



WELCOMING THE STRANGER IN A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER

(Adopted at Ladies of Charity USA National Assembly, Pittsburgh, PA, September 22, 2018)

WHEREAS, looking after our homeless brothers and sisters living on the streets has been at the forefront of Vincentian charity since the inception of our Charism. St Vincent himself housed abandoned children collaborating with the Ladies of Charity and the Daughters of Charity;

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 100 million people globally living on our streets in dire poverty;

WHEREAS, The Vincentian Family (FAMVIN), is a family that encompasses over two million members working with those living in poverty and the marginalized in 150 countries;

WHEREAS, the heads of the Vincentian Family in January 2017 commissioned a joint project in celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Charism of Charity on homelessness. This 3-year pilot is envisioned to extend into a commitment until 2030 in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals;

WHEREAS, the Heads of the Vincentian Family established that Depaul International in alliance with the Institute for Global Homelessness at DePaul University Chicago, manage this joint project focusing on addressing “homelessness in its many guises,” specifically defined as: (1) People without accommodation, e.g. street sleepers; (2) People living in temporary accommodation; e.g. refugee camps or internally displaced people and (3) People living in inadequate/insecure accommodation; e.g. slums and favelas, bed and breakfast, hostels;

WHEREAS, over the last 20 years, the Vincentian Family has strongly emphasized systemic change and collaboration, hosted an event at the European Union in Brussels in June 2017 to launch the homeless initiative, planned and delivered a *Symposium on Street Homelessness and Catholic Social Teaching* in Rome in November 2017; and is presently collaborating through the existing Vincentian delegations at the UN to advocate to eliminate global homelessness linked to specific indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ladies of Charity of the United States of America[®] in collaboration with our Vincentian Family will:

- Seek ways we can better support our homeless neighbors by fostering a culture of encounter, a culture of love and embrace, with our neighbors living on the streets.
- Build on existing works and projects, strengthen the Vincentian network around homelessness by listening to the people experiencing homelessness, share best practices, support leaders, encourage the growth of new services, and advocate for structural change.
- Pray for the homeless and learn more about the [FAMVIN HOMELESS ALLIANCE](http://vfhomelessalliance.org) (vfhomelessalliance.org).