

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT
DE PAUL INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL GENERAL

INTERNATIONAL TRAINING
HOW TO ACT RIGHTLY
(in the Conference and
the Society)



How should we behave within the Conference and within the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul?



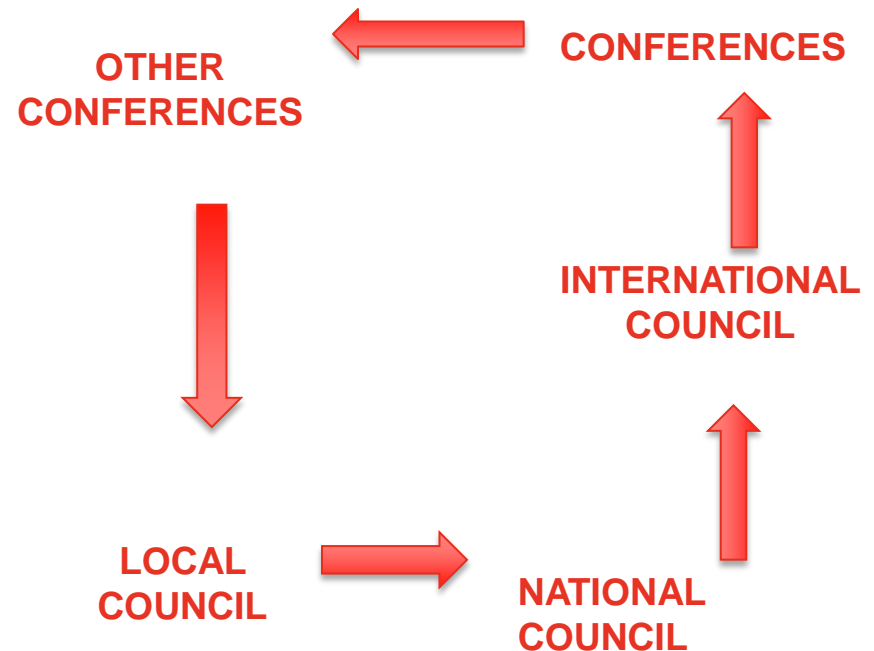
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- 1 THE CONFERENCE WITHIN THE VINCENTIAN NETWORK OF CHARITY
- 2 THE VALUES OF OUR ASSOCIATION
- 3 TRANSFORMING INDIVIDUALS INTO A STRONG GROUP



The Conference is not an isolated entity. On the contrary, it weaves and nourishes relationships. So it creates a true communion with:

- Other Conferences
- Its local Council
- The Superior/Central Council
- The International Council



We are aware of belonging to a network of charity, born out of our relationships:

With other **Conferences**

Being concerned about the number of Conferences existing in our own country.

Visiting each other.

With the **local** Council

By attending meetings and events it organises. The job of the local Council is to promote encounters.

These may be business-like, but also fun. There could be times for exchanging information, or for training, or for deepening our faith.



With the **Superior/Central Council** carefully reading circulars and letters from the President, taking part in Assemblies and in all the events which the Council organises



With the **International Council** reading and reflecting on the Letter which the President General sends out each year. Setting up twinnage relationships. Reading the information letter "Ozanam Network"



For all these reasons, we feel we belong to a great organisation, reaching far beyond the weekly meeting of our own Conference.

An organisation with a presence in 135 countries around the world, hearts united because we share identical values and objectives.

In belonging to our organisation, it is vital:
To work together to serve better
To promote unity in diversity

Vincentians do not just have a duty to be **for** others; they must also be **with** others.



