

John 15: 5-8: 16-17

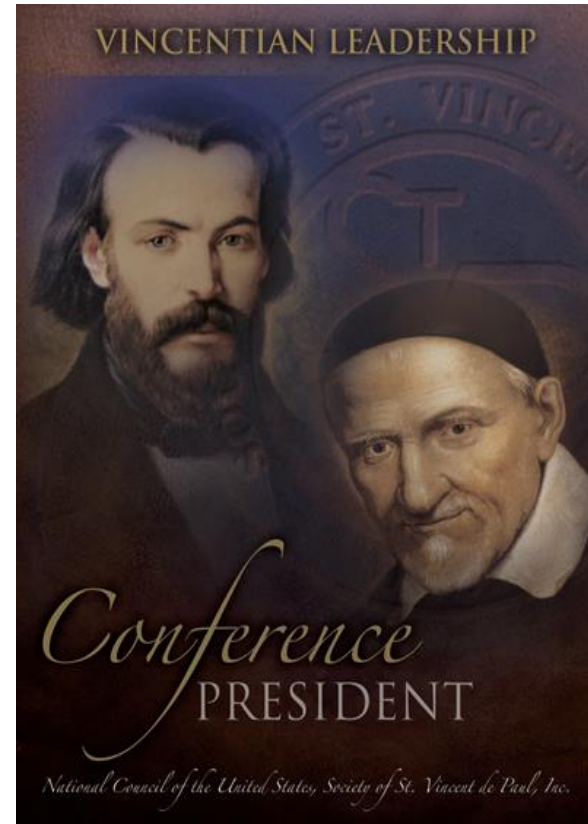


- 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I remain in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
- 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.
- 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.
- 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
- 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.
- 17 This is my command: Love each other.





**“I am the vine; you
are the branches.
Go now and bear
much fruit. . . . “I
have chosen you.
You have not
chosen me.”
(John 15)**



To be an Effective and Responsible Servant Leader: Conference President



The Vincentian Tradition of Servant Leadership



Servant Leadership (Rule: Part 3, Statute 11)

Leadership positions in the Society, at any level, are always to be accepted as service to Christ, the members and the poor. Servant leadership is done in imitation of Jesus who said: “For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many.”



The Vincentian Tradition of Servant Leadership



Presidents as Servant Leaders (Rule: Part 1, 3.11)

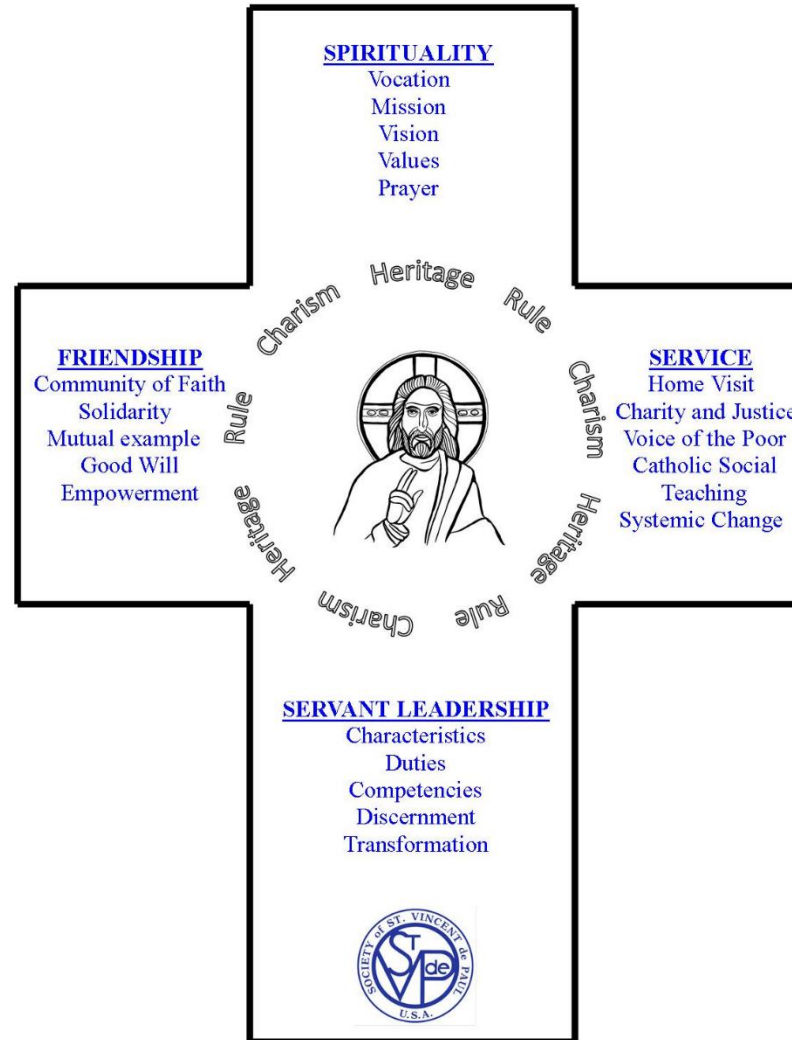
Following Christ's example, the Presidents at all levels of the Society endeavor to be servant leaders. They provide an encouraging atmosphere in which the talents, capacities and spiritual charism of the members are identified, developed and put to the service of the poor and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The President of the Conference or Council will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.

