

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Georgia**



**EACH ONE REACH ONE
Information Packet**

2021

Table of Contents

Overview.....	4
Timeline.....	5
Keys to Success.....	6
Suggestions for Announcements in Parish Bulletins.....	6
Orientation Meeting Guide	7
Orientation Meeting Agenda	8
Results Report Form.....	9

August 4, 2021

Dear Vincentians,

One of the common themes among Conferences is the desire for more members. There are so many people who call St. Vincent de Paul for help that it is easy for a Conference to be overwhelmed by the demand.

The demanding workload is one of the reasons that drive Conferences to seek out new members. When a new member arrives, we may be tempted to hand them a pile of cases, but we must put their participation into context. There are three essential elements of the Society: 1) spirituality, 2) friendship, and 3) service. Regarding spirituality, each person is created in the image and likeness of God, so we should welcome each new member as an opportunity to see a unique reflection of God's love. Secondly, we all enjoy meeting new friends, and each new member is a potential friend. Finally, many hands make light work, so we can always welcome people to help with the work of service. In fact, by offering them an opportunity to serve, we are providing them a way to grow in their faith.

There are many ways to invite and welcome new members. The Conferences that appoint a "new member coordinator" seem to have the most success at attracting and retaining new members. If your Conference does not yet have a new member coordinator, Invitation to Serve may be the opportunity to appoint such a person. (This is a great role for a Vice President.)

Each One Reach One is a simple personal appeal method to encourage people to join in the good work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and brings together your current membership in a joined effort to grow and revitalize your Conference.

Yours in Christ,

Amanda Stricklin
Director of Vincentian Services
St. Vincent de Paul Georgia

Overview

The Each One Reach One Program is an excellent example of a personal appeal.

Each Vincentian is encouraged by the Conference President to reach out to at least one person who may be a good candidate for membership. This person could be a friend, family member or someone who has been recommended to you by the Pastor, another Vincentian, or anyone else, as a potential Vincentian.

The Program is also an occasion to share the good work of SVdP with others in the community; to have one-on-one conversations with caring individuals that may or may not have outwardly expressed an interest in the Society but would appreciate the opportunity to learn about the mission and work of the Society.

Objectives:

- To invite and assist interested people to join our ministry of service to those in need
- To strengthen our Conferences with new members dedicated to the mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

How:

- By raising awareness of our work throughout the parish and community
- By making personal connections and invitations to individual networks.
- By developing a prototype orientation process
- By holding regional Member Training Sessions
- By assisting Conference planning for the invitation week/month
- By developing and sharing basic approaches to retention of new members
- By focusing attention, having a plan and assisting in the process

When:

- Designated Council-wide campaign month (TBD), or Conference recruitment month, as needed.

Timeline

Preparation

- Select a designated month to run the program
- Meet with your pastor to let him know of your goals
- Reserve a room at the parish for the orientation meeting
- Introduce the program to members at a Conference meeting
- Assign Vincentians to plan the orientation meeting on _____, the week after the designated month ends

Promotion

- In Conference meetings and newsletters
- Mailed postcard reminders
- Run sample bulletin announcements in bulletin during the designated month of your program

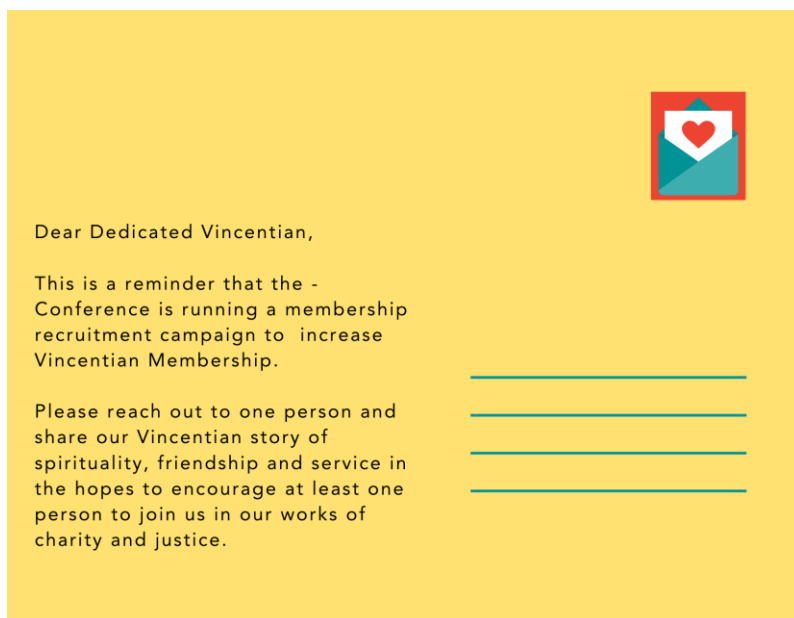
Follow up

- Call the people who signed up and invite them to the Orientation Meeting
- Conduct orientation meeting held
- Discuss with new members their interests and abilities
- Involve new members in Vincentian activities, home visits and MORE...

