

Walking the Vincentian Pathway

Session 1 - Introduction



Offered by:
The Los Angeles Council Spirituality Committee



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Walking the Vincentian Pathway

Session 1

Introduction

Presented by
The LA Council Pathway Formation Committee

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Opening Prayer – Part 1



“Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of
Thy faithful, and kindle in
them the fire of Thy love.”

“Send forth Thy Spirit,
and they shall be created.”

“And the whole face of
the earth shall be renewed.”



Emmanuel Bailly

Opening Prayer – April 23, 1833



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- While you are muted, I invited you to read along with me.
- <read *Opening Prayer*>
- <click>

Opening Prayer – Part 2

O Lord God, holy Father,
Be You now and forever blessed.
For as You will, so it has been done;
and what You do is good.
Let Your servant rejoice in You,
not in myself or in any other.
You alone are my true joy.
You are my hope and my crown.
You are my gladness and my honor.
O Lord, what has Your servant
but what has been received from
You without deserving it?
Yours are all things that
You have given and have made.
Amen.



Thomas à Kempis
The Imitation of Christ

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- <Continue to read the Opening Prayer>
- What a wonderful place to begin this day. The first part of the prayer are words which are well familiar to us. To this day we open our Conference meetings with a version of this prayer.
- The second part of our opening prayer is taken from a book called “The Imitation of Christ” by Thomas a Kempis.
- The first meeting of the Society held on Frederic Ozanam’s birthday in 1833, used this book to lead the reflection for the evening.
- An opening prayer we recognize...a reflection in the tradition we follow to this day...
- We have our invitation to greater holiness as represented by our extended family.
- The inclusion of Walking the Vincentian Pathway together continues this tradition and call to greater holiness with materials developed since St. Vincent walked among us.
- This is what today is about.
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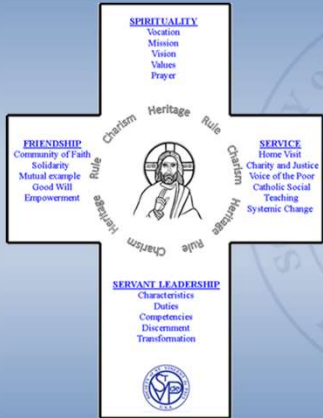
Agenda

- The Vincentian Call to Greater Holiness
- Growing in Spirituality
- The Pathway Approach
- The Role of the Spiritual Advisor
- Pathway Elements
- The Year of the Seven Founders
- Shared Materials
- Feedback/Q&A



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- Walking the Vincentian Pathway can seem overwhelming; but it should not be.
- Our role as a Pathway Development Team is to remove the concerns that exist in small bites.
- So, we decided to introduce the pathway process in three independent sessions:
 - This day, Session One, will introduce the process in digestible bites.
 - It is our hope that together we will gain an appreciation for a process that can lead your conferences into greater holiness.
 - In Session Two, we will introduce the Pathway process in application for your conferences.
 - This will be catered to meet your member's specific needs and desired approach; it is planned for 60 minutes or so.
 - Finally, Session Three will be planned in the near future and will provide advanced topics such as:
 - Developing your own reflections for Pathway,
 - Adding custom reflections to the process and...
 - Enhancing the formation of your Conference through special opportunities, rites and actions.
- Welcome to Session one
- Our purpose in the next 90 minutes or so is to introduce the Vincentian Pathway.
- Together, we will:
 - Lay the foundation for our Spirituality...
 - Introduce the Vincentian Pathway Approach...
 - Identify the role of the Spiritual Advisor in the Pathway process...
 - We will look at what makes up the Vincentian Pathway approach and elements...
 - Finally, we'll look at the first-year materials...
- <click>



The Vincentian Call to Greater Holiness

HOLINESS

WHY IT IS A BASIC NEED IN VINCENTIAN SPIRITUALITY



- What is holiness? We are told that we must strive for greater holiness but why? How do we know we are heading towards holiness? [get responses]
- Spirituality—the journey to holiness—is the primary goal of the Society.
- Holiness embodies the perfect union with Christ and the perfection of love: love of God and love of neighbor (the two great commandments).

“Vincent suffered a dark night of the soul. After a time, he promised that if God would take away this darkness he would dedicate his life to the service of the poor. Instantly, the anguish left him. It never returned, and Vincent faithfully fulfilled his vow to the poor till the day he died.”

[Member Manual, p. 75]

“Vincent’s vision and vocation were now transformed, and he **surrendered** his life to God in service to the poor.”

[Member Manual, p.76]



- Have you or anyone you know experienced a dark night of the soul? How did that affect your life and what happened after?
- What do you do when you suffer a dryness in your ministry?
- What does SURRENDER mean to you? What does it entail? How does surrendering our will to God affect our Vincentian vocation to serve the poor?