See pp. 4-5; 23-25 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President





Servant Leadership Cross



Pathway Toolbox:

<https://members.ssvpusa.org/formation/vincentian-pathway-toolbox/>



CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS



Seven Duties of Conference Presidents

- Commitment
- Comprehension
- Communication
- Cultivation
- Collaboration
- Chairperson
- Contributions/Compliance



**Pp. 6-8 Vincentian Leadership:
Guidelines for Conference President**





Duty 1: Commitment

Make a solemn commitment to

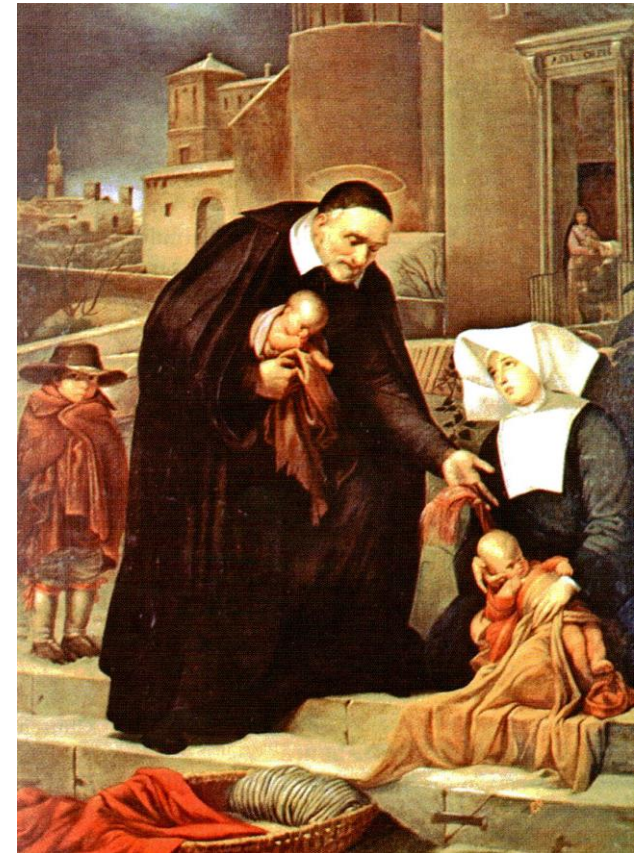
- grow in understanding of and living out the Vincentian charism.
- support the mission of the Society.
- foster the spirituality of the Society
- serve no longer than two consecutive three-year terms so that new leadership might take over.
- attend the regularly scheduled meetings of the District Council
- be adequately prepared to discuss and bring to consensus and/or vote issues and policies that will be brought forward.
- share ideas and concerns.