Postcard Reminder

During a designated month, each Vincentian household will be mailed an Each One Reach One Program postcard as shown below. This postcard is meant to serve as a colorful reminder for Vincentians to share our story and to ask someone special to be a part of the Vincentian family at your Conference. The reminder card should be placed in a visible area of the home or office throughout the designated month.

Postcards can be ordered through the Conference Support Center Vincentian Services Director.



Keys to Success

For the Orientation Meeting:

- Hold the orientation meeting the same week as the talk.
- Do not substitute a regular Conference meeting for the orientation meeting.
- Encourage attendance at the orientation meeting with phone calls prior to the meeting and assignment of Vincentians to each potential member.
- Be prepared to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities immediately after the orientation.
- Hold education classes for new members regarding various aspects of Conference activities, e.g., local resources, food pantry, home visits, etc.

Suggestions for Announcements in Parish Bulletins
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First Week: _____

Are you looking for ways to experience God? It may be easier than you think. Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society invite you to experience God through serving those in need. Christ said, "What you do for the least of my brothers and sisters you do for me". Mark your calendars for an Information Night on (day/date/time) for people interested in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Second Week: _____

Are you a naturally caring, compassionate and giving person? Were you blessed with parents and other role models in life from whom you learned that the joy of living is giving?
If you answered YES to either of the above questions join us for an Information Night on (day/date/time) for people interested in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Third Week: _____

You are invited to serve individuals and families in need in our local area. Throughout the month of (Month) members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be reaching out their networks of friends, family and parishioners to personally invite them to assist those in our area in need of food, clothing, rent assistance, utility assistance and other necessities. Christ said, "What you do for the least of my brothers and sisters you do for me". We welcome you to join us in seeking out and serving Christ in those who "knock on our door." Come join us next _____ (day and date) at _____ (time) in the _____ (location) to learn more. Please RSVP to _____ (phone number and e-mail).

Orientation Meeting Guide

Schedule meeting for an evening during the week immediately after the talk from the pulpit.

Hold the meeting at a parish facility and reserve the space and time well in advance.

Assign Vincentians to each prospective member to contact and bring to the meeting.

Have as many Vincentians there as possible.

Do not let the meeting last more than one hour.

Be available for anyone who wants to ask questions after the meeting.

Have several Vincentians take part of the meeting agenda.

Arrange the room in an informal conversational manner, e.g. semi-circle.

Discuss what our ministry is like and the different opportunities available to serve.

Do not lecture, allow open dialog with prospective members while not letting any one person take all of the time.

Do not try to tell everything you know about St Vincent de Paul.

Let them know they are welcome and we want them to help with our work.

Cover the obvious concerns of confidentiality, safety, how do I do this work, how will I know what to do, how do I decide who to help, how do I approach a stranger in their home and ask for personal information, etc. Let them know that all these points will be covered in new member training.

Ask them if they can make a home visit with a Vincentian in the next week or so.

Tell them about the member training that's been scheduled.

Ask for help for specific programs such as a Food Drive or the Hunger Walk that are scheduled for specific dates soon.

Have the Vincentian assigned to each prospective member call each attendee within two days of meeting. Listen and invite to next meeting of Conference.

*An orientation PowerPoint is available for use. If you do not have it, please contact Vincentian Services to obtain a copy.

Orientation Meeting Agenda

Opening prayer & Spiritual reading and reflection	10 min
Introduction of Vincentians	5 min
Introduction of Guests	5 min
History of St. Vincent de Paul Society (short)	5 min
Description of our work and how it is done	25 min
Home visits	
Working in pairs	
Confidentiality	
Special Projects	
Meeting times and duration	
SVdP, the bigger picture	
Conferences in 73 parishes	
All belong to Georgia Council	
National Council located in St. Louis	
International Council located in Paris	
The Society exists in over 133 countries	
Opportunities to serve other than being a caseworker	
Food Drives and Pantries	
Clothing Drives	
SVdP Stores	
Education & Training	
Mentoring	
Call to action	8 min
Ask for those willing to accompany a Vincentian on a home visit	
Ask for those interested in other opportunities	
Tell all when and where new member training and education is scheduled.	
Tell all when next conference meeting is and that they are WELCOME	
Closing Prayer	2 min
Refreshments and informal conversation	

Results Report Form

Please complete this form and return it to:

**SVdP Georgia Council Office
Attn: Amanda Stricklin
2050- C Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Or by email at astricklin@svdpgeorgia.org**

Conference: _____

Number of Masses at which Invitation to Serve presentations were made _____

Date of weekend that presentations were made _____

Total number of people who signed up for an Orientation Meeting _____

Total number of people who signed up for an Orientation Meeting that attended _____

Date of Orientation Meeting _____

Do you have any suggestions that you feel would add value to the Invitation to Serve program?

What would you like to see done differently at next year's Invitation Serve?

What aspects of the program did you find of particular value?

Any additional comments?
