

ANNUAL COMMITMENT CEREMONY



A VINCENTIAN PROMISE AND PRAYER

Spiritual Advisor: Let us ask the Holy Spirit to be with us as we once again renew our Vincentian Commitment to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

All: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.
And strength us by Your Love.

Spiritual Advisor: Send forth your spirit and new life will be created.
All: And the whole face of the earth will be renewed.

Spiritual Advisor: In response to the call of Christ who invites you to follow him, do you promise to be a witness to his boundless love for the poor, the lonely, the suffering and deprived, those without faith and those who feel unloved?

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to grow in holiness of life and to share in a longing for spiritual growth and enrichment.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you firmly resolve to treasure the warm friendship and unity which was from the beginning a hallmark of our Society?

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to grow in humility and simplicity so that true friendship may grow in my heart.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that you can bring them your love.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to be sensitive to their vulnerability, to respect and not to judge or blame them.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to be generous with your time, your possessions and yourself in your mission of charity.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to always serve in justice and charity so that I can be an advocate and a voice for the poor.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to persevere in regarding your home visits as a sacred trust?

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to be more aware of the blessings I receive from those I visit.

Spiritual Advisor: Let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, patroness of our Society, as we say,

All: Hail Mary, full of grace...(continue)

Spiritual Advisor: Let us ask for the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam to fill our hearts as we pray to the Father in the words Jesus gave us,

All: Our Father...(continue)

Spiritual Advisor:

Let us pray together:

**Lord Jesus, you who willed to become poor,
give us eyes and a heart directed toward the poor.
Help us to recognize you in them—in their hunger
and thirst, their loneliness and suffering.**

**Enkindle within us the fire of love that burned in
the hearts of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic, so that we
will live our mission and core values with integrity.**

**Grant us the grace to be faithful to the Society of
St. Vincent de Paul, so that we will grow in spirituality,
friendship and service to our suffering brothers and sisters**

Amen

(Conclude with an appropriate song)



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY
Installation of a District Council President

Spiritual Advisor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Spiritual Advisor: Spirit of the living God,

All: Come and breathe your life anew.

Spiritual Advisor: Passionate fire of God's love,

All: Ignite the talents and gifts of everyone present here, and
enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love.

Spiritual Advisor: Our Rule calls us to have reverence for the poor by stating:

“Vincentians serve the poor cheerfully, listening to them and respecting their wishes, helping them to feel and recover their own dignity, for we are all created in God's image. In the poor, they see the suffering Christ.” (1.8)

Indeed, the vision of Blessed Frederic Ozanam was:

“To establish a network of charity and social justice to circle the world.”

And so let us pray together the Mission Statement of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul:

All: As Vincentians we are:

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.

Spiritual Advisor:

The Rule teaches us that: “The Councils of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul exist to serve all the Conferences they coordinate. They are called to help the Conferences develop their spiritual life, to intensify their service and to diversify their activities so that they may always be responsive to the needs of those who suffer.

Councils are particularly called to: create new Conferences, to help existing Conferences to expand, to promote Special Works, to prepare training courses and encourage Vincentians to attend them, to foster interest in cooperation with the Vincentian Family, to promote cooperation with other organizations and Institutions, to develop friendship between members in the same area, to provide communication to and from Conferences and higher Councils. In summary, to promote the sense of belonging to a Society which encircles the world.” (Rule 3.6)

In the spirit of Jesus, the Servant leader, the office of President is a responsibility, not an honor. It is one of service and the President is the first among equals. The Rule calls the President to “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 District Council will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality.” (Rule 3.11)

And so we gather together to pray for and to commission Dave Kamper the new President for the District III.

Reading: Gospel according to John (13:12-17) read by the Retiring President:

“After he had washed their feet, Jesus put his cloak back on and reclined at table once more. He said to them: “Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—then you must wash each other’s feet. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do. I solemnly assure you, no slave is greater than his master; no messenger outranks the one who sent him. Once you know all these things, blest will you be if you put them into practice.”

Spiritual Advisor: First, let us thank our outgoing President Mike Syslo, for his generosity in fulfilling his duties and his faithful years of service as President of District III.

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, let us ask God our Father to look lovingly upon Dave Kamper, who has been called to serve as our new District Council President.

Spiritual Advisor: May the Manual and Rule of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, continue to guard and guide your steps as you lead the Society. And so I now ask you:

Do you Dave Kamper promise to carry out your duties with diligence and creativity, serving the District Council and those in need for the greater glory of God?

New President: I do, and I pray for the strength and wisdom to faithfully serve the members and those they visit.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to seek consensus and not to insist on your own opinion, to see every member as a friend, to recognize their talents, to encourage each one and to develop harmony and respect between members and to always “deepen the Vincentian spirit of friendship”?

New President: I do, and I pray that we will be of one mind and one heart, so that all of our Conferences may be a sign of the presence and love of Christ in our community.

