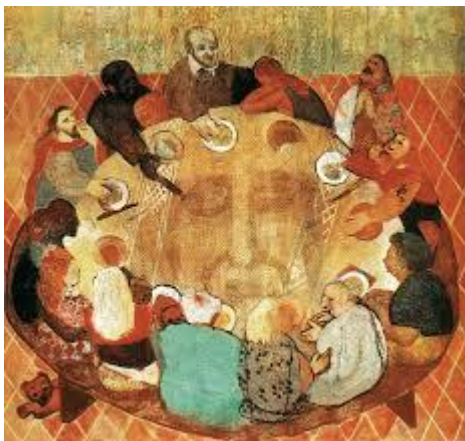


LADIES OF CHARITY NATIONAL BOARD MEETING
August 25, 2022



Leader: St. Vincent de Paul's legacy remains in the hearts and works of all of us and all those who have carried and continue to carry on the Vincentian charism for over 400 years. We call upon Vincent to stir our hearts, move us to action, and bless us as we meet this afternoon and during these days of our Assembly. . May we continue to be inspired by his life and influence which so profoundly impacted the life of the church and the life of the poor.

- St. Vincent was content to lay out a road, to clear the paths, inviting his disciples to continue the charitable works which he had begun.
- He opened the doors of the Church, teaching the clergy to work with the laity, the first who dared to value the contribution of women. And women responded enthusiastically to his call, whether they were country girls or great ladies of nobility.
- Vincent knew how to make his work responsive to all kinds of misery, whether physical or moral, determined to remedy it and finding an appropriate solution for every situation.
- Thus, he was the initiator of assistance to abandoned children, to prisoners, victims of catastrophe, refugees, and housebound invalid.
- In all these works, he was a precursor, showing the way which is still followed today by institutions and governmental departments of social services.
- Bending himself to the pattern of his model, Jesus Christ, he placed himself at the service of the poor, "who are our lords and our masters."(SV 9:119)
- He taught that true charity does not consist only of distributing alms, but of helping the abject to regain their dignity and independence.
- He believed in the virtue of action and he loved to use this succinct motto: "**Action is our entire task.**" Then he would add that "**Perfection does not come from ecstasy but rather from doing the will of God.**"(SV11:41. 317)
- Vincent was first and foremost a man of God, profoundly steeped in the spirit of the Gospel.
- He recommended long prayer and meditation before action so that one could come to recognize the divine will.
- One must not hurry, and that is why he counseled people not to leap ahead of Providence.
- Above all, this man of action was a man of prayer and deep spirituality: "You must have an inner life, everything must tend in that direction. If you lack this, you lack everything. (SV 12:131)

(Adapted from "[Vincent the Trailblazer](https://famvin.org/wiki/Vincent_de_Paul)" by Bernard Pujo. Source: https://famvin.org/wiki/Vincent_de_Paul)

Let us take a few moments to share what stirred in your hearts at this time.

CLOSING PRAYER

St. Vincent, Apostle of Charity and patron of all who work with those in poverty, come to our assistance. We ask your intercession to obtain help for the poor, relief for the infirm, consolation for the afflicted, protection for the abandoned, a spirit of generosity for the rich, grace of conversion for sinners, zeal for those in ministry, peace for the Church, tranquility and order for all nations, and salvation for them all.

May we be united in the life to come, by your intercession, and experience joy, gladness, and everlasting happiness. **Amen.**

(Adapted from "Prayer to St. Vincent de Paul" Source: <https://www.amm.org/prayers/svdpprayer.aspx>)