How the example of St. Vincent de Paul
can lead us to holiness
Having surrendered ourselves to God
in service of the poor.

THE FIVE VIRTUES OF VINCENTIAN SPIRITUALITY



St. Vincent de Paul teaches us, through his example, how to live a life of holiness in service to the poor through the 5 virtues of Vincentian spirituality.



SIMPLICITY

- ❖ Speaking the truth in love without deception of any kind
- ❖ Integrity, transparency and genuineness



- *Nothing complicated when we live in truth*

HUMILITY

- ❖ Seeing all things in reference to God and being dependent on God. Humility acknowledges one's own gifts and limitations.
- ❖ It includes listening attentively to others, appreciating their perspective, and coming to consensus.



It is not OUR ministry but God's will in our lives: to love the poor as ourselves

GENTLENESS

- ❖ Renders a Vincentian kind, approachable, and non-threatening.
- ❖ It means appreciating the vulnerability of the poor and the struggles they have endured.
- ❖ Gentleness allows a Vincentian to be patient and bear with the frustration that can arise in dealing with those in need.



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How many times have we encountered doubt and judgment of the poor we visit?

SELFLESSNESS

- ❖ A disposition that places the needs of others before one's own.
- ❖ It denies the ego what it craves in a "selfie" culture.
- ❖ Self- sacrifice or "mortification" as St. Vincent described it enables the Vincentian to be available for the difficult or demanding tasks, especially in a leadership role.



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We live in a ME-focused world. Holiness calls us to abandon the world and seek the kingdom of heaven.

ZEAL

- ❖ Having a real passion for the work of the Society and a willingness to follow through on what needs to be done by the conference.
- ❖ Often this virtue is seen in overcoming obstacles, working for systemic change, and being a source of inspiration that may attract new members.

[Source: "The Five Essentials of Vincentian Spirituality", Fr. Jerry Ringenback]



**Our work with the poor
is a
VOCATION.**



- *How do we know we have a vocation?*
- *As Vincentians, our spirituality combined with our actions constitute our Vincentian Vocation, the call from God to serve as His instruments to bring support, friendship, and love to those in need.*
- *We are the face of Christ to them, and in them we also see the face of Christ.*
- *The more we grow our spirituality, the better we are able to connect with and serve our friends in need and each other.*
- *Remember, the work of the Society goes beyond that of a social services agency;*
- *we offer to those in need not only material help but also friendship and love, thereby demonstrating God's loving kindness and mercy.*
- *When we become Vincentians, we commit to changing our minds, attitudes, and hearts into a Vincentian way of life, one which imitates Christ's way of life and His love for the poor.*
- *<click>*

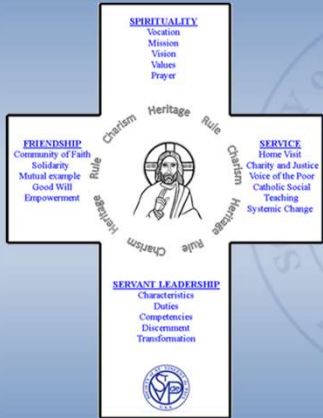
Essential Practices

POWERED BY

- ❖ Prayer
 - ❖ Daily devotions – setting time aside for God
- ❖ Scripture study
- ❖ Daily Mass, if possible
- ❖ Eucharistic Adoration



- Developing and deepening our Vincentian spirituality requires an investment of time, including frequent prayer, reading studying, and reflecting on Scripture and other religious sources and most importantly attending Mass as often as possible.
- Loving Jesus means making a commitment to spending time with Him and developing a close relationship with Him.
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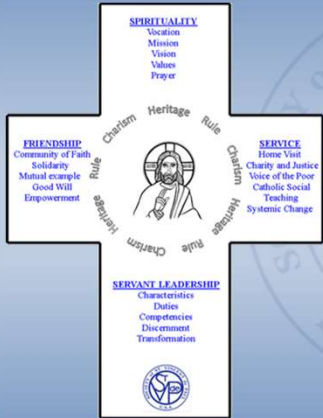
Growing in Spirituality

Enrichment Opportunities

- Ozanam Orientation
- Spiritual Days of Reflection
- Retreats
- **WALKING THE VINCENTIAN PATHWAY**



- In addition to the essential practices and resources, there are many enrichment opportunities available to help Vincentians grow and deepen their spirituality.
- These include the following:
 - Ozanam Orientation - This is an introduction to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul that is required training for all members when they first join.
 - Spiritual Days of Reflection can be organized at the conference or council level to provide Vincentians the time to prayerfully explore a particular spiritual concept related to the Vincentian Mission.
 - Retreats allow members to focus on their relationship with God in an atmosphere that is free from the distractions of everyday life.
 - That brings us to Walking the Vincentian Pathway, which is the subject of today's presentation. Pathway is a life-long, ongoing process of formation, a journey that leads to holiness and a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Pathway was developed at the national level of the Society. Our goal is to promote Pathway in all conferences in the Los Angeles Council.



