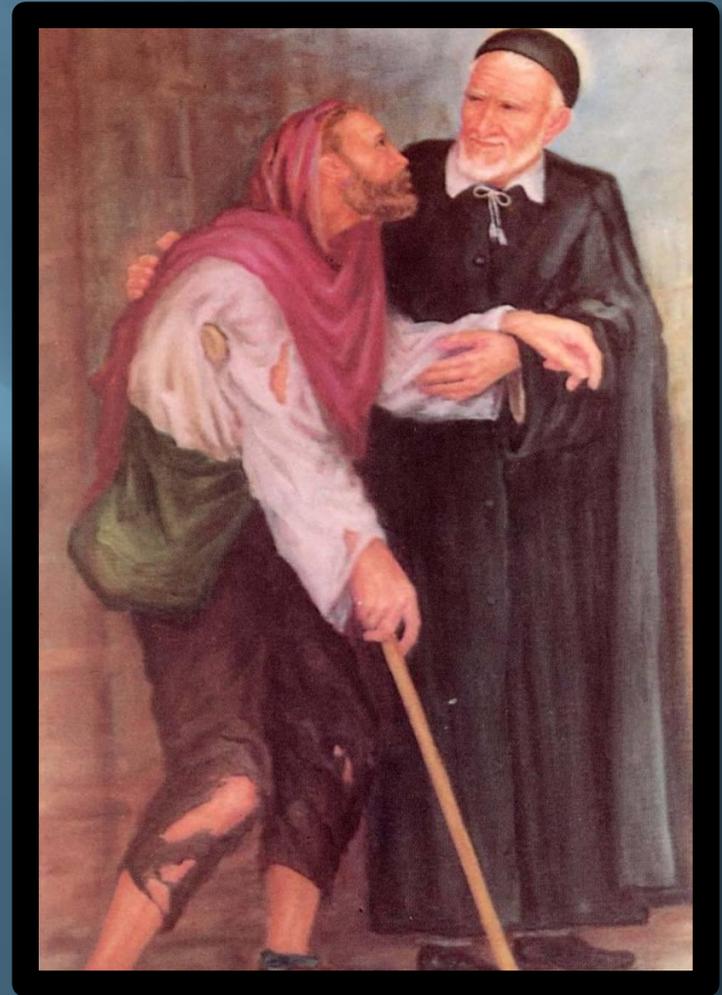
- 1) Imitate lives of Founders
- 2) Love God “in the strength of our arms & the sweat of our brow”
- 3) See Christ in the Poor
- 4) Be led by the Spirit, then Providence makes works possible
- 5) Live our Virtues –
Simplicity, Humility, Zeal,
Gentleness, Selflessness



➤ Provide inspiration & challenge toward new works

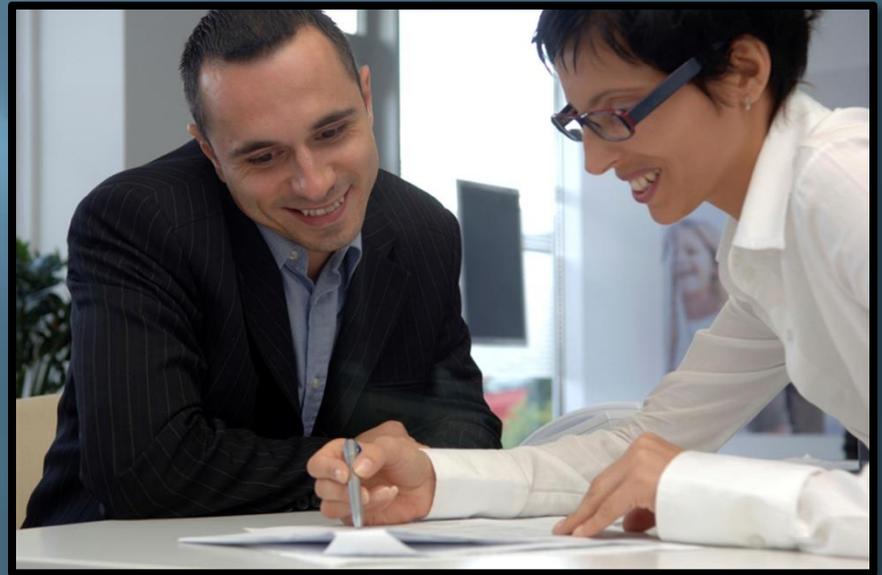


➤ Keeps Focus on practical love / service of the poor



RESPONSIBILITIES

- Meetings – Prepare materials for reflection (SVDP, Scripture, etc.)
- Plan & execute special prayers & sessions (e.g. retreats, formation or commissioning services)
- Help members to deeper faith awareness