Our Mission Statement



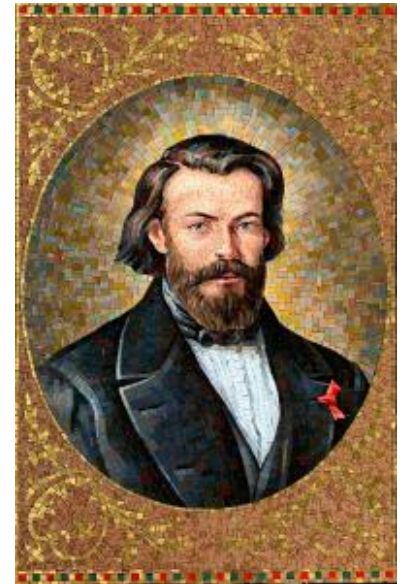
**A network of friends,
inspired by Gospel values,
growing in holiness and
building a more just world
through personal relationships with
and service to people in need.**



Our Identity Statement Part 1



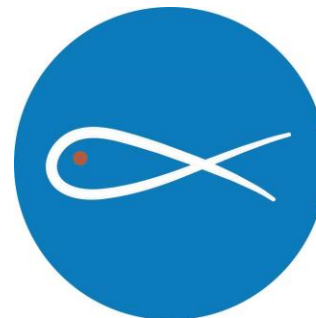
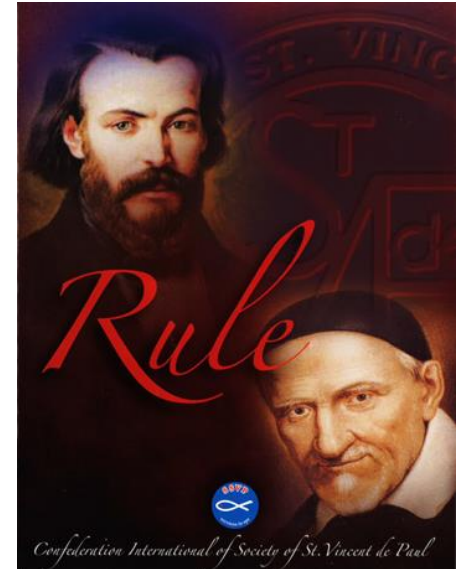
Inspired by Gospel values, the SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL, **Catholic lay** organization, leads **women and men** to join together to **grow spiritually** by offering **person-to-person service** to the needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, **Blessed Frederic Ozanam**, and patron, **St. Vincent de Paul**.





Our Identity Statement Part 2

As a reflection of the whole family of God, members, who are known as **VINCENTIANS**, are drawn from **every ethnic and cultural background, age group and economic level**. Vincentians are united in an **international society** of charity by their spirit of poverty, humility and sharing, which is nourished by **prayer and reflection**, mutually supportive gatherings and **adherence to a basic Rule**.



