



*Young SVP
Conference Reflections*





Society of St Vincent de Paul

Education Resource

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Introduction

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is an international voluntary Christian organisation. Membership of the Society is open to anyone who can adopt our ethos. We draw our inspiration and energy from the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching and attempt to live the core values (Love of God and Love of our neighbour) through an action orientated programme, working directly with people in need. Members of the Society come from all walks of life giving, as Frederic Ozanam challenged, of their time, their talents and themselves, to serve people in need and work for social justice.

Many respond to the Vincentian Spirituality of Christian love, compassion and justice, through friendship based on mutual respect and caring. Others are drawn to social action and the creation of a more just society. All are united by a vision of social justice, which Frederic Ozanam described as “*a fixed star which human societies try to follow from their uncertain orbits. It can be seen from different points of view but justice remains unchanged*”.

What is Young SVP?

Reflection at every Conference meeting has been a feature of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) since its foundation. While you are undertaking actions with/for SVP it is important to take time to think about the meaning behind those actions. What inspired you to get involved with SVP? Why is this work important?

In this resource you will find a selection of reflections, prayers, poems, songs, video clips, activity suggestions and quotes designed to help you reflect on the meaning behind the actions you are undertaking. They may even inspire ideas for new actions. Reflections are based around the school year and contain a variety of resources for you to explore each month and discuss at your meetings. You can add to these by bringing your own reflections to your Conference meetings and sharing these with the other members.

Note for Youth Conference Coordinators/Teachers

This resource is designed to be adapted as appropriate for your group. The elements of the activities may not be suitable for every settings. There may be students for whom some topics have particular resonance. It is left to the discretion of the Youth Conference Coordinator to adapt the resource as necessary for your group.

Please Note:

Links to external sites are for information purposes only. We do not take responsibility for the content of external sites. Please review all external content before use with your group.

Feedback:

We hope you find this resource useful in helping your group to reflect and focus on its purpose. Your feedback is appreciated. If you have any questions or comments please email youth@svp.ie.

September

Dates for your diary...

- 5th - International Day of Charity
- 9th - Feast Day of Blessed Frederic Ozanam
- 8th - Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 8th - International Literacy Day
- 10th - World Suicide Prevention Day
- Eid ul Adha (Islam)
- Hajj (Islam)
- 15th - International Day of Democracy
- 21st - International Day of Peace
- 27th - Feast Day of Saint Vincent de Paul
- 29th - Michaelmas

Time to Reflect...

Our Deepest Fear

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves *“Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?”*

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world.

There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

We are all meant to shine, as children do.

We are born to manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it is in everyone.

And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

- by *Marianne Williamson*

The Good Samaritan

If you happen to see the tomb of Frederic Ozanam in France you will find a painting of the story of the Good Samaritan around the tomb. If you have ever heard the story of the Good Samaritan you will know that the Samaritan helped a man who had been attacked by robbers. The story of the Good Samaritan is an inspiring story of charity and different paths individuals can take when confronted with disadvantage and need.

LUKE 10:25-27

Adapted from 'Peace Out' produced by SVP, Australia

Time to Act...

Think...

“I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of love”-Blessed Frederic Ozanam. What are your hopes or prayers for the school year ahead? Make a paper chain & write your hopes/prayers on the links. You could even ask other people in your school to get involved!

Do...

Think of a way to launch your Young SVP Conference & let the rest of your school community know about your plans and how to get involved!

Learn...

See what you can find out about St Vincent de Paul, Frederic Ozanam & Sr. Rosalie Rendu. Report back to your class or Conference.

Research...

- www.cycleagainstsucide.com
- <http://donalwalshlivelife.org>
- <http://bit.ly/SVPSpirituality>
- <http://bit.ly/OurPatronSaints>
- <http://bit.ly/SSVPyoutube>
- <http://whatdoyousee.ie>
- <http://bit.ly/sundayreflection>

*St. Vincent de Paul
(1581-1660)*

“Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace.”-Buddha

October

Dates for your diary...

