

Closing Prayer - Option B

L: Let us pray for our particular intentions. That those we visit may find Your gift of confidence, courage, and peace by our concern for their needs. A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: That our Holy Father, the Pope, be enlightened and strengthened in his leadership; that all members of the Society, their families, any who may now be in need, and all those who help us in our work be attracted by Your love and live fulfilling lives. A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: That the Society and this conference be blessed with continual growth and renewal in its mission to help overcome suffering. A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: That we accept with new enthusiasm our calling to make visible our unity with Christ by working together with all Christians in service to the needy. A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: That the Cause for the canonization of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, who excelled in the virtue of Christian love, be advanced. A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: That our departed friends and relatives, our Vincentian brothers and sisters, and those whom we have served be welcomed into Your Kingdom and joined in love. A: **Lord, hear us.**

A: **In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Closing Prayer - Option C

A: **Our Father who art in Heaven. . .etc. Amen.**

L: St. Joseph. A: **Pray for us.**

L: St. Vincent de Paul. A: **Pray for us.**

L: Blessed Frederic. A: **Pray for us.**

L: For all the benefactors of the poor, that God may reward them with eternal life. A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: For our Society and all its members, that God may renew their spirit of service and union.

A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: For all who are sick or suffering, that God may Give them courage and consolation.

A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: For the deceased members, the deceased poor, and our deceased benefactors, that God may grant them eternal rest. A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: That the unity for which Christ prayed - all people one in truth and charity - may be realized.

A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: For families and those who have no homes, that they may quickly find a place in which they can live a decent and happy life. A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: That if it be God's holy will, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, our founder, may be further glorified by the Church. A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: That our Holy Father, the Pope, may be granted the protection, guidance, strength, and consolation that he needs to discharge his duties as Christ's vicar on earth. A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: That many people will respond to the needs of our time by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. A: **Lord, hear us.**

A: **In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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. (approved April 14, 2018)

OUR IDENTITY STATEMENT

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a 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, Frederic Ozanam, and its patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

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.

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.

Opening Prayer

L: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A: **Amen.**

L: Come, Holy Spirit, live within our lives.

A: **And strengthen us by Your love.**

L: Send forth Your spirit, and new life will be created.

A: **And the whole face of the earth will be renewed.**

Our Father who art in Heaven. . .Amen.

L: Let us reflect on the words of Our Lord Jesus Christ, recalling His unity and presence among us: "Where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them." (*Silence*)

A: **Lord Jesus, deepen our Vincentian spirit of friendship during this meeting. Make us responsive to the Christian calling to seek and find the forgotten, the suffering, or the deprived, so that we may bring them Your love. Help us to be generous with our time, our possessions, and ourselves in this mission of charity. Perfect in us Your love and teach us to share more fully in the Eucharistic Sacrifice offered for all.**

(Hail Mary full of grace. . .etc. Amen.)

L: Sacred Heart of Jesus. A: **Have mercy on us**

L: Immaculate Heart of Mary A: **Pray for**

L: St. Vincent de Paul. A: **Pray for us.**

L: St. Louise de Marillac A: **Pray for us**

L: Blessed Frederic Ozanam A: **Pray for us**

L: Blessed Rosalie Rendu A: **Pray for us**

A: **In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

STANDARDS OF AFFILIATION
Society of St. Vincent de Paul -
Archdiocesan Council of Milwaukee

1. Membership in the Society is open to all regardless of sex, age, or ethnic background. Diversity within conferences is important for their functioning.
2. Training is required to live the Vincentian vocation fully and to assure quality of Vincentian services. Training takes place primarily at the conference level, but it is supported by formalized Ozanam Orientations and other workshops offered by Councils for new and experienced members alike.
3. The most important part of Vincentian meetings is the mutual support and encouragement members give to each other.
4. Prayer and reflection are indispensable elements of such meetings.
5. Regular meetings are absolutely essential. Meeting weekly or bi-weekly is the internationally accepted standard.
6. Person-to-person contact with the needy in their homes is viewed as the most basic and necessary Vincentian activity. Visitation in other settings, such as institutions, is also important.
7. Vincentian services are not offered exclusively to parish members or to Catholics. Offers of help are not made or denied on the basis of religion or the choice of lifestyle.
8. It is important that the conference and its services be known both in the parish and in the broader neighborhood. Vincentians need to reach out and seek the less fortunate.
9. Conferences cannot stand alone. Being part of the Vincentian family means communicating with neighboring conferences and networking with conferences throughout the council. Conferences are expected to be represented at council meetings.
10. It is essential for parish conferences to be represented in other organizations and structures within the parish.
11. Submitting an annual accounting of activities is required for affiliation with the District Council. Such reports should be shared at the parish level.

<approved by the Archdiocesan Council on 2-28-98

AGENDA FOR SVDP
CONFERENCE MEETINGS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Opening prayer
4. Spiritual reading and discussion
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Home visit reports
7. President's report
8. Secretary's report
9. Treasurer's report
10. Committee reports
11. Membership reports
12. Resolutions
13. Special Works reports
14. Old business
15. New Business
16. Time and Place of next meeting
17. Secret collection
18. Closing prayer
19. Adjournment

Closing Prayer - Option A

L: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A: **Amen.**

A: **Father, grant that we who are nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, may realize the depth of our needs, respond more spontaneously to the suffering of others, and come to love You more deeply by service to our neighbor.**

Grant us also the wisdom and strength to persevere when disappointed or distressed. May we never claim that the fruitfulness of our apostolate springs from ourselves alone. United in prayer and action, may we become a visible sign of Christ, and may we give witness to His boundless love which reaches out to all people and draws them to love one another in Him.

We thank You, Lord, for the many blessings which we receive from those whom we visit. Help us to love and respect them, to understand their deeper needs, and to share their burdens and joys as true friends in Christ.

L: That the Cause for the canonization of Blessed Frederic Ozanam, who excelled in the virtue of Christian love, be advanced.

A: **Lord, hear us.**

L: That our departed friends and relatives, our Vincentian Brothers and Sisters, and those whom we have served, be welcomed into your Kingdom and joined in love.

A: **Lord, hear us.**

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