Responsibilities of Conference Spiritual Advisors (Spiritual Advisor Guidelines, Part III, B)

Meetings:

- ✓ Lead/ delegate opening and closing prayers
- ✓ Utilize published Society resources or provide appropriate Vincentian or Scriptural readings
- ✓ Lead discussion/ reflection after each reading
- ✓ Insure all meetings are conducted in a spirit of Vincentian friendship

Responsibilities of Conference Spiritual Advisor, cont.

Growth in Spirituality:

Assist members to reach deeper faith awareness of their:

- ❖ participation in the mystery of the Church
- ❖ need for openness to others
- ❖ vocation to serve and minister to others & each other person-to-person
- ❖ identify with the poor and needy



Responsibilities of Spiritual Advisors (cont.)

Growth in Spirituality (cont.)

- ✓ Attend Vincentian gatherings dealing with spirituality whenever possible & communicate information
- ✓ Suggest resources on Vincentian spiritual development
- ✓ Actively pursue own personal growth into Vincentian vocation
- ✓ Maintain ongoing communication with pastor as needed

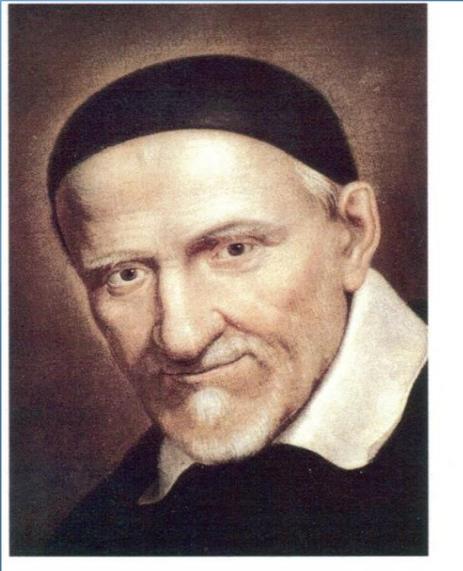


Desired Outcomes – Members to See:

- The link between service and holiness
- Conference members as a faith community
- Each moment as an opportunity for holiness
 - The face of Christ in everyone served
- Ministry is impossible without the Eucharist and regular prayer & reflection, personally and with other Vincentians



- They were animators
- Offered recommendations
- Attended meetings
- Offered assistance
- Encouraged creativity
- Assured plans were Gospel-based
- Personally enriched by those who shared their mission



Models for Spiritual Advisors

Questions for Reflection

How has the role of Spiritual Advisor been carried out in your Conference to this point?

What new knowledge of the role struck you in today's presentation?



The word **Advisor** comes from the Latin “assidere” to sit down with someone, to sit beside

LOOK FOR:

- ✓ Individuals with an ongoing experience of God who witness to their own spiritual growth
- ✓ Balanced persons with good common sense
- ✓ Persons capable of being spiritual companion, mentor, friend
- ✓ Persons committed to the Rule, mission and ministry of the Society

QUALITIES of a
Spiritual Advisor

Commitment to :

Jesus & the Gospels

Vincentian spirituality

SVDP Rule, mission & ministry

Personal witness in own spiritual
life

Catholic Social Teaching

Leading prayer & facilitating
sharing

-Spiritual Advisor Guidelines: Part 1, C

Being Sent

“Set apart Barnabas and Saul for me to do the work for which I have called them.”

Then after they had fasted and prayed, they imposed hands on them and sent them off.”

