

Principles of Evangelization from a Vincentian Perspective

based on the writings of:
Celestino Fernández, CM

Evangelization from a Vincentian Perspective



The Active/ External Side:

Linking Evangelization
With Effective Service
to the Poor

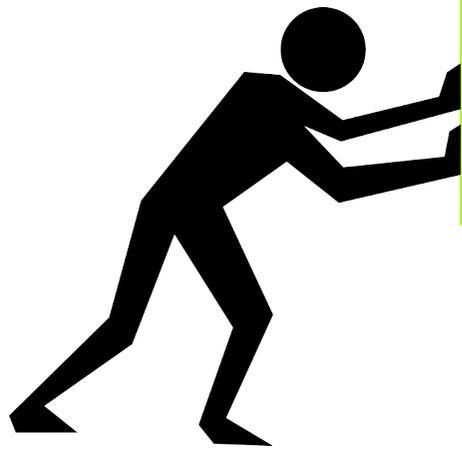
Integral Structures for
Evangelization

The Personal/ Internal Side:

Our Basic Attitude

Formation, Mindset





The Active or
External Aspect
of Evangelization

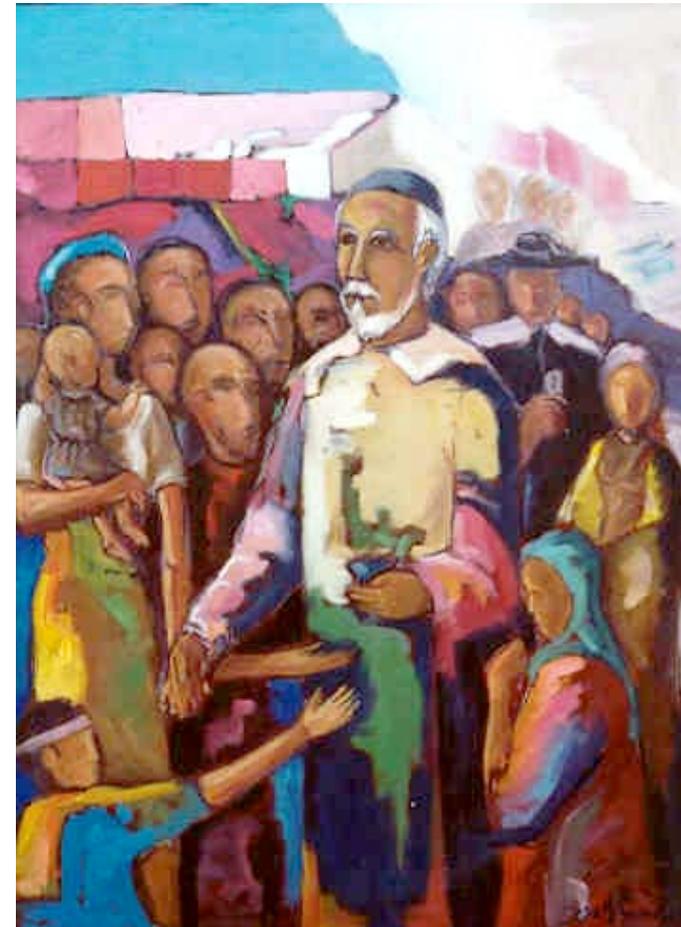
Linking Evangelization With Effective Service to the Poor

- Be involved in, and pay attention to, the painful reality of the victims of unjust systems. The source of our missionary commitment is found in our experience of the reality of poverty.
- Get back to an incarnational spirituality. We cannot have a commitment “from afar”. We cannot have mission without inculturation into the world of those who are living in poverty.
- Communion with the poor: this implies a true knowledge of their problems and their needs, an authentic encounter and an acceptance of them, a true participation in their hardships, sensitivity to and respect of their rights, humble service in light of their demands, listening and dialogue in order to discover their values and help them become aware of their potential.
- Apply the methodology of systemic change - some years ago Paul VI wrote: “between evangelization and human advancement --- development and liberation --- there are in fact profound links.”



Integral Structures for Evangelization

- Look anew at popular missions. Do this with boldness, creativity, a new imagination, and enthusiasm.
- Organize charity in such a way that it is highlighted in our evangelization centers. This is an element of our Vincentian heritage that we should not lose. Vincent de Paul recommended that a Confraternity of Charity be established in every place where a popular mission was preached ... those confraternities became the visible fruit of the evangelizing activity.
- Integrate evangelization with words and actions. Vincent de Paul stated: If there are any among us who think they are in the mission to evangelize poor people but not to alleviate their sufferings, to take care of their spiritual needs but not their temporal ones, I reply that we have to help them and have them assisted in every way, by us or by others ... that is to preach the Gospel by words and by works and that is the most perfect way; it is also what our Lord did (CCD:XII:78)

