

PRAYER OF BLESSING

SA: Lord God, our Father, bless all our members as they renew their commitment to membership of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. May the Holy Spirit strengthen their resolve, fill their hearts with joy, an ever more vibrant faith and an ever deeper love for You. Bless also all auxiliaries, benefactors, all their families and those whom the Conference is privileged to visit. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

COMMISSIONING

P: In the spirit of Jesus, and in the name of our Patron, Saint Vincent de Paul, and our principal founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, I renew the commission of all the members “to go to the poor with love” and share their burdens and joys as true friends, with the help of God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

**Go forth and serve the poor
in the name of the Church
and according to the Rule.**

COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

Abbreviations: **SA:** Spiritual Advisor
P: President
M: Members

INTRODUCTORY RITES

SA: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

SA: God shows His goodness by sending people to bear witness to His love in the community. Today we will be asking God to bless our brothers and sisters who have declared their willingness to continue serving the Church as members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

THE VINCENTIAN PROMISES AND PRAYER

All stand.

SA: I invite you to make the Vincentian promises:

A vocation to bear witness to Christ's love

SA: In response to the call of Christ who invites you to follow Him, do you promise to bear witness to his compassionate and boundless love for the poor, the lonely, the suffering and deprived, those without faith and those who feel unloved?

M: I do.

Vincentian friendship and mutual enrichment

SA: Do you firmly resolve to treasure the warm friendship and unity which from the beginning has been a hallmark of our Society?

M: **I do. Grant me, Lord, the grace to grow in humility, and to serve in hope, as the light of faith and the flame of love are kindled among us.**

- *Spiritual Advisor lights President's candle.*
- *President light members candles.*
- *Members light one another's candles.*
- *Wait for all candles to be lit before continuing.*

SA: Receive the light of Christ, which illuminates the path to those who are troubled.

Vincentian love for those in need
(see Mt 12:20, describing Jesus)

SA: Do you promise to seek and find those who are forgotten and to devote yourselves generously to the personal service of the poor?

M: **I do. Help me, Lord, to be sensitive to their vulnerability, and never to break the crushed reed of the broken-hearted, nor to quench the smouldering embers of human dignity and faith.**

SA: Do you promise to respect and not to judge to empower and not to impose, and most of all, to try to understand the deeper needs of those you serve?

M: **I do. Help me, Lord, to sow seeds of faith and hope, and to hope, and to bring comfort and solace, aware that a smile is the sunshine of Your love.**

Commitment to social justice

SA: Do you promise to support the Society's modest work for social justice, and to help build a civilisation of love and a culture of life?

M: **I do.**

Our frailty and need for inspiration and support

SA: Do you promise to persevere in regarding our visits as a sacred trust to be carried out faithfully each week, in the name of Christ, so far as family and other duties permit?

M: **I do, but I know the depths of my own needs, my frailty and failings. Lord, make me ever more aware of the blessings I received from those I visit, and of my need for the support of my Vincentian brothers and sisters. Never let me forget that whatever good I do comes from You and You alone. Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF THE RULE: LOYALTY TO THE RULE

SA: Let us pray:

O God, by whose word all things are made holy, pour down your blessing upon this Rule of the Society, and grant that those who read it with a receptive mind in the light of the Gospels and with the help of the Holy Spirit, may come to know Jesus better, to see with His eyes and love with His heart. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.