

The Calling of a Vincentian: Our Goals, Our Mandate:

1. be a missionary
2. relieve the needs of the poor
3. instill in others a deep sense of their missionary vocation
4. set life's priorities amidst sea of information & distractions
5. have a profound love for God and a deep love for the human person that leaps beyond using others for one's own personal advantage
6. make the poor always feel welcome
7. create a home for refugees
8. resist and counteract indifference, or the absence of God from the contemporary world
9. foster awareness, combat desensitization
10. let persons' dignity and gifts as human persons, rather than their economic status, be what distinguishes them
11. "search out more than ever, with boldness, humility, and skill, the causes of poverty and encourage short- and long-term solutions; adaptable and effective concrete solutions." Pope John Paul II
12. use your knowledge, skills, and resources for investigating and grappling with the causes of poverty, urban problems, rural problems
13. help countries provide better education for all their young
14. help the global community find peace and true human liberty
15. look for the opportunity to come into firsthand contact with the poor-- this contact can change your life. It can enable you to see a world where the suffering Christ lives on and it can liberate you to ask the question: What contribution can I make, even in my own small way, to the future of suffering humanity?
16. be filled with life and vision and hope and enthusiasm and to be able to communicate that to others
17. create unity among disparate men and women
18. break down the barriers of division
19. eradicate the crippling causes of poverty
20. love fullness of life and know how to promote it

Methods/Strategies:

networking - collaborative effort - diverse community - draw others into Vincent's vision of life - energize others - The century of the laity - CMs 4,000, DCs 25,000, lay groups many more - every person is a missionary

Challenges: The challenge of the poor and of deep human misery stands before the global community.

The great problem confronting the Church today is **indifference**, "the massive absence of God from so much of the contemporary world with all the final emptiness, religious cynicism, or meaninglessness of that experience." No era in the entire history of the world has ever known so many **refugees** as our own. Tens of millions flee wars and violence in Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. Here in the United States more than four million homeless people dwell on the streets of our major cities.

The number of poor people in the world is greater now than ever before, just as the number of rich people is greater than ever. Somehow we seem utterly incapable of bridging the gap.

Based on a DePaul University Centennial Laureate Lecture by Robert P. Maloney, CM