Our association finds its strength in:

- Communion = Communication among its members
- Support for its objectives
- The desire to increase mutual cooperation
- The wish to generate enthusiasm and energy among its members



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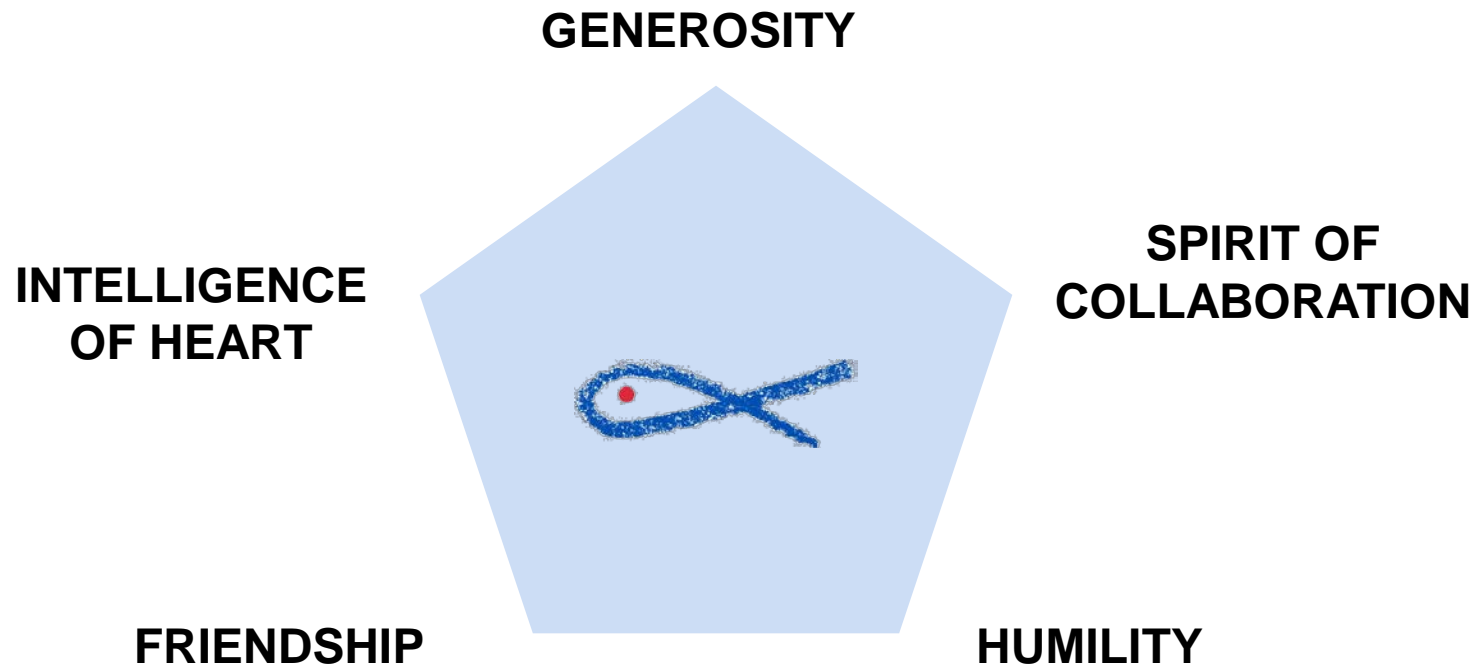


Our Society has a whole range of values, which lie at the heart of its own identity and mission.

These are set out in the “**Rule and Statutes**”, which all members must know and live by.



Aside from the particular features of each group, our Society has five shared values



Friendship may grow with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

- By exchanging experiences
- Sharing problems
- Talking about successes
- Promoting new ideas or projects on behalf of those we help
- Taking part in training meetings
- Taking part in social activities

Meals

Outings

Pilgrimages

Days of prayer

Birthdays



THE MOST COMMON OBSTACLES TO FRIENDSHIP

- Putting ME first, before US
- Stubbornly clinging to specific positions
- Antipathy: Rejecting the other person and their nature
- Jealousy
- Judging others who do not think like us
- Envy leading to mockery of those who have abilities we do not share
- Spending time only with people in need, and forgetting the Conference and the Society



True humility involves “**walking in the truth**” (Saint Theresa of Jesus). This is not about forgetting oneself, undervaluing oneself or showing false modesty.