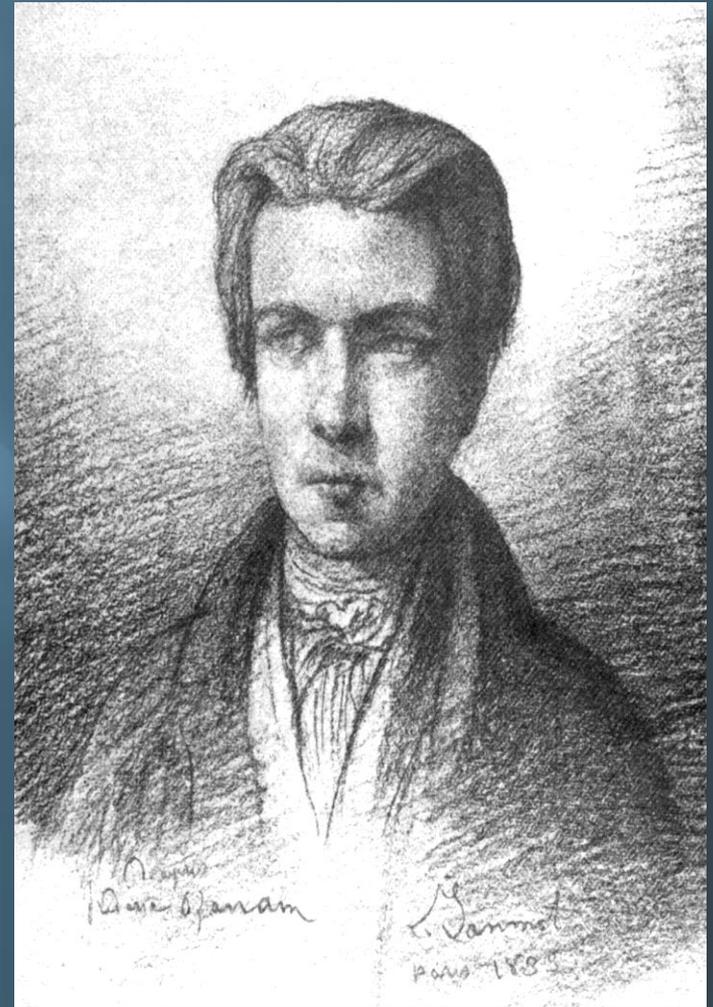
(Acts 13)



Frederic's strong belief in the laity's mission

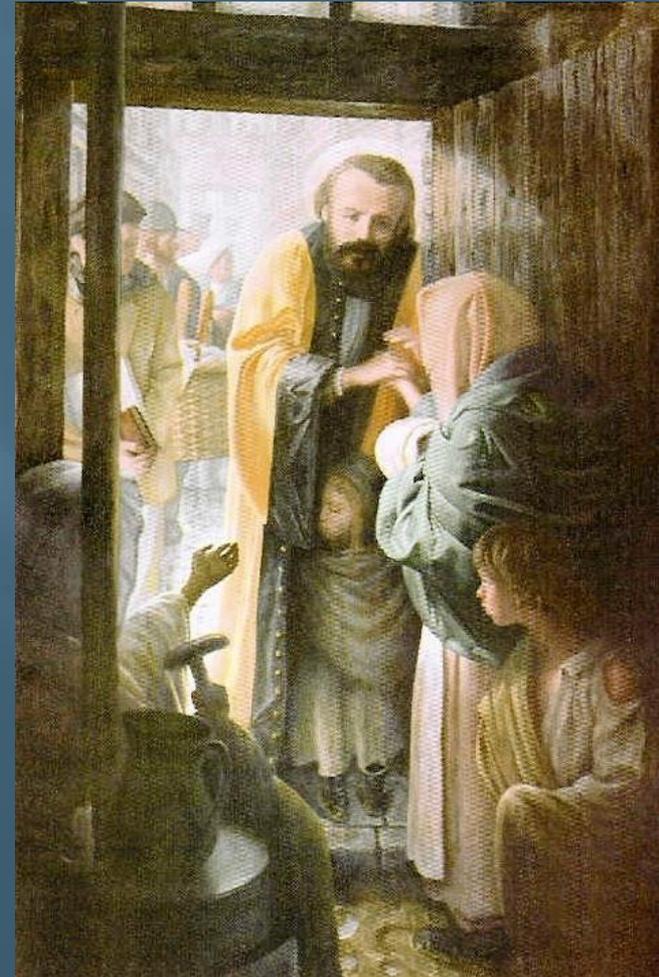
Hurry to this sacred rendezvous where the layman finds himself associated with the priest in the work of redemption.

