



**BOARD RESOLUTION
TO FORM A COMMITTEE FOR
VINCENTIAN VOCATION AND
VITALITY**

At the Thursday, April 25, 2024, meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis the following recommendation was proposed and approved.

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is to increase the holiness of its members (Manual, 2.5), and

WHEREAS, Vincentians encourage one another to live a profound spiritual life (Rule, I, 3.13), and

WHEREAS, formation is a lifelong process, and it is essential that the Society continually promote the formation and training of its members and Officers, to deepen their knowledge of the Society and their spirituality, improve the sensitivity, quality and efficiency of their service to the poor and help them be aware of the benefits, resources and opportunities that are available for the poor.” (Rule: 3.12), and

WHEREAS the National Council’s Formation Team encourages the creation of a committee to develop and implement a Council Formation Plan to promote the growth and development of the tradition, charism and spirituality of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the Council, Districts, Conferences and Special Works.

BE IT RESOLVED Resolve to approve the formation of a Committee for Vocation and Vitality with the following charter.

Committee for Vocation and Vitality Charter

Description

The Committee for Vocation and Vitality is a standing Committee, with limited autonomy, that reports to the Board of Directors of the St. Louis Council of Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Committee for Vocation and Vitality continually strives to nourish the vocational vitality and vibrancy of every Vincentian, Conference, District, Board Members and Council Staff.

Vision

Deeply grounded in our Catholic faith, with fidelity to our Rule and Manual, the Committee envisions a bright and secure future for the Council with every Vincentian being spiritually well-

formed, passionate about their vocation, where each Conference is fully living out its Vincentian vocation with creativity and joy, witnessing to the Love of Jesus Christ, through our essential elements of spirituality, friendship and service!

Mission

The Committee will create a strategic vision and plan with attainable goals, related to formation / development offerings and fellowship activities that enables our members to propagate their Vincentian conviction and joy throughout our Council and Archdiocese.

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee is to cultivate the full potential of the St. Louis SvdP Council, fully infusing the spirituality and joy of our Vincentian charism and vocation in the hearts and minds of our Vincentians, so they exemplify the Vincentian vocation, evangelizing fellow parishioners, Neighbors and the wider community.

Composition / Membership

Committee members should be enthusiastically dedicated to the Society and their Vincentian vocation, well versed with, and strongly committed to, the Rule and Manual, with the ability to convey and promote their enthusiastic joy to other Vincentians and potential members. The Committee should represent Vincentians across the Archdiocese, preferably by District, and members shall be appointed by the Board President with recommendations from District Presidents and Council Staff. A Board member shall serve as co-chair or chair and Committee Chair(s) will serve as Formation Leader(s). The Council Vincentian Services Team shall serve as staff to the Committee.

Authority

The Committee has authority to develop and make recommendations to the Executive Director and the Board about the strategy and goals of vocational formation and developmental training – subject to approval. The Committee has the authority to plan and implement a yearly schedule of formational and developmental offerings. The Committee has the authority to recruit formators and presenters in Districts to deliver training. Any budgetary needs of the Committee are subject to approval.

Responsibilities

Acting with the Council President, Executive Director, and Council Spiritual Advisor, the Committee is charged with:

General

- Possessing substantial knowledge of the Rule, the Manual and the rich array of Vincentian formation materials available, including but not limited to: Vincentian Formation - A Foundation Document, Serving in Hope, Spiritual Advisor Handbook, Formation Plans for Conferences and Councils, Vincentian Servant Leadership Workshops etc.
- All Committee members shall receive ongoing formation, from a variety of SVdP sources (e.g. National), to ensure it is prepared to accomplish its mission effectively and to grow

in personal spirituality, love for Christ, and knowledge of the principles and methods of effective Vincentian formation and development.

- Identifying the spiritual and human needs of Vincentians and Provide a range of quality programming for Vincentian formation, including but not limited to Ozanam Orientation and Home Visit Workshops. Offerings should also include formation in Servant Leadership, Systemic Change, Catholic Social Teaching, Diversity/Multicultural Issues and Advocacy. This plan includes ongoing formation and learning opportunities for Vincentians to grow in holiness, strengthen their Conferences, and serve the poor with charity, joy and hope. The Committee will be at the heart of organizing, developing and delivering quality programming, along with recruited Formators, Vincentian members, other presenters and staff.
- The Committee will play an active role in implementing initiatives within their assigned areas. Once recommendations are approved, they will execute plans, monitor progress, and ensure successful implementation. The committee will collect and analyze Vincentian evaluation forms from trainings to assess effectiveness. This hands-on involvement allows committees to contribute directly to achieving the formational and developmental goals.

Spirituality

- Preserve and cultivate the Catholic beliefs and ethos of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
- Mandating the participation of all Vincentians in Ozanam Orientation, Prevent and Protect and Home Visit training.
- Ensuring an active, trained Spiritual Advisor for every Conference and providing formation and training for all Spiritual Advisors. Develop and organize district level Spiritual Advisors to play a more active role in ensuring Conference spiritual vitality within their districts. Suggesting Vincentian Spirituality and Formation resources to District and Conference Spiritual Advisors.
- Recruiting and training Vincentian formators and presenters across the Council. Organizing formators and presenters into teams to plan, develop and present programming that encourages a robust Vincentian vocation and strong Conference Life.
- Providing regular formation and development training opportunities for Council Board members including Board spiritual retreats.

Friendship / Conference Life

- Promote vibrant Conference life and growth through learning opportunities and programming that reinforces Minimum Requirements, Guidelines for Effective Conferences, Standards of Excellence and other development offerings (recruiting, fundraising etc).
- Facilitate the annual commissioning of all members and officers and reinforce the importance of developing new servant leaders by offering ongoing development opportunities.
- Promote and/or organize regular activities and events that cultivate spirituality and friendship such as Vincentian Feast Day Masses, trips to historic parishes and shrines, etc.

- Encourage participation in District and Council meetings by assisting in the development of well-organized and effective programs that provide high value and enjoyable fellowship.
- Encourage Vincentian friendship by promoting regular conviviality at Conference meetings.

Service / Person-to-Person Contact

- Encourage service to Neighbors that promotes human dignity, self-sufficiency, sound judgement, and social justice.
- Promote the Home Visit as the central and most basic activity of Conferences while recognizing other worthwhile opportunities for person-to-person contact.
- Through enhanced vocational vitality, encourage creativity in increasing our capacity and capabilities to serve the marginalized and needy in our Council.

Outcomes

- Analyze Vincentian evaluation forms from trainings to assess effectiveness.
- Assessing the plan annually and amending as needed.
- Completing a yearly report on all offerings.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet at a minimum of every other month, and monthly when called for, at the direction of the Chair(s), the Board President or Executive Director and shall maintain minutes for all meetings. Committee reports will be distributed to Board members prior to Board meetings.

Board Secretary Julia Belford

Date April 25, 2024

Resolution number 2024-04-25A