
Engaging with Prospective Vincentians:

When inviting prospective members to a meeting consider the following:

- Do your Conference meetings enhance spirituality?
- Are the meetings a joy to attend?
- Are the meetings peaceful and do they reflect fellowship?

Take the time and effort to find out new members' strengths and what their interests are

- What service calls out to their hearts?
- What skills do they possess to enhance their service to others?
- What will enrich their souls to continue serving?
- Be open to a person's interest and acknowledge there are many needs. While one person may not want/be interested in home visits they may be interested helping by cleaning the pantry or taking calls off the answering machine. Provide a positive introduction to conference work.

Provide a positive introduction to conference work

- Ensure good training
- Assign a mentor

Tips for Success

The best way to recruit volunteers is to personally invite them to serve.

- Approach with an open and friendly attitude.
- Share your positive experiences as a Vincentian.

Build a strong relationship with your pastor to enhance the objectives to recruit new members.

- Maintain contact with the pastor by sharing your good works on a regular basis
- Include memorable heart-warming stories.
- Periodically invite your pastor to a conference meeting. Invite him to do the reflection.
- Introduce your fellow parishioners to the Society while having a fun and casual conversation.



Growing Your Conference



Many conferences are faced with the challenge of receiving increased requests for assistance while facing dwindling numbers of conference members. In the past, conferences typically relied on a formal invitation to serve from the pulpit which is an effective way to share to a larger group. However, there are other more personal ways to reach out and invite our fellow parishioners and community members to assist and serve.



Ideas to Consider:

- Define a SVdP Corner in our parish bulletin with weekly updates of conference activities, share pictures of Vincentians or your pantry.
- Post the same info that is in the bulletin, if permissible, in shadow box or ministry board at the church.
- Host a Donut Sunday once a month.
- Host an open house at your pantry.
- Host an ice cream social.
- Participate in Ministry Fairs.
- Attend Mass as a group and wear your SVdP shirts or badges.
- Individually reach out to 5th Sunday contributors. Invite them to a coffee or visit with an officer.
- Send 5th Sunday contributors prayer cards with an invitation to learn more about the conference they support.
- Reach out to former Vincentians by hosting an Alumni Night at the church or at the home of one of the Vincentians.
- Attracting new Vincentians is an effort that should never be considered to be only the job of the President or another officer. All hands on deck! Think about how you can “build the culture” of your Conference by

Engage Schools, Youth Ministries, “MiniVinnies” & Director of Religious Education

- Provide a history of SVdP to groups and explain how we help neighbors in their community
- Offer opportunities for service projects (example or including) bagging, collecting and sorting food
- Enlist the youth group and school to help fill Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes
- Create Giving Tree/Angel Tree ornaments and decorations
- Do you have a school in your parish? Through the school administration, ask the moms to get involved in a specific activity while their kids are in school.



Community

- Include Non-Catholics in your recruiting strategy.
- Reach out to other churches in the area, all denominations.
- Ask the Pastor/Minister/Rabbi if you can speak with their congregation.
- Ask to join their ministry fairs if available. Reach out to civic organizations, colleges and universities.
- Reach out to independent living

