



Expectations of a Vincentian

Experiencing the full fruits of relationship in your conference and growth in faith can only happen through your physical and spiritual dedication to the Society. Here is what the Society of St.

Vincent de Paul expects of you:

1) Follow up on your agreed commitments.

We do not ask more than what you are able to give; we simply ask that you honor the commitments you have said yes to. This is especially true with home visits as your partner and those in need are depending on your presence. If you are not able to make a pre arranged meeting we ask that you seek a replacement and/or communicate to your partner and person visiting.

2) Attend Conference meetings on a regular basis.

The conference meeting is an opportunity to insure your conference is serving the needy appropriately and are good stewards of your resources. Just as importantly it is an opportunity to gather in prayer and form Christ centered relationships.

3) Attend the initial trainings and commit to ongoing formation.

The King County Council is dedicated to ongoing Vincentian growth. We ask that you be open to learning new ideas and ways to serve those in need and to deepen in your Christian journeys. The initial trainings are Ozanam Orientation and Home Visit Orientation. Our ongoing formation offerings include Home Visit Conversation, annual retreats and our Vincentian Formation Gatherings.

4) Respect your fellow Vincentians and those you serve as equal members of the Body of Christ.

The Society has a place for every human gift and personality; it is only through honoring this diversity that the full potential of our collective discipleship can be experienced. We also expect that those we serve feel respected and be reminded of their God given dignity when being visited by a Vincentian.



The Five Vincentian Virtues of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

SIMPLICITY

This is the virtue St. Vincent loved most. “It is my gospel,” he says. This means giving a straightforward opinion about things in the way we honestly see them without needless reservations. It also means doing things without any double-dealing or manipulation, our intention being focused solely on God. Each of us, then, should take care to behave always in this spirit of simplicity, remembering that God likes to deal with the simple.

HUMILITY

Jesus said “Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.” Humility is basic to gospel spirituality. The kingdom of God belongs to the poor in spirit. God resists the proud; he raise’s up the humble. We must stand before God humbly in our daily prayer, and have the attitude of a servant.

GENTLENESS

“There are no people more constant and firm in doing the good than those who are gentle and gracious. However there is a need for balance between firmness and gentleness. As Vincentians we are called to balance both of these qualities with our encounters, originally called “meekness” by Vincent, we use the term Gentleness.

SELF-SACRIFICE

Detachment or letting go is a core value in the Gospels. Vincent believed, along with the other saints, that when the Lord asked them to be His follower, they knew they had to deny themselves. It was the commitment of doing God’s will. The apostles had to die to their old habits of mind and action in order to follow Jesus, who was inviting them to new ways of seeing themselves and being into a new mission. Without this value they could not become healers and preachers of the good news.

ZEAL

St. Vincent himself spoke on Zeal in this way: “it is made up of a genuine desire to please God and to be useful to others, zeal for extending God’s kingdom, zeal for achieving others’ salvation. If God’s love is fire, then zeal is its flame; if God’s love is a sun, zeal is its ray. Zeal is the purest element in loving God. Zeal is the enthusiasm we embrace in our ministry as Vincentians.

St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle | King County

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