SOCIÉTÉ DE
SAINT-VINCENT-DE-PAUL

FONDÉE PAR FRÉDÉRIC OZANAM





Our Identity Statement Part 3

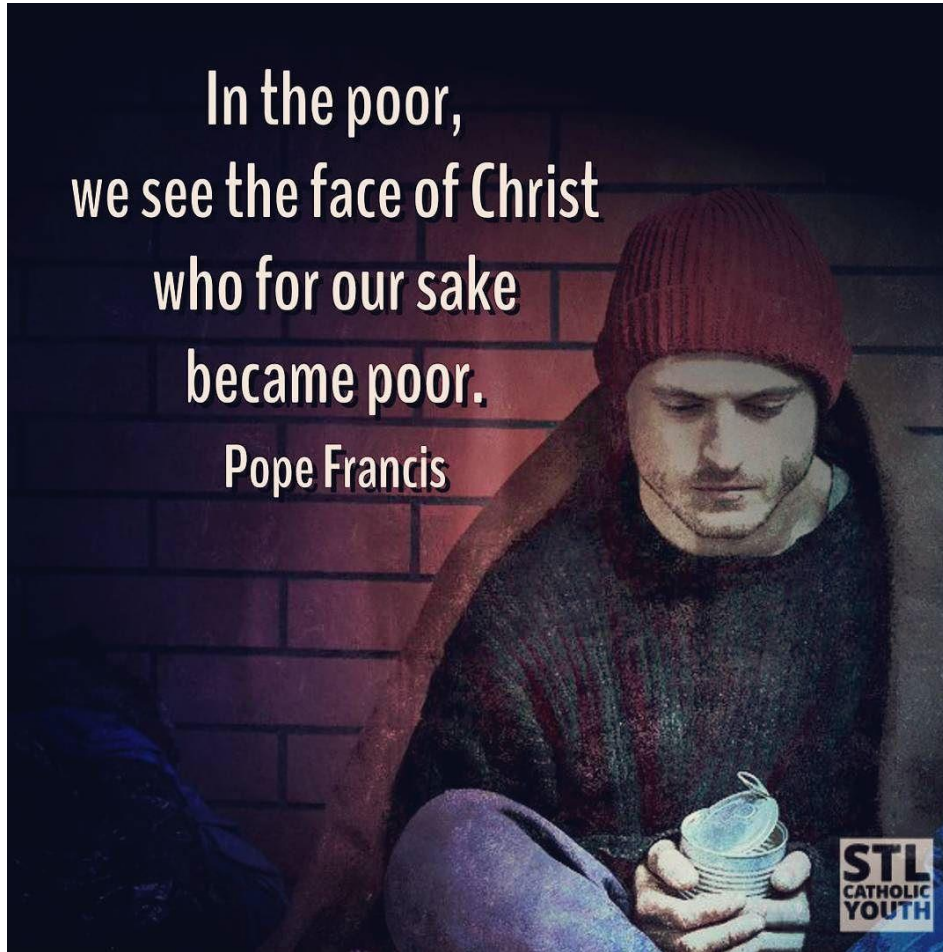
Organized locally, Vincentians witness God's love by **embracing all works of charity and justice**. The Society **collaborates with other people** of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making **no distinction in those served**, because in them Vincentians **see the face of Christ**.

See pp. 13-14 *Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President*



Note the words of Pope Francis

In the poor,
we see the face of Christ
who for our sake
became poor.
Pope Francis



