



YOU'VE HEARD HIS CALL TO HELP OTHERS.

... IS IT TIME TO ANSWER? ...

Celebration Suggestions

175th Anniversary Year in the United States First Conference: Old Cathedral

- 1) Parish-wide Celebration to recognize and thank the members of the Parish Conference
 - a. Organized by other members of the parish/staff rather than Vincentians
 - b. Could be breakfast/donuts after Mass, or a parish dinner or a Parish recognition outdoors in courtyard but with celebratory tones (decorations, balloons)
 - c. Pre-publicity/invitations for all members of the Parish – bulletins/Flocknotes
 - d. Members of the Parish SVDP Conference are invited as guests
 - e. Presentation/some formal recognition by Pastor of members' work and dedication
 - f. Story telling – inviting 1-2 Vincentians to share their story about why they joined and why they stayed
 - g. Explanation of purpose of Society and general invitation to others to join
 - h. Process for helping interested Parishioners connect with Society
 - i. Accompanying information in bulletin/Flocknotes

- 2) Mass-based celebration (could be combined with items from (1) above)
 - a. Pre-publicity/invitations for all members of the Parish – bulletins/Flocknotes
 - b. Special seating at Mass for members of the Parish Conference and their families
 - c. Recognition during Homily
 - d. Brief “story telling” by Vincentian after Homily
 - e. Explanation of purpose of Society and general invitation to others to join
 - f. Special blessing of Vincentians after homily or towards end of Mass
 - g. Announcement inviting others to join w/ process for connecting after Mass
 - h. Donuts/refreshments after Mass

- 3) Remote celebration
 - a. Posters/bulletin/Flocknote pages dedicated to Vincentians and local Conference
 - b. Banners/balloons/other celebratory items around the Parish, and linked to celebration
 - c. Sunday Homilies connecting Scriptures to spirituality and the work of Vincentians
 - d. “Story telling” in series of bulletins/Flocknotes, with invitation to join

- 4) Recognition of “new” members (after new members have been identified and brought into the Conference)
 - a. Blessing/installation at Mass (rite provided by Society of St. Vincent de Paul)
 - b. New member testimony at end of Mass (“Why I decided to join the Conference”)
 - c. Congratulations to new members in bulletins/Flocknotes



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Dear Father,

We have all faced some pretty difficult challenges over the past months. Yet, in the face of them all, the members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul have continued to find ways to offer themselves in selfless acts of service, just as Vincentians have done for 175 years here in the U.S. The pandemic has simply highlighted that in many ways.

Vincentians have been humble and gentle Catholic heroes – finding ways to serve others, even when they can't visit them in their homes as we traditionally do. Though many people think that these acts of service are the reason the Society exists, the real reason the Society exists is the spiritual growth of its members; our service to others is both the means and a reflection of our growth in Faith.

Your Vincent de Paul Conference is a tremendous – but often quiet and unseen – gift to your Parish. You are aware of some of the benefits because you know their deep spirituality and they often care for the needy who come to your door. What if your parishioners really understood why Vincentians do what they do? What if parishioners received a personal invitation to join the Society as a way to deepen their Faith and live out that growth in Faith in the daily events of their lives.

Trusting that you recognize the value of the presence of a vibrant Vincent De Paul conference in your parish, we want to ask your help in offering the benefits of becoming a Vincentian to even more members of your parish.

Over the next several months your Conference members will be asking for your help in identifying potential new members. But even before that, would you consider some kind of parish-wide celebration to recognize the good that they are and that they do? I've enclosed some ideas on how you might do that.

For over 20 years, our Holy Fathers have spoken of the need for missionary disciples. Our theme during this pandemic year is "You've heard His call to help others. Is it time to answer?" That call is answered here – at home, in our Parishes – and through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Will you invite the members of your Parish to answer His call?