
PROMOTING SVDP IN TODAY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH: RENEW & EVOLVE

PRESENTED BY JIM MCFARLAND | TRAINING SESSION FOR PRESIDENTS | OCT. 13, 2018

RULE 1.6 -- ADAPTATION TO A CHANGING WORLD

Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. It seeks to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. It gives priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society.

CONSTANTS IMPACTING RENEWAL

- Changes --- things never remain the same.
- Challenges --- weak ideas, lofty goals, tough requests.
- Conundrums --- difficult problems.
- Power structures --- always in place.
- New Communications Tools---technology

ISSUES FACING CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Sex Abuse Scandals
- Lack of Evangelization
- Culture Wars
- Women as Clergy
- Combining Parishes
- Shortage of Priests
- Changing Demographics

MEETING & DEALING WITH DEMANDS OF RULE 1.6

- Pledge to Renew & Adapt
- Understand New Landscape & Environment
- Organize a Team to Work on 1.6
- Lead & Advocate & Develop a Plan
- Embrace New Comm. Tools

WHAT IS FAITH WITHOUT WORKS?

Letter of James: 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

SVDP: ANCHOR OF STABILITY -- SEA OF CHANGE

St. Vincent de Paul Has a Huge
Engagement Opportunity!

WHY?

BECAUSE WE CAN LEVERAGE OUR STRENGTHS

- Action Arm of The Gospels.
- We Visit & See Neighbors Face to Face. Parish Based.
- Helping Neighbors Compassion & Dignity --- Deal With Realities.
- Incredibly Cost Efficient. Volunteer Driven & Independent.
- Connected to a Strong, Talented & Supportive Network.

PUT LEVERAGE TO WORK: BRIDGING!

**We See Things
As We Are**

We think everyone
knows all about us. They don't.

**Parishioners
See Things
As They Are**

Parishioners & community
know very little about us.

**We Must
Understand This
Paradigm**

**We Must
Create Bridges**

BUILDING STRONG BRIDGES!

**We Help Bring
Gospels to Life
Through Action**

Common Ground.

We make home visits every week. We go in pairs to visit and serve the poor. We are a direct connection to Christ's teachings—an action arm of the Gospels!



**We Keep
Listening
& Sharing Our
Work**

Understanding & Empathy

Parish community needs to be given stories and reports about our work. They will see and feel the value. Many will want to donate and some will want to join you.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PASTORS

- Pastor's Parish---He is The Ultimate Gatekeeper.
- Get to Know Him.
- Connect SVdP Mission to Him.
- Meet On His Terms & Respect His Parameters.
- Work To Get A Regular Communications Schedule In Place.
- Develop A Workable Game Plan He Accepts.

COMMUNICATION IN PARISHES

- Know Your Parish Really Well.
- Find Best Comm. Channels.
- Call & Greet Everyone Individually.
- Call Make Appointments & Tell Our Story.
- Ask Good Questions to Get Good Answers.
- Listen & Take Good Notes. Follow Up.
- Develop Action Plans Out of The Listening.

COMMUNICATION IN PARISHES

Attraction Grows From Inside Out.
We Must Connect With Hearts of Other Parishioners.

- Gospels Are Our Pathway.
- Respond Quickly to Questions.
- We Must Know Other Ministry & out reach Groups.
- Parish Schools --- Great Partners.
- Target Potential Members For Specific Jobs.
- Introduce RCIA Participants to St.Vincent Conference Work.

PARISH COMM: BULLETIN A MUST

- Put One Client Story In Bulletin Monthly.
- Try To Put A Monthly Report Or Recruitment Note In Bulletin
- Thank You Notes In Bulletin
- Ask for financial & food donations in bulletin.

PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

- Participate in Ministry Fairs.
- St. Vincent Speaker for Parish Events & Seminars.
- Host Coffee or Breakfast After Mass.
- SVdP Display for Narthex — Council Has Display & Materials.

FOOD EVENTS: BUILDING COMMUNITY ONE BITE AT A TIME

- Community, Refreshments & Learning -- Winning Formula.
- Be Innovative & Creative.
- Connect Events to St. Vincent Education.
- These are Special Treats for Parishioners.
- Make Them Annual Traditions & Renew Approach.

ST. VINCENT WEEKEND --OLG

- Our Lady of Guadalupe Has A St.Vinnie's Weekend
- Pulpit Pitch---Conference Member Speaks at All Masses
- Bulletin Announcements
- Collection of Funds For Conference Work
- Name Tags, Lanyards, Buttons for Visibility
- Stuff The Truck Event—Sunday
- Conference Members -- Masses Wearing Ask Me About SVdP Buttons

ST. JOSEPH HAS ST. VINCENT SUNDAY

St. Joseph Seattle has a St. Vincent Sunday

- Special St. Vincent Collection
- Conference members greeting parishioners coming and leaving masses
- Pulpit pitch – to share successes and your needs.
- Banners on Church exterior – saying St. Vincent Sunday

ST.VINCENT DE PAUL: ENGAGEMENT

THANK YOU!!