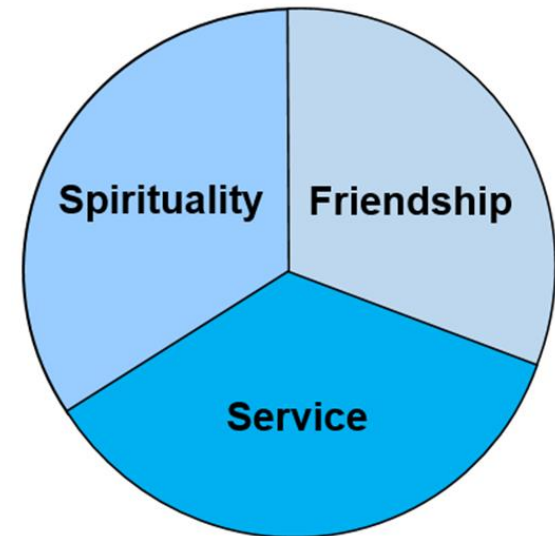


Our Essential Elements

- **Sanctification (spirituality) :**
- Grow in holiness

- **Solidarity (Friendship):**
- Build community

- **Service:**
- Help those in need and be in “solidarity” with them



See pp. 14 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President



Seven Cultural Beliefs: Rule Part III, Statute 2



See pp. 15 Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President





Duty 2: Comprehension

Comprehend

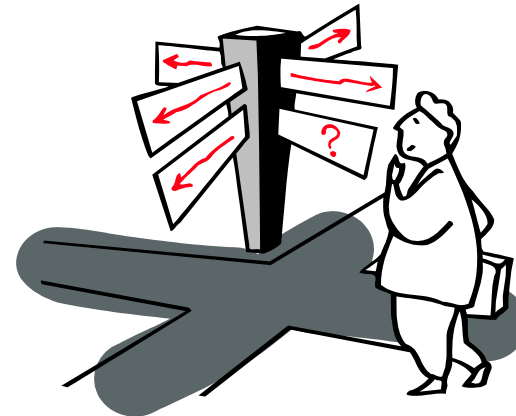
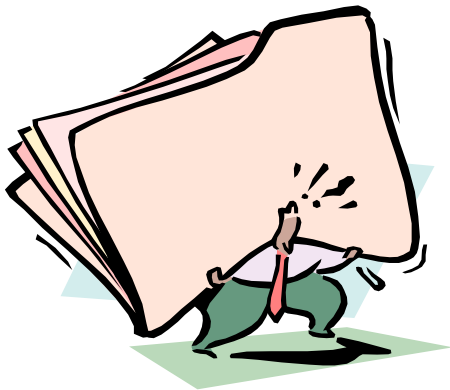
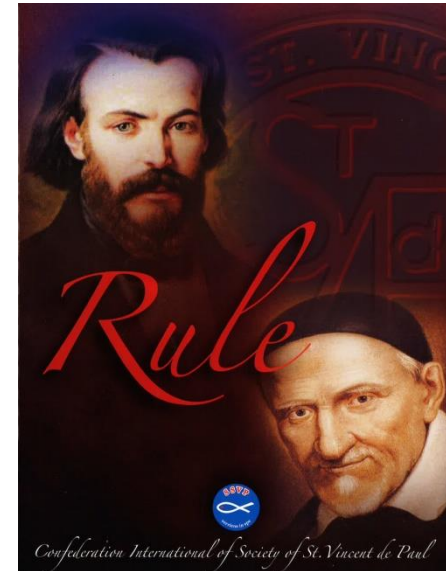
- the Rule of the Society and how it applies at all levels.
- the essential structure, operations, and functions of each unit of the Society
- the life and spiritual legacy of St. Vincent de Paul, and the role of Louise de Marillac
- the life and spiritual legacy of our founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and the role of Blessed Rosalie Rendu.



The Rule

Comprehend

- the Rule of the Society and how it applies at all levels.





The Essential Structure: Membership

Comprehend the essential structure, operations, and functions of each unit of the Society

- Active Members:** Participate regularly in the prayer life, meetings and charitable activities through personal contact with the poor of the Vincentian Conference or Council into which they have been received.
- Associate Members:** Affiliated with the Society by formal action of the Conference or Council with which the member will be joined. Associate Members include those who sincerely and publicly accept the Society's Rule but may or may not belong to the Catholic Church and may or may not attend Conference meetings or engage in the works of the Society on a regular basis.

See pp. 9-12 *Vincentian Leadership: Guidelines for Conference President*



The Essential Structure: Organization of Our Society



People Living in Poverty



Conferences



District Councils



(Arch)Diocesan Councils



U.S. National Council



International Confederation
of St. Vincent de Paul

Regions



The Essential Structure: 8 Regions



The Essential Structure: National Council



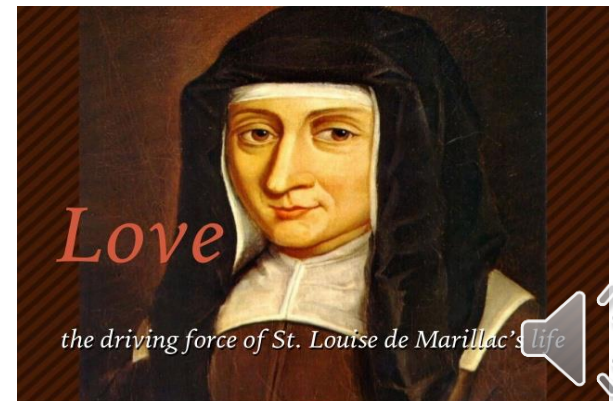
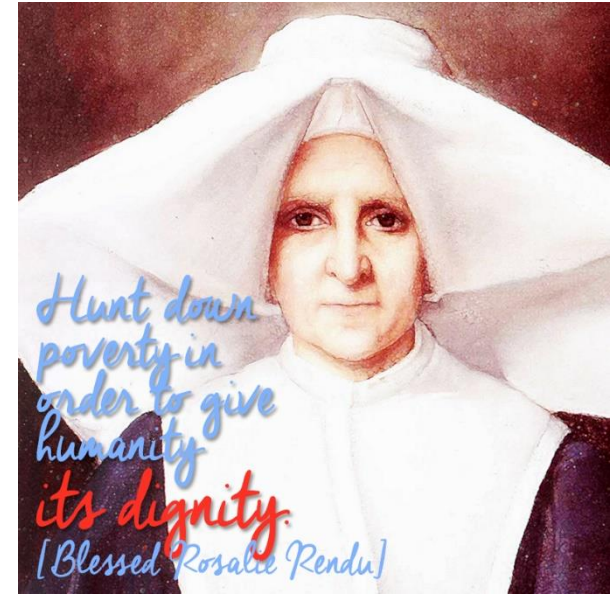
National Council



