



### Resources needed:

- Crib Sheet
- Access to Catholic Social Teaching resource ([linked here](#))
- CST cards
- Values cards
- Story Presentation

### Aims of the Session:

- Explore the values of the SVP
- Explore Catholic Social Teaching
- Hear stories from the SVP

**Opening Prayer:** Invite one of the young people to read a prayer from the prayer book.

**Reflection:** A story from an SVP Conference. Read it and then take a few moments as a group to explore what you as a group could learn in the work and help you will give.

“I am writing to advise you that one of your parish groups are being taken advantage of by someone they visit. I know the work that the SVP do in supporting families in need but I am sorry to tell you that our neighbour is just using you. On Monday two of your members visited bringing a food hamper, I saw them as they came in, but later that evening the family ordered kebabs, so they couldn't really be in need.”

Feeling the need to follow a process we contacted the relevant Conference and let them know the neighbours concern. The Conference knew the beneficiary family and said that they absolutely did not feel that they were being taken advantage of and indeed shared insight that the family had been going through an especially hard time and were in desperate need of the friendship the SVP can give.

A long conversation took place about perhaps changing the way that they operate for new visits, resulting in the following reply; *“Thank you for bringing your concern to our attention. I have spoken to the Parish Conference members and we have discussed a number of ways to support those who are in need. They recognise that they do now always know what is the most useful and helpful food to put into a hamper to help a family going through a hard time. Inspired by your feedback they have now changed their process for first visits and will now be asking those they visit to name a few food preferences. They will also now be using an online food app to make an order for the evening after the first visit. Thank you for your invaluable feedback.”*

A short reply followed simply stating; “I think you wilfully misunderstood my complaint but thank you for doing your good work”



**Activity:** For todays short activity use the SVP CST Resource. [Click Here.](#)

**Reflection Point:** Many of the stories encompass lots of our Vincentian values and match up with more than one Catholic Social teaching. As Vincentians, our actions may be varied, but we remember our values in everything that we do.

**Before you finish:** Invite all the young people to pray together the prayer from their prayer cards.