



**AUGUST 25 – 28, 2022 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**2022 VISION: SEEING CHRIST IN THE FACES OF THOSE WE SERVE**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Loving God, as Ladies of Charity, we gather to celebrate our call to follow You and we open ourselves to a 2022 vision to see Christ in the faces of all whom we serve. We embrace our call as holy, our ministry as gift, and our challenges as blessings. We gather for this Assembly as followers of Vincent and Louise, and as members with a common Vincentian mission of seeing Christ in all whom we serve living the gospel message together. We thank you for calling us and we are grateful as we recognize our diversity and many gifts.

**REFLECTION ON CALL**

Called to serve! Yes, we are called to serve as were those four men working in their boats when Jesus came along - those good fishermen who knew enough math to count their fish and figure their profits, who knew the winds but not weather forecasting. We in the Vincentian family follow in the footsteps of these apostles, said St Vincent. As we follow Vincent, Louise and Elizabeth Seton who wanted to be like Jesus as he identified with the disenfranchised of their time, we are called to be changed, redeemed, sanctified, healed and forgiven. Jesus continues to scoop us up as ones willing to serve the least of the poor today.

God has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not because of any merit of ours but according to his own design - the grace held out to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity... *2 Timothy 1:9*

We have been chosen by God as instruments of God's boundless and abundant love which desires to be established in and to replenish souls...

*St Vincent de Paul Conferences #207*

## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS (TABLE CONVERSATIONS)**

- In the spirit of Rip Van Winkle, if you fell asleep for 20 years, when you wake up, what will the Ladies of Charity look like?
- As you imagine your call as a Lady of Charity in the future, what does it look like?

## INTERCESSION PRAYERS

May these days together help us to listen to the calls that the Holy Spirit, Vincent, Louise, and Elizabeth Ann invite us to:

That we first recognize that in order to serve in their names, we must personally and communally change so we pray that we might transform our hearts and come into deeper relationship with Jesus,

**Response:** We embrace our call as holy!

That, anchored in God's grace, we be open to a future we do not know and in many instances have no power to change, trusting that God will show us the way so that we can serve those who today live on the margins of society,

**Response:** We trust that God walks with us in our vulnerability, as we forge new paths.

That we pray for Wisdom, influenced by the Jesus of the gospel, to discern how we might be leaven in our own area of the country helping to build bridges of relationship and healing,

**Response:** We know that if we come together as ONE, You, Loving Creator, will allow dreams to become realities.

That, as we recognize that You call us into the mystery of the future, we can do so with courage and a spirit of hope, knowing you journey with us.

**Response:** We commit ourselves to pay attention to the people today who are living on the margins of society and their needs.

We believe that, You, Who know each of us by Name, will help us sail into the open waters of a future yet unknown.

**Response:** We trust that You are our Navigator, Loving Jesus, who steer us through the crashing waves of violence, discrimination, and societally imposed suffering of so many people we are called to serve.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Loving God, in the invitation for Synodality, Pope Francis challenged us “not to produce documents, but to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to be nourished, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another, and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, and give strength to our hands.” We ask you to give us this vision and always see Christ in the faces of those we serve.  
AMEN

