



*This service can be adapted and used to fit your setting (during a prayer time, assembly or celebration of Mass). It's aim is to give our young members a sense of belonging to the wider SVP organisation and Vincentian Family.*

*The leader's parts could be read by a chaplain in a school or students. In a parish it could be read or led by the parish priest, SVP members or adults supporting the group. You could include music and other symbols if you like. In the appendix you will find prayer cards which could be used. To order badges and cards visit the [\*\*SVP shop\*\*](#)*

## **Sign of the Cross**

### **Opening Prayer**

Loving God, help us through meeting together to deepen our Vincentian friendship and bear witness to your compassionate and tender love, so that our hearts beat with the heartbeat of those living in poverty, and so that we come to see poverty through their eyes. May we be a voice for the voiceless, speaking out with courage and charity. Amen.

### **Leader**

Vincentians are renowned for their ability to quickly mobilise and create positive change in situations where help is needed. Through our actions and words we can become the compassionate face of Jesus in our world.

As Vincentians we see Jesus as a baby and his family in the stable, a refugee, born to a teenage mother, homeless, and vulnerable. We see Jesus on the cross, a prisoner, bullied, dying and in pain. These are the faces of Jesus we seek out, befriend and offer our support to.

### **From Pauls letter to the Colossians**

### **Colossians 2:7**

“Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

### **Leader**

All that we are able to do is not in our own power but through our service and prayer. St Vincent said “Give me a person of prayer and they will be capable of anything.” A tree stands tall offering shade and a place of shelter for the many who use it because it's roots are anchored deep. In the same way our service is rooted deep in the Gospel message of Jesus “Love one another as I have loved you”. Pope Francis said that “Only by going deep will the branches grow upwards and bear fruit.”

*All those receiving their badges are invited to stand together and respond at the end of each question.*



## **Leader**

From the beginning the SVP has been founded in friendship and understanding. Will you always try to continue in this tradition through the way you run your group?

***I will.***

## **Leader**

St Louise de Marillac said: "A deep love for God in this life will be shown by practicing His goodness, gentleness and charity toward my neighbour." As a Young Vincentian, will you strive to see where others in your community are in need?

***I will.***

## **Leader**

St Vincent de Paul said: "If God is the centre of your life, no words are necessary. Your mere presence will touch hearts!" As a Young Vincentian, will you keep listening to the voice of God in your thinking and your mission as you carry out your work?

***I will.***

"Charity is the cement which binds communities to God and persons to one another." In this statement St Vincent reminds each of us that through our actions of charity we share with others the love of God. As a Young Vincentian will you commit to take an active part in helping those who you see are in need?

***I will.***

**Presentation of Badge and Youth SVP members cards is now made to each member.**

*Members could now be invited to take a moment to write their own prayers and hopes on the prayer cards in Appendix 1 and place them around the focal point or candle. Closing Prayer O Glorious Saint Vincent de Paul,*

**Final Prayer** *(the response is pray for us)*

Saint Vincent de Paul, **pray for us,**

That we may be people of prayer, simple and humble.

Saint Louise de Marillac, **pray for us,**

That we may feel God's reassurance in times of doubt.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, **pray for us,**

That we may find a seed of holiness within our hearts.

Blessed Rosalie Rendu, **pray for us,**

That we may help those in need, wherever we meet them.

**Sign of the Cross**

'It is our vocation to set  
 people's  
*hearts ablaze*  
 to do what the son of  
 god did,  
 who came to  
*light a fire on Earth*  
 in order to set it ablaze  
 with his love.'



Frédéric Ozanam



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