Frederic



Formation of Spiritual Advisors

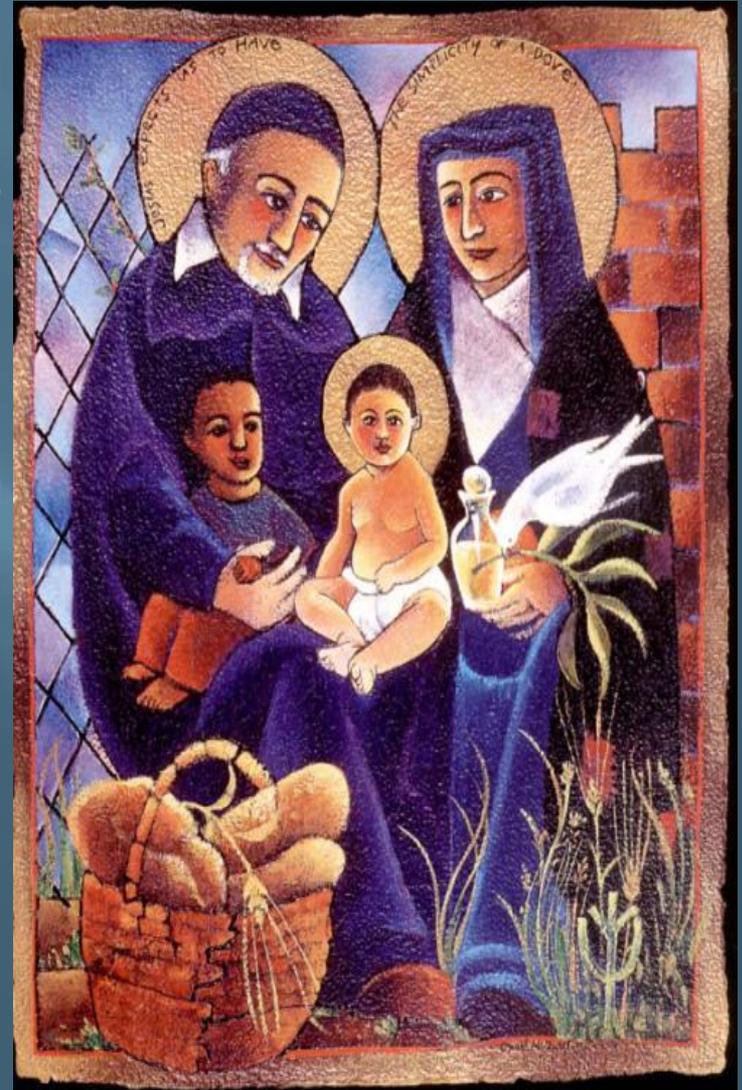
- Study the Spiritual Advisor Handbook / Guidelines
- Be familiar with published Society resources (the Vincentian reflections and Serving in Hope)
- Attend Ozanam Orientation
- Obtain mentoring from a Vincentian Spiritual Advisor
 - Read stories of Vincentians saints