Legacy: Our Vincentian Heritage



Fr d ric Ozanam, in his academic robes, performing a home visit. Painting by Gary Schumer.
Courtesy of the Association of the Miraculous Medal, Perryville, Missouri



Duty 3: Communication

Communicate effectively in order to:

- share information about issues, decisions, and policies with conference members in a timely fashion.
- express in appropriate ways and through appropriate channels any concerns, issues, and ideas.
- remain informed about national, regional, district, and local issues.





Duty 4: Cultivation

Cultivate members through formation by

- developing members both new and old (Ozanam Orientations, Serving in Hope modules, Days of Recollection, Retreats, Invitation to Serve, etc.)
- finding, training, and encouraging Spiritual Advisors.
- Increasing and encouraging both active and associate membership in the Conference.
- Encouraging the establishment of a VOP Committee.
- cooperating in the implementation of the National Strategic Plan.
- providing training and other formation that helps all members understand and address the root causes of poverty.
- developing processes that encourage Systemic Change.

See pp. 28-30 Vincentian Leadership: Conference President





Duty 5: Collaboration

Collaborate with:

- other Conferences in the local area, the state, the region, in the United States or abroad.
- other members of the Vincentian family.
- other individuals and non-profit organizations, both secular and religious.
- The pastor and keep him informed about the work of the Society.



Duty 6: Chairperson



Conference Presidents must:

- conduct regular, orderly meetings of the conference.
- **delegate duties in a reasonable manner.**
- make appropriate appointments of officers and committee members
- facilitate and participate in discussions about decisions and policies for the Conference.

See pp. 44-49 **Vincentian Leadership: Conference President**

CONSENSUS



**“A genuine leader is not a searcher for
consensus but a molder of consensus.”**
—Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Duty 7: Contributions/Compliance



Conference Presidents oversee contributions to and compliance with the National Council, Region, and Local Councils in order to

- ensure that all solidarity contributions are paid in a timely manner (when applicable).
- assure that the Conference submits annual reports on time.
- facilitate and ensure compliance with Diocesan and/or National Council safe environment policies.
- be alert to issues of accountability and good governance.

See pp. 49-50 Vincentian Leadership: Conference President



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See pp. 49-50 Vincentian Leadership: Conference President





Duty 7: Contributions/Compliance

Conference Presidents oversee contributions to and compliance with the National Council, Region, and Local Councils in order to



