

Vincentian Mission in Today's World

Elements of Our Mission Today

Growth in Holiness

The primary mission of a Vincentian is to be holy. By prayer, Eucharist and the sacraments we stand ready for the Lord to use us for His work.

Catholic Social Teaching

The social teaching of the Church is an essential part of Catholic faith and a natural element of Vincentian Formation. We must first know the teaching ourselves and then, secondly, communicate it to others.

Systemic Change

People can become caught within a social system such that if any key element (nourishment, health care, education, jobs, spiritual care) is lacking, other elements are often affected. When we examine root causes and begin to change systems, people may emerge from the cycle of poverty. New training programs will invite us to examine our present service models and move toward systemic change.

Advocacy

Because we work with the poor day in and day out, Vincentians have a tremendous validity which essentially qualifies us to take a seat at the public policy table as experts on solutions to poverty. We must speak out clearly against unjust situations, always with charity; contributing to and demanding improvements.

Representation at the United Nations

Together with other [NGOs](#) at the U.N., we work for the realization of a more just society where people can live lives free from fear and want, and are free to build for themselves sustainable human communities.

Communication, Sharing Best Practices

A number of global issues are at the root of poverty. We need many more people to understand these issues and act on them. A regular and rapid exchange of news and information enables cultural change. The [Famvin](#) websites bring poverty analysis, news

and strategies to anyone with an internet connection. Readers are invited to share ideas via comments and social media. Famvin's online [conferencing](#) brings Vincentians together in discussions, seminars and expert panels.

Education

Vincentians gravitate toward education because it enhances the humanity of the poor, and it sensitizes us all to human dignity and worth.

Direct Service

The Vincentian charism is lived out today in many projects in direct service of the poor, the elderly, people with disabilities, street children, those in prisons, hospitals, clinics, and orphanages; with HIV-AIDS patients, drug-dependent persons, refugees, migrants, victims of war, and those culturally segregated; and in our schools and universities. The AIC, DC, and SC often work particularly with poor women, either in improving maternal health, caring for their children, or in literacy and livelihood programs.

Fundraising

Fundraising is a ministry that enables us to do our work with the poor. By building collaborative relationships with donors, we joyfully invite them into the work of the Kingdom of God through gifts of prayer, time, or money. Those who have funds and those who seek funds are drawn together by God; there is a call to conversion that happens for both parties. Recent innovations: Vincentian micro-loan projects like [Zafen](#) and [G.L.O.B.E.](#)

Sources: [Congregation of the Mission in Ireland](#), [Maloney](#), [CM-DC NGO](#), [Ginete](#)