Formation Opportunities The Pathway Approach

Introduction

• **The Vincentian Pathway is:**

- A process, a journey to holiness
- Led by President and Spiritual Advisor
- Discover, Develop, Deepen, Discern the Vincentian way of life
- Spirituality, Friendship, Service, Servant Leadership



- Walking the Vincentian Pathway is one of the enrichment opportunities available to Society members.
- Pathway is a process, not an activity; it's a journey that invites us to walk in the footsteps of Jesus to attain holiness.
- [Our Vincentian service—bringing love and friendship to those in need—allows us to develop a Vincentian heart]
- Pathway is led by the Conference President and Spiritual Advisor, who work as a team to guide conference members through the process.
- During the journey of Pathway, members learn to discover, develop, deepen, and discern their Vincentian Vocation, the Vincentian way of life.
- The four components of the Vincentian Pathway—spirituality, friendship, service, and servant leadership—are interrelated and as you grow in one component, you will grow in the others as well.
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The Four Pillar of the Vincentian Pathway



- **Spirituality**
mission - vision - values - prayer
- **Friendship**
community of faith - solidarity - mutual example - good will
empowerment
- **Service**
home visits - charity & justice - voice of the poor
Catholic social teachings - systemic change
- **Servant Leadership**
formal leadership roles




- The four components are also known as the four pillars of the Vincentian Pathway.
- Spirituality underlies our Vincentian Vocation of growing a Vincentian heart as reflected in the Society's mission, vision, values, and prayers.
- Friendship in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul involves a community of faith, solidarity, mutual example, good will, and empowerment.
- In the Society, the commitment to Service comes in the form of home visits, where Vincentians demonstrate charity and justice, support the voice of the poor, promote Catholic social teachings, and advocate for systemic change.
- Formation prepares some members to assume leadership roles in the Society as part of their Vincentian Vocation.
- These four pillars will be examined in more depth through the four 'Ds' of the Vincentian Pathway.
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The Four 'D's of the Vincentian Pathway

- Discerning
- Deepening
- Developing
- Discovering



- The four 'Ds' are Discovering, Developing, Deepening, and Discerning.
- These steps build on one another and lead members through each of the four pillars of the Vincentian Pathway.
- The Conference President and Spiritual Advisor Record and Planner tracks the conference's progress as members journey through Pathway.
- You'll hear more about the **Record and Planner** later.
- <click>

Leading the Vincentian Pathway

- High Level Process
 - Similar to National Reflections...
 - ...or any other way that builds Conference spirituality
 - Sharing of materials
 - Open discussion/reflection on the materials
 - Enrichment opportunities
 - Follow up and/or continuing growth
 - Two elements:
 - Conference Pathway (Shared Vincentian Pathway)
 - Personal Pathway (Individual Vincentian Pathway)
 - One feeds the other bi-directionally



- Walking the Vincentian Pathway is a high-level process.
- As you'll see, the Pathway sessions resemble the National Reflections that you're familiar with and may be similar to other approaches that build conference spirituality.
- There's a variety of materials available for Pathway, and we'll be reviewing them in more detail in the next part of today's presentation.
- Some of the materials are available in print and others can be found online.
- It's important that members have access to these materials to successfully engage in the Pathway process.
- The Spiritual Advisor assumes the primary responsibility for selecting the materials that are used for Pathway, but members may also suggest other materials.
- To enhance the Pathway journey, Vincentians are encouraged to participate in enrichment opportunities offered by conferences and councils.
- As a result of the pandemic, many of these events are offered virtually.
- Enrichment opportunities broaden and modify a member's spiritual perspective.
- Because spiritual formation is an ongoing experience, Pathway is designed as a circular process lasting over approximately a five year period.
- Following that, members are expected to repeat the process and engage in follow-up and continuing growth experiences.
- Pathway has two elements: the individual and the shared.
- Our focus today is on the shared element in which the conference works through Pathway together as a group.
- Each element supports and impacts the other.
- <click>

SPIRITUALITY
Vocation
Mission
Values
Prayer

FRIENDSHIP
Community of Faith
Solidarity
Mutual example
Good Will
Empowerment

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

SERVANT LEADERSHIP
Characteristics
Duties
Competencies
Discernment
Transformation

The Role of the Spiritual Advisor

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- As you are aware, each Conference of Vincentians must have a Spiritual Advisor appointed.
- This individual ensures that the Vincentian primary mission is maintained, enhanced and supported.
- The Pathway Formation Process falls squarely in this role.
- Let's look a bit deeper.
- <click>

Spiritual Advisor and Vincentian



“Since the beginning of the Society, a Spiritual Advisor has been appointed to help foster spiritual life within the Conferences and Councils under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in conformity with the Rule and Statutes of the Society.”