As we know our limits, humility is expressed in our association by:

- our inclination to learn from others
- attendance at the various meetings especially for training
- not seeking to take first place
- Simplicity and peace in our relationships with others
- Our respect for others

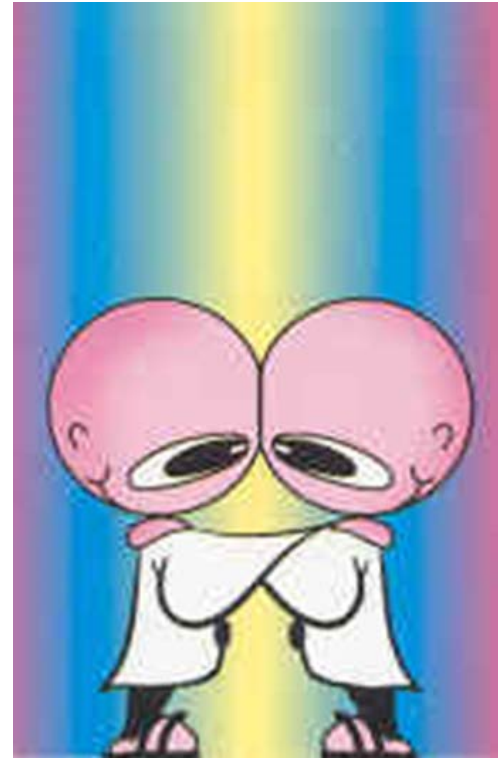


“I need you!”

VALUES TO PROMOTE AMONG MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Mutual understanding

- Tolerance
- Patience
- Welcoming all kinds of people



“I am with you!”

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We have to transform a set of individuals into a strong group.

This requires

- work
- the ability to listen
- knowing how to smooth rough edges
- the desire for peaceful discussion



A FEW SHADOWS...

Our Association is a snapshot of society, with its share of light and shadow for each human being. This explains why conflict may arise within our movement.

The Gospel reminds us we must be “as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves” (Mt 10, 16).

Our challenge is to know how to accept the shadow zones of others, with humility and wisdom.



The writer Arnaldo Pangrazzi identifies the following shadow zones

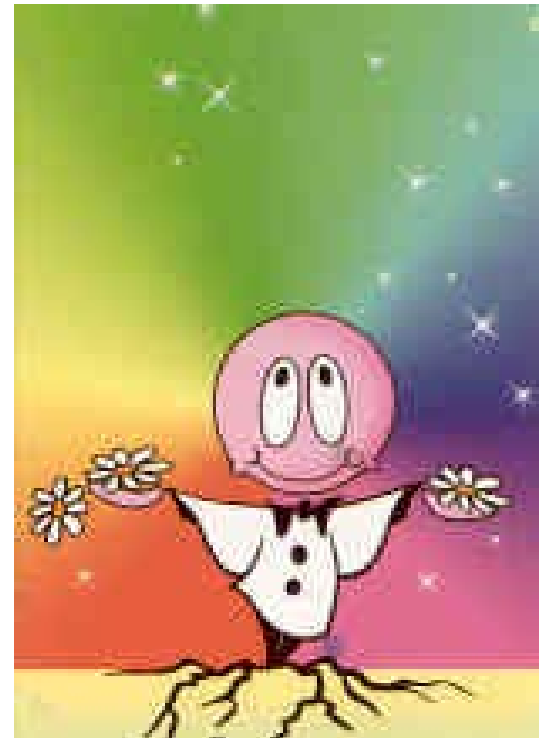
1. Idealism, Perfectionism
2. Activism
3. Individualism
4. Sterile criticism
5. Routine or conformity
6. Pretentiousness
7. Paternalism
8. Authoritarianism



TWO VERY IMPORTANT POINTS..

BEWARE OF HIDDEN PRIDE!
FIGHT DISCOURAGEMENT BY:

- strength
- patience
- hope
- trust



TO SUMMARISE: TWO PHRASES,
TWO BASIC ATTITUDES

**Say thank you
and ask forgiveness**

*Thank you
so much!*