Providing Support

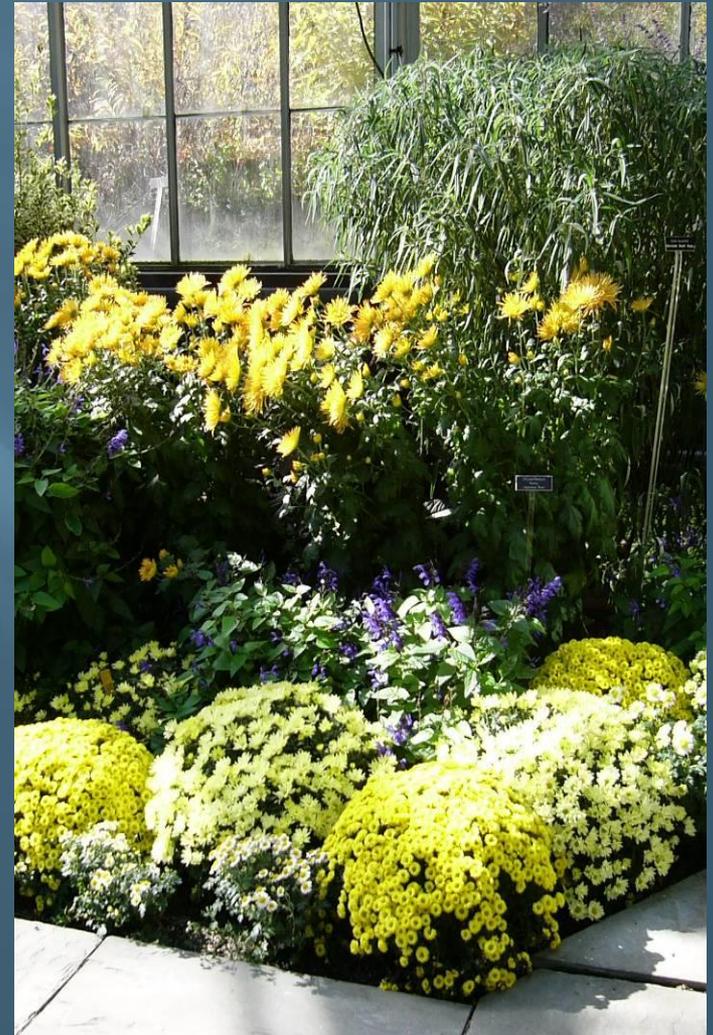
The Conference needs to:

- ❑ Assure time at the conference meeting for prayer & reflection
- ❑ Provide funds for resources
- ❑ Provide books on Vincentian saints/blesseds, Vincentian spirituality



Providing Support – cont.

- ❑ Encourage Spiritual Advisor to participate in service to the needy
- ❑ Express appreciation for the Spiritual Advisor's contribution
- ❑ Keep Spiritual Advisor in the loop



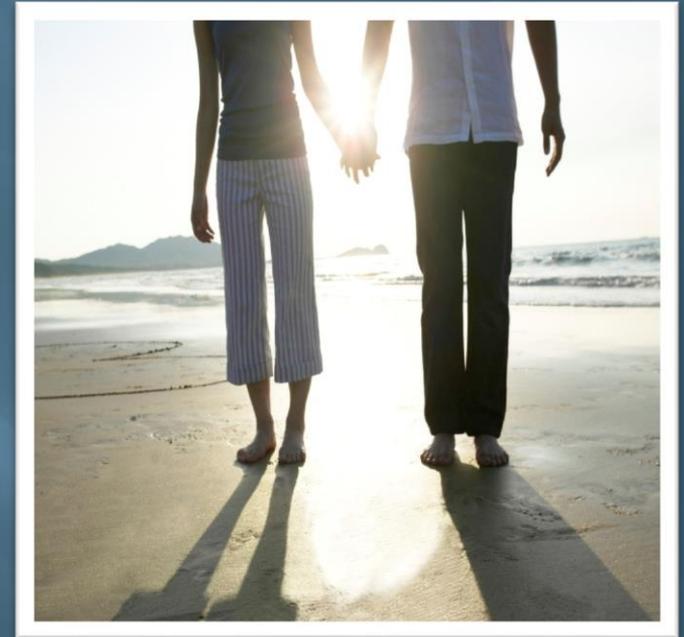
OBSTACLES

- ✓ Title may intimidate
- ✓ Unclear about role
- ✓ Feel inadequate for the role
- ✓ Meeting structure cuts off reflection
- ✓ Members reluctant to discuss feelings



Reflection Questions

1. What further formation do you need for the role?
2. What kind of support do you need from your Conference?
3. What obstacles are you facing in carrying out your role?



St. Louise might say to
us:

*“Do not be upset if things are not
as you would want them to be
for a long time to come. Do the
little you can very peacefully
and calmly so as to allow room
for the guidance of God in your
lives. Do not worry about
the rest.”*



Formation is GOD'S WORK.
We are God's instruments