The Rule, Part III, Statute 15

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- We begin with The Rule. In part, it says this about our role within a conference...
- *(Read the slide)*
- The first president of the Society in 1833, Emmanuel Bailly was also their original Spiritual Advisor.
- Though he did leverage Blessed Rosalie Rendu and others in his endeavor, he did strive to foster spirituality and the Vincentian mission at all meetings and all outside actions.
- We can do the same with fellow members today; all Vincentians and the Spiritual Advisor in a special way must also pave the way.
- *<click>*



“The Spiritual Advisor assumes responsibility for the spiritual growth, development, and life of either a Council or a Conference with full knowledge of and dedication to the mission and ministry of the Society.”

The Manual, Section 2.5, Introduction

- <Read the slide>
- This snippet from the Manual provides further insight on a spiritual advisor’s responsibility and very being.
- As a spiritual advisor, we must be aware, open, prayerful AND we must also be willing to share our dedication to the Vincentian Mission.
- Of course, we must also be willing to invite others into this Mission.
- <click>

In Other Words...



*The Spiritual Advisor assists fellow
Vincentsians to achieve their primary
purpose within the Society:
Growth in Holiness.*

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- So, we are asked to both recognize and embrace our primary purpose.
- All our activities are rooted in this spirituality.
- So, how is the role of the Spiritual Advisor defined to meet this objective?
- <click>

Spiritual Advisor Role and Responsibilities



- Promotes the mission by encouraging outreach, a faith filled life and seeing the face of Christ in others.
- Attends meetings and provides inspiration, guidance and challenge to further spiritual growth of members.
- Promote the works of the Society

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- Promoting the mission and works of the Society, as well as challenging all members to further spiritual growth...
- We hear a form of these statements in nearly all presentations, but they are worth repeating...
- ...seeing the face of Christ in others no matter who the individual is or what their circumstance is foundational.
- Encouraging this outreach and leading a faith filled life widens the net that makes this possible.
- As spiritual advisors, we are further invited to inspire our fellow Vincentians towards spiritual growth both in meetings and beyond.
- This also means that we must promote the Society...
- <click>

Spiritual Advisor Additional Responsibilities



- Remind members of their primary purpose to grow in holiness.
- Aim for personal growth by learning more about the Society and its origins.
- Utilize the spiritual formation resources.
- One such primary Example:

“Walking the
Vincentian Pathway”

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- Of course, and not isolated to others around us, we too take away some homework.
- We begin with the same invitations from the previous slides but...
- ...if we are to be prepared to support others, many opportunities exist:
 1. We must aim for continuing education (like this day) and be opened to learning more about the Society.
 2. We must be prepared and willing to utilize resources.
 3. We should leverage spiritual growth opportunities individually as well as communally as a group of Vincentians or Conference Members.
- One such opportunity is Walking the Vincentian Pathway.
- <click>



Enter the four P's

- **P**rayer
- **P**reparation
- **P**resentation
- **P**ersistence

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- So how might we approach the Vincentian Pathway as Spiritual Advisors?
- I like to call these the 4 P's of spiritual formation both within ourselves as well as shared with our conferences. These are:
 - Prayer
 - Preparation
 - Presentation
 - And Persistence
- It's important that each element be respected if we are to serve in our Vincentian mission and role.
- In the next few slides, we'll look at each of the four P's and how they might help you to walk the Pathway.
- <click>

Walking the Vincentian Pathway - Prayer



- **P**rayer
 - Places God's will at the core of the planning process and ensures his voice is heard.
 - Opens our heart to discernment where the Lord can lead the way.
- **P**reparation
 - Reading the materials to be shared ahead of time.
 - Writing down your ideas and insights that may be used in the presentation.
 - Planning how the materials will be presented.
 - Developing a process that ensures Vincentian spirituality is encouraged throughout.

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- We're all busy; some are very, very busy.
- This busyness can lead us down a path where 5 minutes can become our best friend preparing for our next meeting.
- Unfortunately, this is also the place where we may forget our role; we must never forget that God must lead our way as a Vincentian throughout our life.
- A healthy prayer life can make certain that the Lord remains first in our planning process.
- Prayer can help us listen AND hear His voice as we reflect and consider our approach while walking the Vincentian Pathway.
- The Oxford dictionary defines Discernment as this:
 - "Perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding."
- Prayer can ensure that this spiritual guidance is not only considered but also led by the Lord.
- <pause>
- Over the years, I've learned that things have been much more difficult and not always best represented when planning took a backseat.
- Preparation of the materials while walking the Pathway is no exception.
- Being proactive and intentional in the planning process will surely add to your conference experience as you present the materials.
- While there are many possible approaches to our preparation there are some non-negotiable elements to truly be effective:
 1. Without reading the material ahead of time, leading the conversation will be quite difficult.
 2. By writing down your thoughts and ideas, you formulate an approach that can be pleasing to your conference.
 3. Deciding how to present the materials will surely enhance the experience and formation of your fellow Vincentians.
 4. Finally, your preparation must never lose sight that your approach is first intended for spiritual formation and second to educate.
- <click>

