

August 24, 2014

Re: **Humanitarian Crisis of Children Fleeing Violence in Central America**

Dear Ladies of Charity,

There are many stories of St. Vincent’s concern for the most vulnerable in 17th century France. In particular, his advocacy for the foundlings who were left to die in the streets and his pleas to the Ladies of Charity, for their generous assistance, comes to mind easily. In fact, in artistic representation of St. Vincent, he is often holding a child.

In June and July we have send you information about vulnerable children who are migrating to the United States, unaccompanied by adults because of violence in certain countries of Central America. This is a very serious situation. We have asked your prayers and support for these children. Our Catholic bishops and our Vincentian leadership are asking us to join them in advocating to the President and senators and representatives in Congress to protect these children.

As part of the larger Vincentian Family, we are collaborating to make our Vincentian voice and heart heard by our government leaders. Please click on the link below

[**https://svdpusa.capwiz.com/svdpusa/issues/alert/?alertid=63301266&type=ML**](https://svdpusa.capwiz.com/svdpusa/issues/alert/?alertid=63301266&type=ML)

and customize the letter if you wish. If you have already registered with the Voice of the Poor, your information will appear. If you have not, you will need to provide your home address and other information requested. It will automatically be sent to the President, and your Senator and Representative.

If you prefer not to use the automated system, we have attached the same letter in word format. Download and save or print. *Send this letter this week* to the president and your congressional representative.

*Please forward this request*, immediately to as many of your members as possible. If you wish any additional information, kindly contact Mary Ann Dantuono at madantuono@gmail.com or 516-695-8091.

In the spirit of St. Vincent and Louise, we make this request and thank you for your anticipated generous response.

Gayle Johnson Mary Ann Dantuono,

President, Ladies of Charity USA Chairperson, Advocacy Committee, LCUSA