- 1st - International Day of Older Persons
- 2nd - Gandhi's Birthday-International Day of Non- Violence
- Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
- 4th - Feast of St Francis of Assisi
- 5th - World Teacher's Day
- 10th - World Mental Health Day
- 11th - International Day of the Girl Child
- Yom Kippur (Judaism)
- 15th - Feast Day of St Teresa of Avila
- 17th - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 18th - EU Anti-Trafficking Day
- Mission Sunday
- Diwali (Hindu)

Time to Reflect...

Beautiful Old Age

It ought to be lovely to be old to be full of the peace that comes of experience and wrinkled ripe fulfilment.

The wrinkled smile of completeness that follows a life lived undaunted and unsoured with accepted lies they would ripen like apples, and be scented like pippins in their old age.

Soothing, old people should be, like apples when one is tired of love. Fragrant like yellowing leaves, and dim with the soft stillness and satisfaction of autumn.

And a girl should say: It must be wonderful to live and grow old. Look at my mother, how rich and still she is! And a young man should think: By Jove my father has faced all weathers, but it's been a life!

- DH Lawrence

Prayer of St Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Mahatma Gandhi

Time to Act...

Think...

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world". Mahatma Gandhi
With your Conference or class, reflect on the changes you would like to see in society.
How could you 'be the change'?

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VO1FJoi5W5E



Do...

Throughout the week/month, think of ways your Conference could make a difference in the lives of older people. Share your ideas with your Conference or class...

Learn...

Learn about the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Share your learning with your Conference or class...

Research...

- <http://bit.ly/historygandhi>
- <http://bit.ly/bbcreligionjudaism>
- <http://bit.ly/bbcdiwali>
- <http://bit.ly/spunoutmentalhealth>
- www.jigsaw.ie

November

Dates for your diary...

- 1st - All Saints
- 2nd - All Souls
- 14th - Feast of St Laurence O'Toole
- 20th - Universal Children's Day
- Feast of Christ the King
- Restorative Justice Week
- 25th - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- First Sunday in Advent

Time to Reflect...

I Believe

I believe in the equality of all, rich and poor.
I believe in liberty.
I believe in humanity and that through it we can create unity. I believe in love within each of us, and in the home, happy and healthy.
I believe in the forgiveness of sins.
I believe that with divine help we will have the strength to establish equality in society.
I believe in unity, the only way to achieve peace.
I believe that together we can obtain justice.

Prayer of an Ayacucho Youth Group in Peru

Tomorrow

Tomorrow is a dream that leads me onward.
Tomorrow is a path I've yet to choose,
A chance I've yet to take,
A friend I've yet to make.
It's all the talent I've yet to use.

Tomorrow is a dream that leads me onward,
Always just a step ahead of me.
It's the joy I've yet to know,
The love I've yet to show.
For it's the person I've yet to be.
- Karen Raven

Time to Act...

Think...

Prayer to St Laurence O'Toole
<http://bit.ly/stlaurenceotooleprayer>

Children live what they learn
<http://bit.ly/empowermentresources>

Do...

What are some of the main issues affecting children/young people in our society today? How could you raise awareness about these issues? Share your ideas with your Conference/class.

Learn...

What is the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child? What does it say about the Rights of children?

Research...

- <http://bit.ly/stlaurenceotoole>
- <http://bit.ly/rightschild>
- <http://www.icatholic.ie/?s=advent>
- <http://worldyouthday.com>
- <http://www.oco.ie>

"Dear young people, we didn't come into this world to 'vegetate', to take it easy, to make our lives a comfortable sofa to fall asleep on. No, we came for another reason: to leave a mark." Pope Francis

December

Dates for your diary...

