



# Vincentians and the New Evangelization

based on the writings of:  
Celestino Fernández, CM

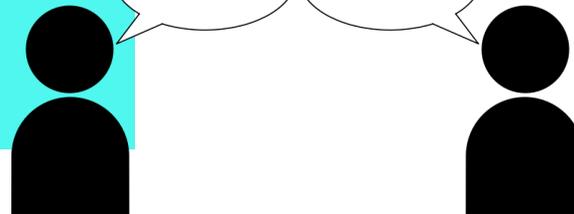
# Three parts of this presentation:

the image of a  
Vincentian Evangelizer



the beneficiaries of  
Vincentian  
Evangelization

the message that the  
Vincentian Evangelizer  
delivers



# The Image of a Vincentian Evangelizer

**Vincentian evangelizers** are persons who:

- have a profound **experience of God** (this means much more than being pious)
- identify themselves with **Christ, the evangelizer of the poor** (they feel they are being sent to the poor to evangelize them)
- are firmly convinced of sharing in the **Vincentian vocation**. They are nourished by Vincentian spirituality and give witness to this reality in their life.
- make every effort to **read the signs of the times** from the perspective of the needs and the situation of the poor, the helpless, the excluded...
- are filled with **zeal**, that is, they are bold and creative in order to open new paths for evangelization.
- feel the obligation and the urgency for **on-going formation**. They know that formation for the process of evangelization is a question of justice with regard to the poor. Good will and good intentions are not enough nor is it useful to repeat the phrase: “We have always done things this way!”



*Frederick,*  
Ellen LaCapria, DC

# The Beneficiaries of Vincentian Evangelization

Groups who benefit from Vincentian Evangelization:

- **The poor, in the fullest sense of the word “poor”**... everything from economic poverty to cultural, moral, psychological and social poverty, victims of the intrinsically unjust and inhuman global system
- **Those who are in need of Christian formation and spiritual attention *and* who are also poor** (and because of this are the most poor).
- The poor whom no one reaches out to and whom no one wants to provide for... those persons who are not even viewed as statistics with regard to poverty and misery and social marginalization ... **those who have lost their visibility** and whom no one is concerned about making visible.

\*\*Editor’s addition: the Evangelizer him/herself who learns from the poor



*The Good Samaritan,*  
Vincent van Gogh

# The Vincentian Message

The message that Vincentian Evangelizers deliver:

- The living and true **God** revealed by Jesus Christ is good, is Father, is love, is mercy, is infinite forgiveness, **is protector and defender of the poor.**
- Jesus Christ became the least of all, the servant of all, the Messiah anointed by the Spirit in order to free the captives and the poor, to break the bonds that enslave people; Jesus Christ who established the kingdom and **this kingdom is primarily for the poor.**
- Charity is the fundamental element of our life as believers; affective and effective **love is** the life-giving center of the believer and **the ultimate proof of faith.**
- **The poor are the sacrament of Christ** and our lords and masters. What does this mean? An encounter with a poor person is like an encounter with Christ. The reason for this lies in Jesus' self-identification with the poor. "All you have done to one of the least of these, you have done to me." (Matthew 25:31-46)



*Vincent,*  
Ellen LaCapria, DC

# Quotes

St. Vincent de Paul

“Jesus willed to be born poor, to welcome poor persons into his company, to serve those who were poor, to put himself in their place, even going so far as to say that the good and the harm we do to those who are poor He will consider as done to His Divine Person...”

*CCD:XIIIb:433-434.*



# Quotes

St. John Paul II

Solidarity therefore must play its part in the realization of this divine plan, both on the level of individuals and on the level of national and international society. The "evil mechanisms" and "structures of sin" of which we have spoken can be overcome only through the exercise of the human and Christian solidarity to which the Church calls us and which she tirelessly promotes. Only in this way can such positive energies be fully released for the benefit of development and peace.

*Sollicitudo rei socialis*, #40.



# Quotes

Pope Francis

The worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care. The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must not fail to offer them his friendship, his blessing, his word, the celebration of the sacraments and a journey of growth and maturity in the faith.

*Gaudium Evangelii*, #200.



# Quotes

St. Louise de Marillac

What a happiness if the Company could be employed only in the service of those who are destitute in all things!

*SWLM:833 [A.100].*





Source: Vincentian Contributions to the New Evangelization  
by: Celestino Fernández, CM

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