

## Self-Emptying: Kenosis

In St. Paul's letter to the Philippians, he quotes the great kenotic hymn which beautifully articulates the humility of Jesus Christ who empties himself in becoming human and embracing the shame of the cross. "Kenosis" means "the pouring out of self." Vincentians imitate the incarnate, poor, crucified Christ by pouring themselves out in lives of communion, service, prayer and love. We do not serve the poor on our terms, but on theirs. We go to the poor, not from a position of superiority, but rather one of humility and self-emptying love.



## An Invitation

If you are interested in journeying with Vincentians by visiting people in need and reflecting on your experiences, please contact:

*Your parish*

or

*the Society of St. Vincent de Paul*



**Society of St.  
Vincent de Paul**

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## A Journey toward Holiness

**SOCIETY OF  
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



**The vocation of Vincentians is to follow  
Christ through service to those in need  
and to bear witness to His compassionate  
and liberating love.**

*-Article 1.2 Rule of the  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul*

**VINCENTIANS ARE CALLED TO JOURNEY TOGETHER TOWARD HOLINESS**

## The Call to Holiness

When Frederic Ozanam founded the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, the first objective was the members' own personal growth in holiness.

Vincentians take their spiritual lives



Frederic Ozanam  
Society founder

very seriously, integrating the celebration of the sacraments, personal prayer and devotion, spiritual formation and consistent

reflection on their experiences of serving the poor into an increasingly holy life, dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. Through a disciplined life of Word and sacrament, reflection and action, prayer and service, the Vincentian is increasingly configured to the merciful heart of Jesus Christ.

The visible work of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is personal service to the poor. Principally through the home visit, but also through the stores, food pantries, ministry to the sick, services to families and children, Vincentians live out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, putting into concrete action the

St. Vincent de Paul  
Society patron



mercy and love of Jesus Christ.

Through Voices of the Poor and legislative action, the Society strives to wed justice with charity. As Saint Vincent often said,

the poor now take the place of Jesus Christ and we serve Him through them.

## Service to the Poor

## Community and Solidarity

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a Christian community in which the members live out a personal spiritual friendship. Because humanity is made in the image and likeness of God and because the Word became flesh, the human person has an absolute value and dignity. Thus, Vincentians embrace and live a welcoming and loving Christian personalism. We are not about efficiency of numbers and service; we seek to befriend each other and the poor in the Spirit of Christ.

Vincentians serve person-to-person

