God, our Father, thank you for the opportunity to visit with our neighbors in need. 
Lord, you know each of us. You knew us from the day we were born, you know our hearts, our needs, and everything about us. 
You told us that you will never leave us or forsake us. 
You ask us to seek, and we shall find, knock and the door will be opened, ask and it shall be given. 
We ask you to hear the prayers of our hearts today and to hear the prayers of our brothers and sisters in need. 
And so we pray together: Our Father . . .
Please Lord, walk with us and give us your strength in our worries and difficulties. Amen.
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.

Home Visits Are The Heart of The Society

Home Visits - Conversion of Heart
Frédéric Ozanam’s Reasons for Home Visits

Home visits are:
• Personal
• Sincere
• Familiar place for those in need

Result:
• Transformation
• Conversion
Home Visits

What do we bring to the poor?
- Presence & Compassion
- Information & Self-Help
- A Little Material Help
  - All of this provides HOPE

Identify at least 3 family strengths!

Basic Guidelines of Home Visits

- VISIT IN PAIRS!
- PRACTICE CONFIDENTIALITY
- FOLLOW SAFE ENVIRONMENT REQUIREMENTS
- Each conference has its own home visit guidelines and procedures.
- Initially, shadow an experienced home visit team.
Spirituality of Home Visits

Are We Evangelizing? Bring the love of God as best you can

- We help anyone, Catholic or not
- Ask if they belong to a faith community
- Be ready to hear about their faith life
- Suggest local churches of any denomination

Resource: Member Handbook pp 20-23

Vincentian hearts are formed in home visits

- Our tender sensitivity to those we serve is an essential first step
- Learn to empty yourself; acknowledge your own vulnerability
- Seek empathy not judgement
- Acknowledge your need for God’s grace
- * Ask yourself: “where was God in this visit?”
Home Visits call us

To See Christ and To Be Christ

Preparation: Before the Home Visit

- Understand: Review intake information, records, and notes in ServWare
- Care: Always keep respect for and the dignity of the neighbor in need a priority
- Inform: Updated resource and referral handouts, information on gift certificate redemption process, prayer card, parish bulletin, food or household essentials in-kind items
- Pray: Pray before phone call and with your partner before and after the visit

How Does a Home Visit Work?
- Be relaxed and friendly – you are a guest!
- Let your questions show that someone cares
- Be observant
- Help them prioritize needs
- Explain what assistance you can provide
- Discuss other available resources
- Tell what happens next & how you’ll follow through
- Thank them for welcoming you into their home & ask them to pray with you
Communication Tips

- Start with open-ended questions
- Continue with clarifying questions
- Listen more than you talk—active listening
- Suggestions, not orders
- When visiting non-native English speakers: speak slowly—but not loudly
- Be compassionate and empathetic
- Find something they have done well

Follow-Up: After the Home Visit

| Clarify | Take time to pray and examine the experience with your partner |
| Concur | Consider recommendations and consult with conference guidelines |
| Contact | Turn to conference members and agencies for support; make notations |
| Communicate | Contact neighbor with follow-up information; follow-up letter or call with supporting information and prayer card; Notify if you will stay in touch and how |

Going Beyond Immediate Needs
Truly SEE and SERVE Christ

- Really listen
- Offer friendship
- Provide holistic service
- Be an advocate

CCHD: Poverty Web USA

Frederic Ozanam Oct 1848 "Help Which Humiliates and Help Which Honors"

"Help is humiliating when it appeals to men from below, taking heed of their material wants only... It humiliates when there is no reciprocity, when you give nothing but bread, or clothes... what, in fact there is no likelihood of his ever giving you in return... But it honors when it appeals to him from above... Help honors when to the bread that nourishes it adds the visit that consoles, the advice that enlightens, the friendly shake of the hand that lifts up the sinking courage. Help then becomes honorable, because it may become mutual, because every man who give a kind word, a good advice, a consolation today, may tomorrow stand himself in need of a kind word, a good advice or a consolation. The hand that you clasp clasps yours in return..."

Tools You Can Use

- PRAYERS
- INTERVIEW TEMPLATE
- PRECAUTIONS
- HOW to WRITE a GIFT CERTIFICATE GUIDE
- SERVWARE
Scenario #1
Household Size: 1 Adult 3 Children
Referred by: Agency Case Worker
Income: Food Stamps: $500 SSI: $1600
Rent: $900
Unemployed
Requesting Assistance for: Rent
Reason for present need: Recently moved; Victim of Domestic Violence; Assisted by Sojourner Family Peace Center
Previous Assistance from SVDP: 2 years ago

Scenario #2
Household Size: 1 Adult
Referred by: 211
Income: $1450 Social Security
Rent: $800
Retired
Requesting Assistance for: Utility Bill, Food
Reason for present need: Unexpected medical bills
Previous Assistance from SVDP: no
Scenario #3
Household Size: 2 Adults 3 Children
Referred by: Self
Income: $250 Food Stamps; $650 W-2
Rent: $950
Employment: undisclosed
Requesting Assistance for: beds for children, appliances
Reason for present need: recently moved; short of funds monthly
Previous Assistance from SVDP: yes; prior residences

Can we Answer your Questions?
Contact Us
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414-667-0241

Maria Welz
mwelz@svdpmilw.org
414-667-0245

https://svdpmilw.org/vincentian-resources.aspx

Closing Meditation:
Faith Charity and the Face of Christ

Words of Frederic Ozanam