Walking the Vincentian Pathway - Presentation



- **P**resentation
 - Follow the recommendations of the Pathway Manual, and the National Reflection methodology.
 - Know your conference - Be yourself.
 - Remember that the Vincentian Pathway is a process and not an activity.
- **P**ersistence
 - Provide invitation to further reflection walking in the Vincentian Pathway.
 - Invite all Vincentians to participate
 - Make available enrichment materials and additional formation opportunities.

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- Praying, reflecting, discerning and Preparing well sets us up for a truly inspiring reflection experience.
- We must also remember that how we present the information can have a positive effect to our fellow Vincentians.
- Enter the third of the four P's (Presentation); it invites you to consider a few things beyond typical presentation methodologies.
 1. The Pathway Manual we will be reviewing shortly has a section dedicated to approaches and considerations.
 2. We also have National Reflections as an ideal example for prayer and meditation that has worked for years.
 3. This may sound cliché, but we must understand our audience. Each conference has a personality and a methodology in the way spiritual growth is approached. One size does not fit all. Be yourself; vulnerability, comfort and spiritual awareness is best displayed when nothing is forced.
 4. Finally, as we present the materials, we must also recognize that the Vincentian Pathway is a process and not simply an activity. Seeing it as anything less than that can easily move the planned message from the spiritual to the academic.
- *<pause>*
- The dynamic of a formation process moves us from the classroom to the heart where the Holy Spirit resides.
 1. The Vincentian Pathway is indeed a formation process; it is not simply a checkmark in a binder.
 2. We as Spiritual Advisors must have Persistence in reminding our Vincentian friends that further reflection can indeed continue the growth experienced during our conference meetings.
 3. This invitation is not limited to materials covered during our conference meetings. Make enrichment opportunities available or point the members to their location.
- *<click>*

Walking the Vincentian Pathway – Follow the Four P's



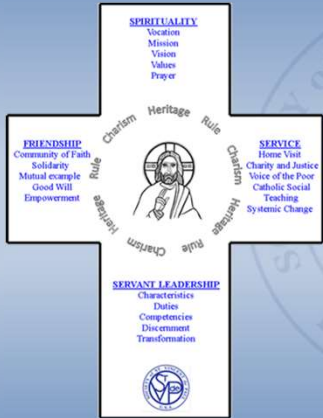
- **P**rayer
- **P**reparation
- **P**resentation
- **P**ersistence

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- Ultimately, your role as a Spiritual Advisor is to manage Prayer, Preparation, Presentation and Persistence to meet your Conference Spiritual growth needs.
- As mentioned earlier, being yourself is fundamental to remaining open to God's call, so it is with Pathway.
- Therefore, don't be afraid to modify the four P's to meet your approach.
- Feel free to add or modify the suggestions made but...
- ...always look at the direction you have chosen through the lens of fundamental questions:
 1. Does my approach make certain that the Lord remains first in our planning process?
 2. Am I preparing adequately to address the materials chosen prayerfully during conference meetings?
 3. Does my planning process address how to present the materials maximizing the limited time we have?
 4. Does my plan include continuing growth, further spiritual reflection and a link to Walking the Vincentian Pathway individually?
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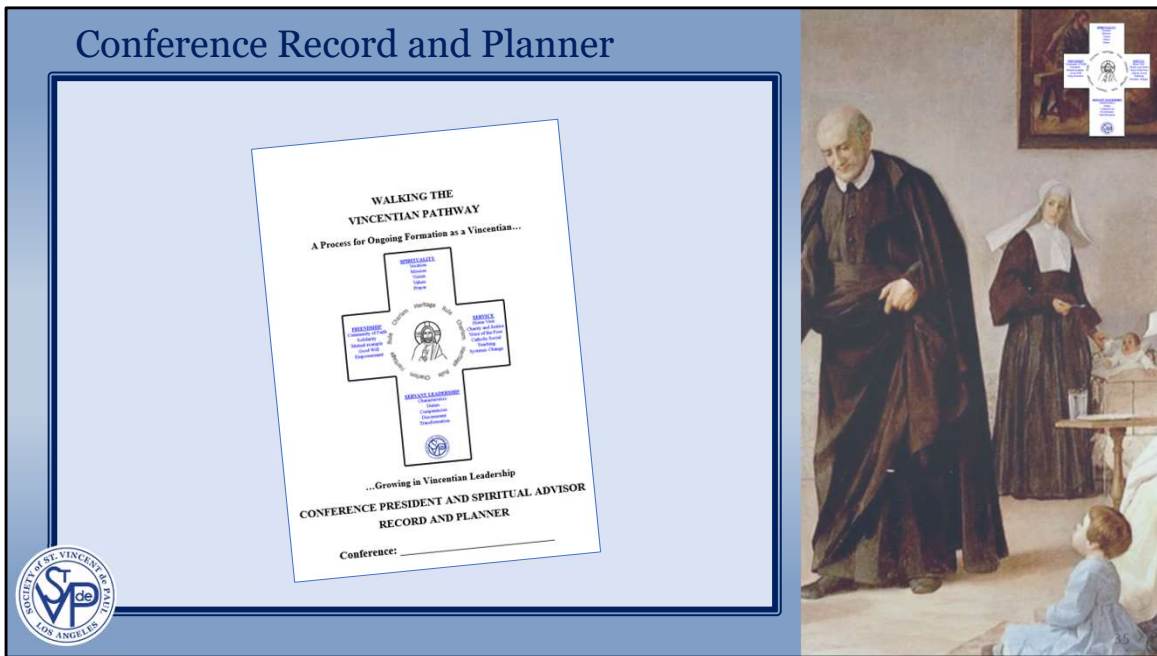