- 1st - World AIDS Day
- 2nd - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3rd - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 5th - International Day for Economic & Social Development
- 8th - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- 10th - Human Rights Day
- 18th - International Migrants Day
- 20th - International Human Solidarity Day
- Hanukkah (Jewish)
- 25th - Christmas Day
- 30th - Feast of the Holy Family

Time to Reflect...

Time to Act...

The Beatitudes

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
MATTHEW 5:3-10

Small Places, Close to Home

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? *In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighbourhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.*”
- Eleanor Roosevelt

Think...

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy — PROVERBS 31:8-9

What are universal human rights?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDgIVseTkuE

Do...

Find out about the SVP Annual Appeal. How can your Conference/class get involved?

Learn...

Make a list of the values supported by the Beatitudes and those supported by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. What do they have in common? (adapted from the Archdiocese of Dublin, Education Secretariat)

Research...

- <http://bit.ly/unescohealtheduc>
- <http://bit.ly/globalforcedlabour>
- <http://bit.ly/edhumanrights>
- <http://bit.ly/bbcjudaismhanukkah>
- <http://bit.ly/LoveOurNeighbour>

“Human rights are inscribed in the hearts of people; they were there long before lawmakers drafted their first proclamation.” Mary Robinson

January

Dates for your diary...

- 1st - World Day of Peace
- 1st - Feast Day of Mary the Mother of God
- 1st - New Years Day
- 8th - Feast of the Epiphany
- 15th - World Day of Migrants & Refugees
- 16th - Martin Luther King Jr Day

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Catholic Schools Week
- 27th - International Day for
- Commemoration of Victims of the Holocaust
- 31st - Feast Day of St Don Bosco

Time to Reflect...

Starfish

As an old man walked along the beach at dawn he noticed a young man ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Catching up with the youth he asked him why he was doing this. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left on the dry sand in the morning sun.

“But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish” said the old man. *“How can your efforts make a difference?”* The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and threw it into the safety of the waves. *“It makes a difference for this one!”* he said.

From ‘Peace Out’ SVP Australia

First They Came For...

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

- Martin Niemöller

Time to Act...

Think...

What words or images describe your hopes/prayers for the new year? Decorate stones with these words/images.

These could be used to create a prayerful space in your school or used as part of a classroom display.

<http://www.pinterest.com/explore/prayer-rocks>

Do...

Can you think of people who have made a stand in the face of injustice? How can your Conference/class take action when there is injustice in society?

Learn...

What is the theme of Catholic Schools Week this year?

Who was Eli Wiesel? Find out and report back to your class/Conference?

Research...

- Martin Luther King I Have A Dream speech: <http://bit.ly/hadadreamML>
- Anita Lasher Wallfish Remembers Auschwitz: <http://bit.ly/holocaustmemorialday>
- <http://bit.ly/resourcesrefugee>
- <http://bit.ly/christianunity16>

February

Dates for your diary...

- 1st - Feast Day of St Brigid
- 7th - Safer Internet Day
- Eid Al-Addha (Islam)
- 11th - World Day of the Sick
- 11th - Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes
- 15th - Parinirvana (Buddist)
- 20th - World Day of Social Justice
- 28th - Shrove Tuesday

Time to Reflect...

Justice & the Young - Agents of Change, Bearers of Hope

At a recent social justice forum conducted at the Australian Catholic University, a young student posed the question, "What sort of society do we want to live in?" This is a question that goes to the heart of what social justice is all about. While it infers many aspects of present day society are flawed, it also says that we can make a change. With faith, compassion, knowledge and understanding, we can determine what kind of society we want to live in.

Justice has never been about having all of the answers. It is about asking the right questions. This is the impulse that motivated Frederic Ozanam, the principle founder of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. In 1830s Paris, at a time of intense political upheaval, 19 year old Frederic was not concerned with questions of politics and power, his quest was social in nature.

Like many young people, Frederic refused to accept that poverty and suffering was a part of life. He was not discouraged by the scale of the inequality he witnessed nor was he deterred by the cynicism of many elders who were convinced that change was impossible. Instead, Frederic drew inspiration from all his colleagues and mentors and added "work to talk."

