**Chapter IV:**

**The Future of AIC**

**Our Dreams**

A prophetic and committed AIC whose members live in solidarity with one another and with those living in poverty and in harmony with the spirit of Saint Vincent.

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| We are about to conclude this document which identifies us as AIC volunteers who have been entrusted with a very special mission, namely, that of following Jesus Christ, serving those living in poverty (and doing this in imitation of Saint Vincent de Paul).  We were established four hundred years ago and we continue to journey along the path that was first marked out for us by our Founder. We must therefore ask ourselves what we want for the future of our Association so that we might continue to be signs of hope for our brothers and sisters.  Four hundred years ago, during the lifetime of Vincent de Paul, there were other forms of poverty, distinct from those of today (though perhaps similar). Nevertheless, it is as true today as it was yesterday that our presence continues to be most needed. Yes, all our efforts are significant in building a better world.  Recently the Pope has asked us to focus on what he has referred to as environmental, economic and social ecology. Human migration, the way in which we use natural resources, the desire for power, pandemics… all of these are signs that the members of our society are crying out for change.  We are very aware of the great injustices that exist in our world and therefore we stress the importance of focusing our attention on preserving AIC as a prophetic and committed organization, one whose members live in solidarity with one another and those living in poverty. It is in this way that we can engage in activities that promote a more dignified life for every human person.  We dream… that all the volunteers will be able **to discover their gifts** and at the same time help their brothers and sisters do the same.  We dream… that day by day we become more **creative** in our Vincentian work so that our promotional activities become more numerous. May we **work together as a team** with the beneficiaries of our work, with the other volunteers, with God…  We dream… that we will never lose our **joy and optimism** which we want to be contagious to all those who surround us. May we always see the positive aspect of different situations.  We dream… that we will always be passionate about our Vincentian endeavors and will always have a desire **to train ourselves so that we can serve others in a better manner**. May we always be proud to be members of AIC.  We dream… that **as volunteers we live lives of integrity** and give witness to the Christian life.  We dream… that **the teachings of Saint Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise** **de Marillac**, as well the Church’s Social Doctrine, might always remain those strong pillars that continually reveal to us the manner in which we can be better Vincentians.  We dream… that each day we, as volunteers, might put aside our fears and **develop a deeper spirituality**; may we be mindful of the fact that it is Christ himself whom we serve and that it is Christ himself who accompanies us in the various activities that we engage in.  We dream… that **each day we might rejoice in gathering together more volunteers** throughout the world… may our charism become rooted in the hearts of more and more people who in turn might also serve their brothers and sisters.  We dream of many things! Our list is endless!… **We dream that we have shared dreams** and that we continue to dream and to be passionate about our work. | **The Future**  **of AIC**  **A Committed AIC**  **Discovery of gifts**  **Solidarity**  **Always joyful**  **Willing to train ourselves**  **Integrity**  **Faithful to Christ and the Church**  **Fearless and spiritual**  **Rely on more volunteers** |

**Questions for individual and group reflection:**

1. **What are your dreams and the dreams of your companions for your group and for AIC as a whole?**
2. **What do you view as the more urgent forms of poverty that you and your group ought to confront?**
3. **How might you attract more members to your group so that they share in your dreams and participate in the work that you do?**