Let's Take a 10 Minute Break



Pathway Elements

Conference Record and Planner



- We begin with the Pathway Records and Planner.
- There are two flavors:
 1. Walking the Vincentian Pathway Personal Record and Planner – In this document, each Vincentian tracks his or her personal progress while walking the Pathway.
 - Most of the sections mimic the Conference planner. But it is designed for personal development, formation and continued growth.
 2. The second type is the Conference President and Spiritual Advisor Record and Planner – This is the document we are focusing on today.
 - Its intent is to document the trove of information available within the four pillars of the Vincentian Pathway discussed earlier.
 3. In the end, whether the personal or conference planner is used, the intent is not to direct the formation process but rather to document opportunities sought to date while providing insight on future topics and themes.
- The Conference President and Spiritual Advisor Record and Planner is organized, structured, and planned without interfering with the spiritual growth of our Vincentians.
- The pillars and functions are grouped.
- The recommended materials are broken down and segregated into easy to manage and understand bites.
- <click>

Remembering the 4 Pillars & 4 Four D's

✓ **D**iscovering

✓ **D**eveloping

✓ **D**eepening

✓ **D**iscerning

➤ **S**pirituality

➤ **S**ervice

➤ **F**riendship

➤ **S**ervant Leadership

SPIRITUALITY
Education
Mission
Vision
Values
Prayer

Heritage
Rule

SERVANT LEADERSHIP
Characteristic
Duties
Competencies
Discernment
Transformation

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
LOS ANGELES

- We reviewed earlier the four pillars and functions of the Vincentian Pathway.
- It stands to reason that the planner is also broken down into these digestible bites.
- This time however, we lead with the four D's to ensure a rounded and easy to follow path is applied.
- In other words, we Discover Spirituality, Discover Service, Discover Friendship and Servant Leadership...
- We Develop Spirituality, Service, Friendship and so on.
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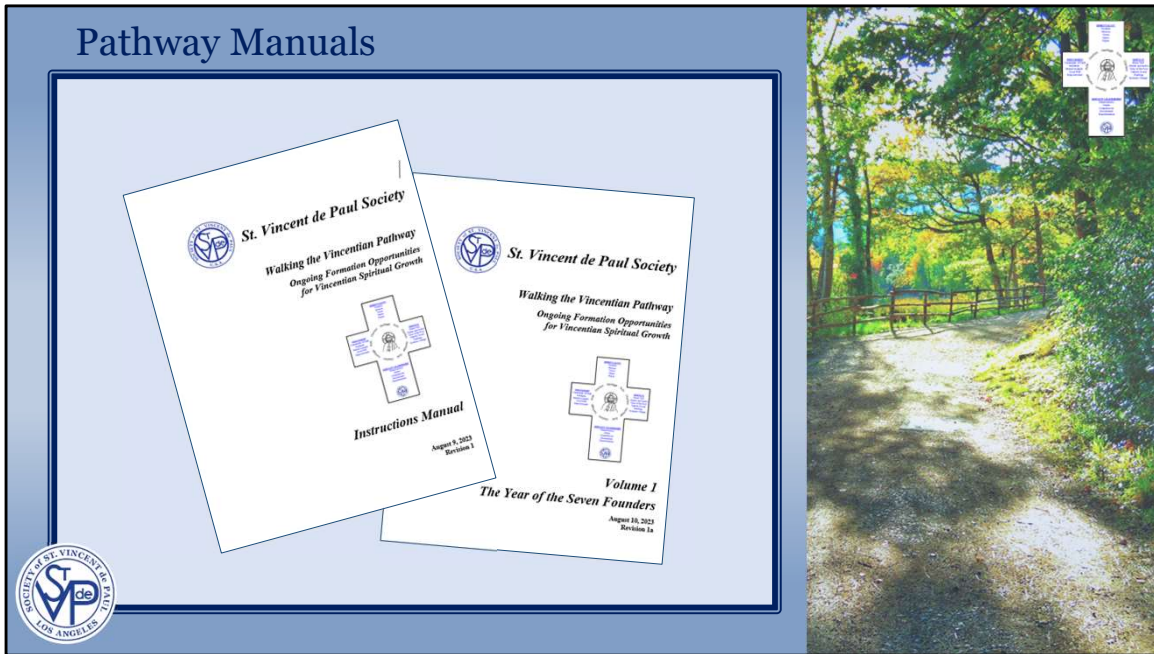
Four Sections Easy to Follow