This passion for change and the belief that a better future is possible remains a central part of the Society of St Vincent de Paul's mission. As agents of change and bearers of change, young people keep the Society's pursuit of social justice.

- Dr Andy Marks

Time to Act...

Think...

May the God of Justice make us see what is right and needs to be done.

May justice always guide our relations with other people.

May Christ's holding us dear be what motivates us.

Amen

Do...

Throughout the week/month, think of ways your Conference could make a difference in your community and how you can put it into action...

Learn...

Learn about a Social Justice Campaign run by SVP. Report back to your class or Conference.
<https://www.svp.ie/socialjustice>

Research...

- www.un.org/en/events/socialjusticeday
- www.saferinternetday.org/web/sid/country
- <http://bit.ly/worldsickday15>
- <http://bit.ly/buddhismnirvana>
- <http://bit.ly/radiovatican>

"Dear Young People, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! do not be afraid to dream of great things!" Pope Francis

March

Dates for your diary...

- 8th - International Women's Day
- Purim (Jewish)
- Holi (Hindu)
- 17th - St Patrick's Day
- 21st - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21st - World Down Syndrome Day
- 24th - Feast Day of Blessed Oscar Romero
- 25th - Annunciation of the Virgin Mary

Time to Reflect...

Time to Act...

Archbishop Oscar Romero Prayer: A Step Along The Way

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

- Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." Mother Teresa

Think...

Lord, I give you all that I am this day. Please brush away my weariness, so that I may be inspired in my work. Help me to discover new ways to reveal your love to all I meet. Keep my mind clear and focused on all I need to achieve.

And give me the wisdom to overcome difficulties and find solutions.

I look to you and trust you are with me this day.

Amen.

Do...

Talk about what Lent means to you with your Conference. Reflect on different things we do through Lent. Watch the following video clip about Lent. Listen to the words, reflect on the images and discuss:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_q_rlF00u8

Learn...

Research Oscar Romero's weekly homilies and share them with your Conference at your next meeting:

<http://bit.ly/romerohomilies>

Research...

- www.un.org/en/events/socialjusticeday
- <http://bit.ly/whatisholi>
- <https://worlddownsyndromeday.org>

Lent & Easter

Dates for your diary...

- Ash Wednesday
- Palm Sunday
- Holy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Holy Saturday
- Easter Sunday
- Divine Mercy Sunday

Time to Reflect...

The Easter Challenge

Every year it happens:

Earth shakes her sleepy head, still a bit wintered and dull, and feels new life stirring.

Every year cocoons give up their treasures, fresh shoots push through brown leaves, seemingly dead branches shine with green, and singing birds find their way home.

Every year we hear the stories:

Empty tomb, surprised grievers, runners with news and revelation, unexpected encounters, conversations on the road, tales of nets filling with fish, and breakfast on a seashore.

And every year the dull and dead in us meets our Easter challenge: to be open to the unexpected, to believe beyond our security, to welcome God in every form, and trust in our own greening.

- *Joyce Rupp from Out of the Ordinary: Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season*

Time to Act...

Think...

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.

Amen.

Do...

Reflect on what Christ's sacrifice means at this time of year - "Deep knowing of love is called joy - the reality & feeling that love is alive in your spirit is joy." Watch the video below and reflect on what joy means to you:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bY4TmNEBH-g

Learn...

Learn about the significance of Lent. Report back to your Conference or class:

www.icatholic.ie/?s=Lent

Research...

- www.trocaire.org/resources/parishes/lent
- <http://education.dublindiocese.ie/?s=lent>
- <http://bit.ly/edueasterresources>
- www.icatholic.ie/?s=Easter

April

Dates for your diary...

- Rama Navami (Hindu)
- 22nd - World Earth Day
- Yom HaShoah (Jewish)
- 28th - Global Youth Service Day

Time to Reflect...