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to help all members “seek and to find the forgotten, the suffering or the deprived so that they may bring them the love of Jesus?”

New President: I do, and I pray that we will be filled with the grace to serve those who are suffering in “charity and justice.”

Spiritual Advisor: Do you promise to adhere loyally to the spirit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as reflected in the Rule and to promote a deeper Vincentian spirituality amongst all the members?

New President: I do, and I pray that I will be generous with my time, my possessions and myself in this mission of charity.

Leader: Dave Kamper, you have accepted a serious responsibility as the District Council President. I ask all of us here present to share in that responsibility by our prayers and support. For this let us seek the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of our Society, as we say together:

All: Hail Mary...

Spiritual Advisor:

Prayer of Blessing and Commissioning

Let us now raise our hands in blessing as we pray together:

All:

May God's grace and blessing be with you Dave Kamper as we commission you as the President of the District III of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Let the wisdom of St. Vincent and Blessed Frederic, guard and guide you as you undertake your office.

Allow yourself to be led by the Lord. He will direct all things through you. Trust him and following his example, always act humbly, gently and in good faith, and you will see everything go well. Your responsibilities, which are many, will continue to grow but believe and trust that he will not leave a heavy burden on your back without sustaining you. He will be your strength as well as your reward for the extraordinary services you render to the Society and to the poor.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen



COMMISSIONING CEREMONY Installation of District Council Officers

President: Come Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

All: And strength us by Your Love.

President: As we gather together to install our new officers, let us pray the words from the first Chapter of our Rule, asking for the grace to live them faithfully and with integrity:

(Alternate sides)

- We are called to live our Vincentian Vocation which is to follow Christ through service to those in need and so bear witness to His compassionate and liberating love. We show our commitment through person-to-person contact. As Vincentians we serve in hope. (Rule 1.2)
- We are called to give any form of personal help because “No work of charity is foreign to the Society.” It includes any form of help that alleviates suffering or deprivation and promotes human dignity and personal integrity in all their dimensions. (Rule 1.3)
- We are called to serve anyone in need because the Society serves those in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political opinions. (Rule 1.4)
- We are called to seek out the poor because as Vincentians we strive to seek out and find those in need and the forgotten, the victims of exclusion or adversity. (Rule 1.5)

(Together)

- We are called to always adapt to a changing world. Faithful to the spirit of its founders, the Society constantly strives for renewal, adapting to changing world conditions. We seek to be ever aware of the changes that occur in human society and the new types of poverty that may be identified or anticipated. We give priority to the poorest

of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society. (Rule 1.6)
Amen

President: First, let us thank our outgoing officer: Marcia Fung, Secretary; and for her generosity in fulfilling their duties and their faithful years of service in our District Council.

I would like to invite the following people of faith, who have been chosen by their brother and sister Vincentians for leadership in the District III to come forward:

Mike Thompson, Vice- President
LaVerne Horgan, Treasurer

President: As a servant leader, do you Mike Thompson as Vice- President, firmly resolve to perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's temporary absence, to accept all other duties as the President may assign, and to attend the District Council meetings?

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

President: As a servant leader, do you _____ (Name) _____, as Secretary, promise to attend the District Council meetings ensuring that all records, formal documents, meeting attendance are kept; that the annual report records are maintained, that all votes are recorded, minutes kept of all proceedings, and to give notice of all meetings of the District Council.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

Leader: As a servant leader, do you Laverne Horgan as Treasurer, promise to be responsible for the District Council funds, securities, maintenance of full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in official records belonging to the Council, the deposit of all monies and other valuable effects, to attend meetings of the Council informing members of the Council's financial position by submitting a written statement at every meeting, to prepare a budget for the Council that is approved annually, and to assure the disbursement of funds as may be ordered by the Council.

All: I do, and I ask for the grace to serve in the spirit of our mission and values.

President: May the Holy Spirit enlighten you as you carry out your responsibilities. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us now ask for God's blessing on our new officers as we say,

All: Hail Mary, full of grace...

President: Let us now extend our hand in blessing over our new Conference Officers, as we pray together:

All: In the spirit of Jesus, as a servant leader, and in the name of our Patron, St. Vincent de Paul and our Founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, we commission you as the Officers of the District III.

We ask for the grace that together we may:

- grow in Vincentian spirituality,
- deepen our spirit of friendship with each other, and
- serve the poor in charity and justice, love and compassion.

We promise our prayers and our support. Amen

New Officers:

St. Vincent de Paul, apostle of the charity of Christ, give us the grace of loving God through the work of our hands and the sweat of our brow. Help us to abandon ourselves to God's Providence, and to faithfully discover God's action in all the events of our lives.

Sustain us in our desire to discern and accomplish the will of God. Obtain for us a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and sufferings of others, especially the most helpless in this world.

Accompany us in our service towards humankind and intercede for us before the Son of God so that in our work, our families, our neighborhoods, our parishes and our communities, we become impassioned by his Gospel of love. Amen