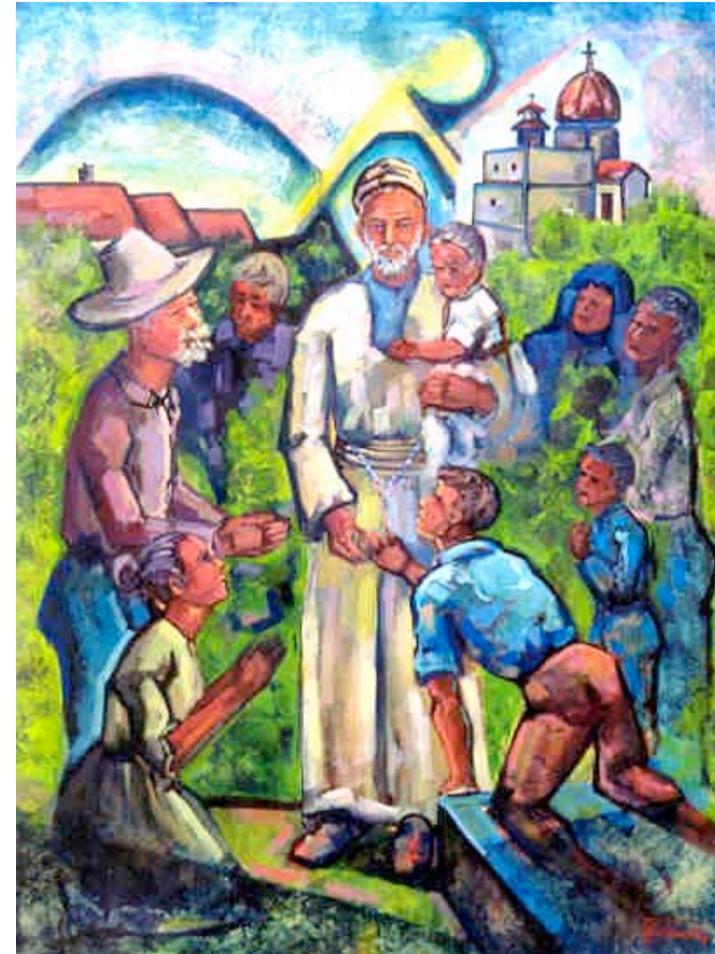


The Personal or
Internal Aspect:
Preparation for
Evangelization



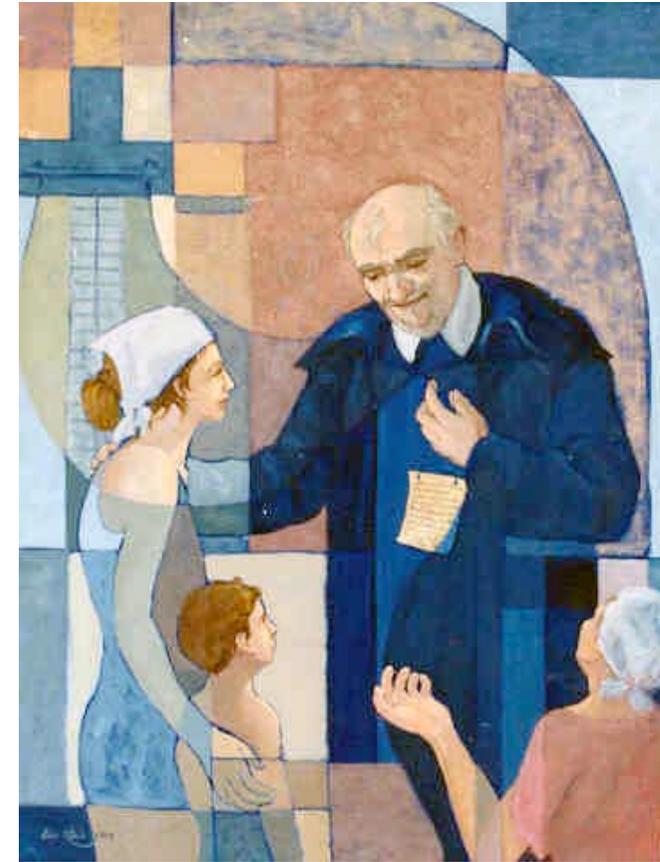
Our Basic Attitude

- On various occasions Pope Francis has used a word, “*misionariedad*”, which can be translated into English as “missionary spirit”. It implies an attitude that impregnates our whole life, that gives meaning to our Christian and our ecclesial life and that guides all our evangelizing activity... an attitude that goes beyond mere acts or missionary programs.
- This attitude, this missionary spirit, is an essential element of our charism, our spirituality and the best Vincentian tradition. The innovative missionary witness of Saint Vincent invites us to be missionaries.
- We must have a clear and expressed preference for the apostolate among the poor-- a firm conviction in the evangelization of the poor. Without this criterion everything else fades into the background.



Vincentian Formation, Mindset

- We must promote, accompany, and form the laity, especially in the Vincentian charism, Vincentian spirituality, and the Vincentian mission.
- We must form and be formed in the Social Doctrine of the church so that it becomes a living and actual revelation of the Vincentian spirit. Some years ago, Father Robert Maloney, then the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, said: “I would suggest that all our programs of Vincentian formation during the 21st century should include a healthy dose of this doctrine. I hope that in the 21st century some lay Vincentians will be experts in the social doctrine of the Church.”
- We must promote the idea of a “shared mission”- (collaboration and communion between religious and laity)



Conclusion

- In this presentation, we have listed some ways in which we as Vincentians can collaborate in the Church's evangelizing process.
- We described a fundamental Vincentian attitude which should be the starting point for our evangelizing activity, along with a series of criteria which must be internalized in order to engage in the process of evangelization.
- The members of the Vincentian Family ought to be mindful of these criteria in order to evangelize from a Vincentian perspective and in a Vincentian manner.





Based on:

Vincentian Contributions to the New Evangelization

by: Celestino Fernández, CM

Formation Sessions for the leaders of the Vincentian Family (Paris, January 18th, 2014)