Reflection

The leader of a certain Indian tribe encamped at the base of a mountain was dying. The chief summoned his three sons and said, *“I am dying and one of you must succeed me as head of our tribe. I want each of you to climb our holy mountain and bring back something beautiful. The one whose gift is the most outstanding will succeed me.”*

After several days the sons returned. The first brought his father a flower which grew near the summit and was extremely rare and beautiful. The second son brought his father a stone which was colourful, smooth, and round, having been polished by rain and sandy winds. The third son's hand was empty.

He said, *“Father, I have brought nothing back to show you. As I stood on top of the holy mountain, I saw that on the other side was a beautiful land filled with green pastures and a crystal lake. And I have a vision of where our tribe could go for a better life. I was so overwhelmed by what I saw and by what I was thinking that I could not bring anything back.”*

And the father replied, *“You shall be our tribe's new leader, for you have brought back the most precious thing of all – the gift of a vision for a better future.”*

Time to Act...

Think...

We all have a duty to look after the planet on which we live. Each individual is a temporary steward or caretaker of the Earth.

This means that each person must be aware of, and manage, their impact on the Earth's environment and resources.

What can you do to help look after the planet?

Do...

Find out what Climate Justice means. Report back to your Conference or class:

www.trocaire.org/getinvolved/climate-justice

Learn...

Learn about World Earth Day and how it may link to the sustainable development.

Goals:

<http://bit.ly/2030undp>

Research...

- www.earthday.org/earthday
- <http://bit.ly/divineramnavami>
- <http://ysa.org/act/programs/gysd/>

May

Dates for your diary...

- 3rd - World Press Freedom Day
- 5th - International Red Cross Day
- Visakha Puja - Buddha Day
- 21st - World Day for Cultural Diversity
- Ascension of Jesus Christ
- 25th - Africa Day
- Ramadan begins
- 29th - International Day of Peace Keepers
- Shavuot begins (Jewish)

Time to Reflect...

Africa Day - Aluta Continua (The Struggle Continues...)

May 25th is Africa Day and is a celebration of African unity. It dates back to 1963 when the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was founded in Ethiopia. The significance of the Day was to reflect the aspirations of people to break free from the chains of colonial bondage together. Also, it helps raise political awareness around the world about the state of affairs in Africa and the self-rule of its people.

Africa's vulnerability has been linked to its rich resources and a history of colonialism for which the resources provided bait. Many of the civil wars that are still fought today have their origins in the struggle for control of African wealth. It celebrates African diversity and mutuality, its culture and identity, its history and heritage, its achievements and excellence and its potential and promise. Thanks to courage and determination, all 54 countries in the continent fly their own flags and sing their own national anthems today. The vestiges of colonialism notwithstanding Africans have relatively much greater opportunity to chart a cause of progress for themselves and by themselves. Africa illuminates hope. Between 2000 and 2010 six of the ten fastest growing economies were African and Angola grew faster than any other in the world. Poverty rate has been on the decline by about 1% every year. Educational opportunities have expanded and more girls are in school.

- Samwin Banienuba(UK)
International Spokesperson for Humanitas Afrika

Time to Act...

Think...

Bless us, O Lord,
And heal your continent of Africa.
Renew the land, renew the spirit
Of all those who are wounded in any way.
May justice roll down like water
On the parched ground of your beloved
Africa.
Amen.

Do...

Redemption Song by Bob Marley is considered to be a song which relates to freedom from oppression. Watch and listen to the song and discuss in your group:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFGgbT_VasI

Learn...

There are 8 SVP Regions across Ireland twinned with 13 countries in Africa. Click on the link below to find out more:
www.svp.ie/Twinning.aspx

Research...

- <http://en.unesco.org/wpfd>
- <http://bit.ly/redcrossredclesentday>
- <http://bit.ly/bbcbbuddhism>
- <http://bit.ly/whenisascension>

Quotations from the Writings of Frederic Ozanam

Frederic Ozanam wrote extensively and to great effect on a wide range of issues. Many of those writings express his strong faith and his deep concern to put that faith into action in the service of those in need. Despite the passage in time, Blessed Frederic's words continue to inspire and guide today.