See pp. 49-50 Vincentian Leadership: Conference President



ACCOUNTABILITY

is the glue that ties
COMMITMENT
to **RESULTS**





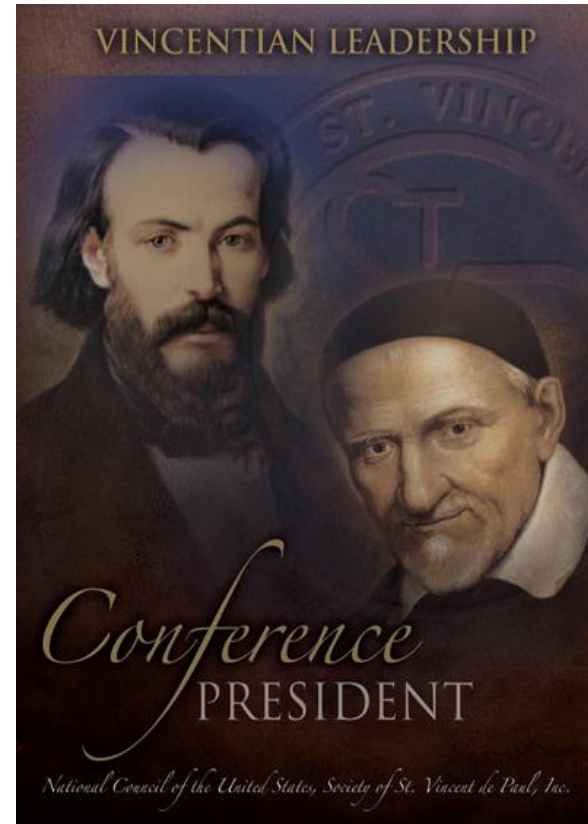
Ideas for Delegating Conference Responsibilities

Every active conference member should have his or her own special responsibility. This increases involvement and it spreads the work around. Every conference is unique, so your responsibilities will be unique too. Here's some ideas:

President	Coordinate overall activities of the Conference.
Vice-President(s)	Assume duties of President when President is not available. Can also chair a committee or project.
Secretary	Notify members of meetings, take minutes, and handle correspondence.
Treasurer	Handle conference finances. Work with Secretary on Annual Report.
Spiritual Advisor	Prepare and lead prayer, spiritual reading and reflection at each meeting. Plan retreats etc.
Assistant Secretary	Takes minutes when secretary is unavailable.
Assistant Spiritual Advisor	Lead reflections when Spiritual Advisor is unavailable. Help plan retreats and celebrations.
Assistant Treasurer	Assists treasurer with some portion of bookkeeping and making payments. For instance, if you pay utility bills at a kiosk, perhaps a second person could do that.
Pastoral Council Representative	Represent Conference on the Pastoral Council.
Youth Liaison	Coordinate parish youth activities in support of the Conference, work with Religious Ed staff.
Initial Contact with Friends in Need	Take phone calls, get contact info and the nature of the request. This may be a rotating responsibility.
Home Visit Scheduler	Match up requests with available home visit teams. This may be a rotating responsibility.
Home Visit Captain	Work with new home visitors, set up training, ensure procedures are up-to-date
Food Supply Coordinator	Coordinate food gathering to ensure adequate supplies are on hand.
Food Storage Coordinator	Set up and maintain storage for food in a safe and organized fashion.
Food Bag/Box Committee Chair	Organize people to pack food for delivery to those in need. If you have a walk-in food bank or food pantry, there will be additional roles.
Conference Records Coordinator	Maintains records of people helped.
Members Portal Coordinator	Assist President by updating National membership database and providing members with up-to-date lists of member contact information.
Conference Hospitality Coordinator	Coordinate ministering to Conference members when needed – get-well cards, sympathy cards, assistance for those who are ill.
Recruitment Chair	Organize annual (or more often!) recruiting efforts. Take potential new members out for coffee.
Sunday Bulletin Correspondent	Let the parish know what is going on via regular bulletin announcements.
Reminder Calls	Call every member two or three days before meeting and leave a message.
XXX Project Chair	Chair of a project such as Thanksgiving Baskets, Christmas Gift Tree, Bundle Sunday, Donut Sales, Prison Outreach, etc.
Resource Collector	Keeps referral sheets and resources up-to-date and available for members and those in need.
Voice of the Poor Chair	Keeps track of Council Voice of the Poor activities and brings issues to the Conference for consideration.
Information Liaison	Reads and reports in conference meetings on the e-Gazette, VOP newsletter, etc.



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are the branches.
Go now and bear
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have chosen you.
You have not
chosen me.”
(John 15)**



**To be an Effective and Responsible
Servant Leader: Conference President**





Questions/Discussion

- If you are viewing this on a live webinar with a facilitator, you will be instructed on how to ask any questions you may have.
- If you are not viewing this as a part of a live webinar, please refer any questions you may have to Tim Williams, National Director of Formation at:
Tim Williams twilliams@svdpusa.org

Thank you and God Bless