- Discovering -
 - Spirituality
 - Service
 - Friendship
 - Servant leadership
- Deepening -
 - Spirituality
 - Service
 - Friendship
 - Servant leadership
- Developing -
 - Spirituality
 - Service
 - Friendship
 - Servant leadership
- Discerning -
 - Spirituality
 - Service
 - Friendship
 - Servant leadership



- In the end, the document is separated into four easy to understand sections each diving into the four pillars with focus and insight.
- By keeping them segregated this way, the Pathway process is more aligned without having to shift gears week over week.
- Therefore, and while you are not required to follow the Pathway exactly as written in the planner, I recommend you begin by following it sequentially and as written at least until you are comfortable with the process and your personal Conference personality and expectations.
- Whichever way you approach the Planner, please ensure that you keep track of your progress so to get maximum benefit from the program.
- Detailed information will be provided during Session 2 of this Training where Conference specific training will be addressed.
- <click>

Pathway Manuals



- Of course, the Planner is only a roadmap; it provides little purpose without Pathway foundational documents for all of us to use.
- The team has therefore developed a documented process that can both support and invite each conference into deeper reflection.
- The first document, the Instruction Manual, introduces the Pathway Formation Process and provides instructions for the application of this formation program.
- Subsequent documents, when complete, will become a multi-volume manual each representing roughly 20 reflections.
- The instruction manual is designed to provide development and presentation details as listed within the Record and Planner.
- Annually released Volumes contain a series of prepared reflections for use at the conference level.
- To date year one has been developed with years 2-5 planned for future development year over year
- Session 2 will cover the contents of each of these documents, use and structure in more detail.
- For now, we acknowledge that the Pathway process has all the instructions and formats necessary to use IF you wish to use it.
- While sticking to the Pathway premise as discussed this morning, you have the flexibility to make it your own to truly meet the personality of your own conference.
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The Founders of the Society



- Frédéric Ozanam was asked to show how he and others were assisting the poor.
- That request caused Frédéric to join six others and form the first “Conference of Charity.”
- At the suggestion of Emmanuel Bailly and Sister Rosalie Rendu, Frederic Ozanam identified St. Vincent de Paul as their patron.
- The seven members were Emmanuel Bailly, Frederic Ozanam, Francois Lallier, Jules Devaux, Felix Clave, Auguste Le Taillandier and Paul Lamache.
- We recognize them as examples of living a life rooted in Christ Jesus.
- They provide for us a foundation and example to pursue in our own spiritual journey.
- This Volume is dedicated to these men as The Year of the Seven Founders.

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- It was 1833 when seven friends of young Frederic Ozanam came together to for the first Society Conference.
- The first of five annual Pathway Manuals is therefore named “The Year of the Seven Founders”.
- Since it does form a large portion of our extended family, it is fitting that we take a couple minutes to recognize their impact.
- At the age of twenty, Frédéric Ozanam was asked to demonstrate how he and other Catholic students were helping the poor within their community.
- This challenge caused Frédéric to join with six others to form the first conference.
- The seven visited the poor in their homes and provided necessary support and services.
- At the suggestion of Emmanuel Bailly and Sister Rosalie Rendu, Frederic Ozanam identified St. Vincent de Paul as their patron and example by his service.
- We recognize the seven men as servant leaders and great examples of living a life rooted in Christ Jesus as they walked with and in support of the poor in their day.
- It was their tenacity, determination and root in their faith provides for us today a foundation and example to pursue in our own spiritual journey.
- We therefore dedicate this Volume of “Spiritual Reflections while Walking the Vincentian Path” to these gentlemen by naming it The Year of the Seven Founders.
- <click>