Faith/Religion

“What must we do to live our Faith?... Let us no longer talk so much about charity. Let us put it into practice...”

Respect for People

“I ask that...we take care of people who have too many needs and not enough rights and who justly demand a fuller role in public affairs...”

Saint Vincent de Paul

“The work of Vincent de Paul never grows old: who would not wish to continue it?”

Young People

“I tell myself...that the mission of a young person in society today is very serious and very important...I rejoice at being born at an epoch when perhaps I shall have to do much good.”

Friendship

“There is need to feel remembered, by others, to tell ourselves that we are not alone. There is need of support, of comfort of prayers...Friendship is precious.”

Organisation

“No work is great if it is not organised.”

Justice

“Justice is a fixed star which human societies try to follow from their uncertain orbits. It can be seen from different points of view but justice itself remains unchanged.”

The Work of the Society

“Yours must be a work of love, of kindness; you must give of your time, your talents, yourselves.”

*Adapted from ‘Quotations from the Writings of Frederic Ozanam’ Selected by Claire Sweeney, DC.
Published by the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul*

Conference Prayers

Opening Prayer

Prayer for a Fruitful Meeting

PR: Let us remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

“When two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

(Short silence)

ALL: Lord Jesus, help us through meeting together to deepen our Vincentian friendship and answer the call every Christian receives. To seek and find those who are forgotten. To bring your love to the suffering or deprived.

Help us to be generous with our time, our possessions and ourselves so that we may grow perfect in your love and learn to share your Sacrifice for others in the Holy Eucharist.

PR: St. Joseph, patron of families

ALL: Pray for us.

PR: St. Vincent de Paul

ALL: Pray for us.

ALL: In the name of the Father...

Closing Prayer

PR: In the name of the Father...

ALL: Amen.

Prayer to see the Eucharist as the Source of our Apostolate

ALL: Father, grant that communion with Christ present in the Holy Eucharist may impel us to love you by serving Him in our neighbour and help us to respond with open hearts to the suffering of others, aware of the depths of our own needs.

Prayer that we may bear witness to Christ's love

ALL: Grant us also the grace to preserve when disappointed or distressed and never to claim that our work springs from ourselves alone, so that united in prayer and action, we may be a visible sign of Christ and bear witness to his boundless love that reaches out to ALL and draws them to love one another in Him.

Prayer for World Peace – A Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

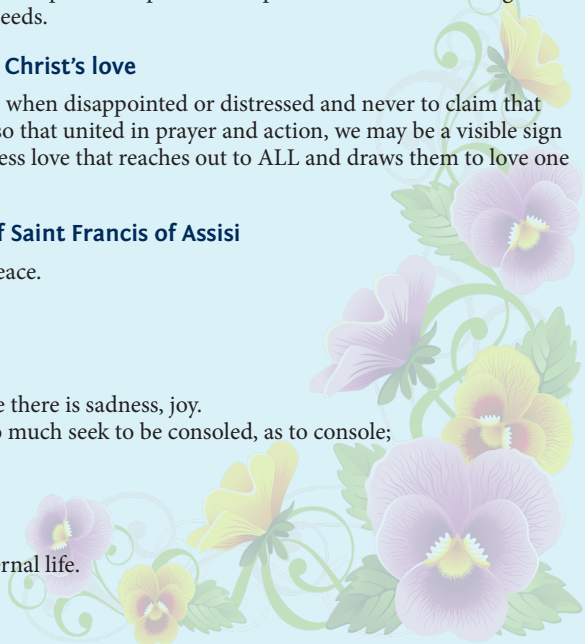
To be understood, as to understand

To be loved, as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive –

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.





Society of St. Vincent de Paul

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