The slide features a central cross-shaped diagram with four quadrants, each representing a core value of the Vincentian Pathway. The top quadrant is labeled 'SPIRITUALITY' and lists 'Vocation', 'Mission', 'Values', and 'Prayer'. The right quadrant is labeled 'SERVICE' and lists 'Home Visit', 'Charity and Justice', 'Voice of the Poor', 'Catholic Social Teaching', and 'Systemic Change'. The bottom quadrant is labeled 'SERVANT LEADERSHIP' and lists 'Characteristics', 'Duties', 'Competencies', 'Discernment', and 'Transformation'. The left quadrant is labeled 'FRIENDSHIP' and lists 'Community of Faith', 'Solidarity', 'Mutual example', 'Good Will', and 'Empowerment'. The center of the cross contains a circular emblem with a portrait of St. Vincent and the words 'Charism', 'Heritage', and 'Rule' around it. To the right of the cross is a photograph of a Gothic-style stone doorway. In the background, a large, faint watermark of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Los Angeles logo is visible. The title 'Accessing Shared Materials' is written in a large, dark blue serif font on the right side of the slide. A small number '40' is in the bottom right corner.

- As stated earlier, there are many resources that you will use while walking the Vincentian Pathway.
- <click>

Accessing Vincentian Pathway Materials

- For shared materials ready to download and use, navigate to:

<https://svdpla.org/vincentian-resources/>

- For additional materials not shared, they may be purchased at:

<https://members.ssvpusa.org/documents-resources/>



- It could become overwhelming if all material needed are purchased for all conference members.
- The good news is, we have received authorization to print multiple materials including:
 - The Rule
 - The Manual
 - Serving in Hope Modules
- Contact Vincentian Services for shared materials.
- You can purchase additional materials not shared from the SVDP USA web site.

Feedback, Questions and Answers



- We've covered a lot of material today.
- This undoubtedly has raised many questions.
- Perhaps you can type them in the chat box (if online) or raise your hand, and we'll respond to as many as we can as time allowed.
- *<monitor questions>*
- We would like to sincerely thank you for joining us today.
- We do hope that you found the information provided inspiring and useful.
- Whether you are a Spiritual Advisor or not, you are indeed forming your fellow Vincentians and the neighbors you visit by your example. Thank you!

Closing Prayer

May God be with us as we serve those in need.

May we find creative ways to assist them in becoming independent.

May we pray for unity amongst Vincentians throughout the world.

May we explore new ways to teach and learn from those we serve.

May we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us on the Vincentian Pathway to ending poverty as we now know it.

May we find courage and stamina to improve the structural systems that keep our friends in need in their place at the bottom of the ladder.

May we stand with them and for them in their struggles for justice in the care provided for and to them.

May God bless all of us knowing we are all doing our part to improve the system of care for those in need.

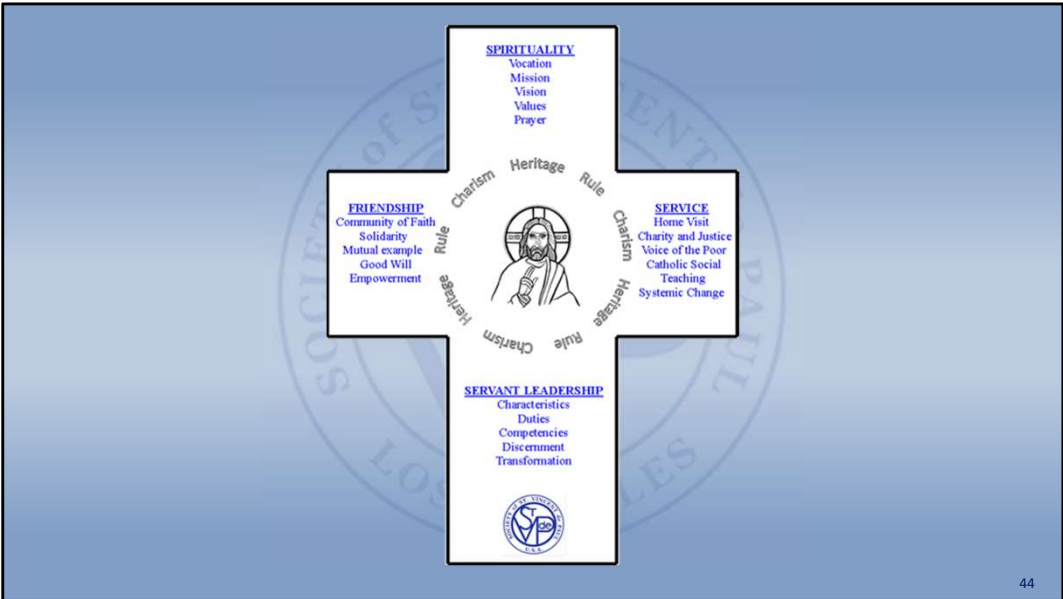
AMEN

SVDP Famvin.org, 2014



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- As we close, please join with us as together we close with this prayer.
- I would like to invite all the women to read the black text while all the men read the blue text
- <read Closing Prayer>
- <click>



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