

YOUR HOME – MY HOME – OTHER

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Introduction

- Time to meet a new friend seated next to you, introduce yourself by sharing;
 - Where are you from, how long have you been a Vincentian
 - Share “how your time with SSVP has helped you have a closer relationship with God”

What we will cover today

1. Talk about how and why Home Visits were developed and if the factors creating Home Visits in Frederick's days apply to us today.
2. Your Home – My Home.....We will role play 3 scenarios of families in need of assistance using both Your Home and My Home methods.
3. Other – we will discuss if Other options are necessary for families who fall outside the Your Home – My Home Scenario.
4. Vincentian Spirituality with God – how does this factor into a Home Visit.

What is a Home Visit?

- The rule of the Society states that Frederick Ozanam and his friends emphasized **Love of God and Love of neighbor**. This love was expressed by the development of Conferences whose purpose was to visit the poor in their dwellings.
- The Canadian Rule book states; Home visitation is a fundamental activity of the Society and has been carried out in pairs since the beginning of the Society in the 1830's. This traditional activity shall continue to be carried out by two members.....

Jesus Sent Them Two by Two



- Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two

(Mark 6)

- After this the Lord appointed a further 72 and sent them in pairs to every place he intended to visit.

(Luke 10)

St. Vincent



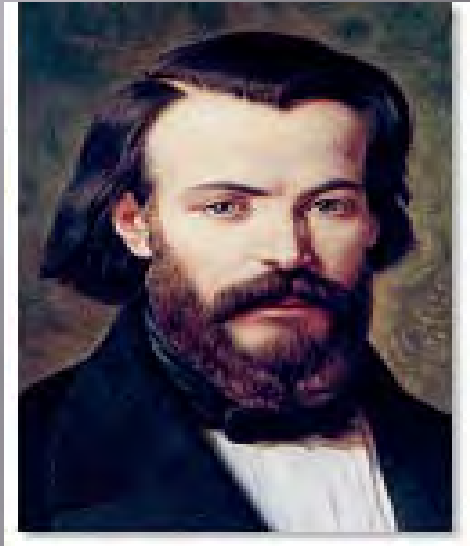
- It is our duty to prefer the service of the poor to everything else and to offer such service as quickly as possible.
- If a needy person requires medicine or other help during prayer time, do whatever needs to be done with peace of mind.
- Offer the deed to God as prayer.

St. Louise



- Take great care of the poor.
(St. Louise, on her death bed)

Blessed Frederick and Blessed Rosalie



Sister Rosalie, a Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, continued in that approach (i.e. home visits.) When Frederic and his friends went to see her, asking her to help them, she taught them about home visits.

They never intended to stop the practice.

On the contrary, they even included it in the very first Rule of the Society.

(Vincenpaul – fall 2014)

President General Renato Lima de Oliveira

(Circular Letter of the President General, 2018)



- The home visit... the main activity of the SSVP around the world, according to the teachings of our founders.
- It is true that the visit is not the only Vincentian activity carried out by Conferences, but following the tradition of our founders, it is the main one and most faithful to the original spirit of our organization, since it gives us personal contact with those who suffer.
- Conferences making home visits should ensure these are made regularly and without interruption since the destitute really need the 'Vincentian friendly hand', not only for the material goods but also for the spiritual support they receive.
- Stand firm and do not get discouraged when, perhaps, the visits do not bring the expected results.
- God is on our side and He is transforming the hearts of the person who receives the Vincentian visit, even when we do not perceive it.
- The home visit is the Vincentian practice that I appreciate most.

Are Home Visits relevant today?

- In the 16th, 17th and 18th century, social assistance by governments did not exist.
- Charitable organizations such as the Daughters of Charity were necessary to provide food, clothing and assistance to the poor and forgotten.
- There was a strong Spiritual connection between giving of one self for the benefit of the poor.

Are Home Visits relevant today?

Yes!

Why?

- Poverty still exists today where the gap between rich and poor is continually growing wider.
- Government financial funding of support programs are being reduced, especially for the mental illness.
- Opportunities to break out of poverty cycle are very difficult in a society where higher education and skills are necessary for employment.
- Personal Contact with the poor is almost non existent with 'On-line' applications and call centers.

Your Home – My Home

(Our friend in need)

(Church hall)

Today some conferences have abandoned conducting Home Visits, instead they have families visit them at the church.

Some conferences conducting Home Visits have seen home visits diminished to just a..... 'food delivery' service.

Reasons offered for these changes include;

- We do not have time
- We are getting to old, which leads to safety concerns
- We cannot attract new members
- We do not have enough members
- We do not know how to conduct a Quality Home Visit

Workshop Exercise

- We will explore 3 scenarios of families in need.
- Share YOUR stories how you would handle the family in need.
 - Describe how you greet families, how you interact with families.
 - After your time spent with the family, how has that contact with the poor strengthened your relationship with God?

Scenario 1

- A husband and wife have lost their jobs as a result of their employers business has closed.
- They both worked for the same employer.
- The company paid 90 days severance and provided health benefits during that time period.
- They are both 58 years of age .
- They no longer have income.
- They need any help we can provide.

Home Visit Observation

- Upon entry to the home, a statue of Mary is on a hallway table with 4 candles burning.
- A small kitchen table with bake goods all wrapped (looks like CWL sale).
- Several prescription bottles beside chair.
- Glass sliding door open, overlooks very busy highway, stuffy and noisy.
- Furniture is simple, apartment is tidy.

After your time spent with the family, how has that contact with the poor strengthened

Your Faith?

Your relationship with God?

Scenario 2

- A single mother with 1 child needs assistance for furniture.
- She is on OW (Ontario Works).

Home Visit Observation

- Home is a nice middleclass neighborhood.
- Home is a 4 level back split, car on driveway with flat tire, has been there for sometime.
- Enter the home from the rear door, enter the basement level apartment.
- Large open room with 1 couch in middle of room and 1 chair. Small TV on stand.
- Paneling dark brown (1960's), old curtains, room glum and dark, only 1 ceiling light.
- The couch is worn, no seating support.
- In the basement is a single mattress (no box spring) on the concrete floor, inverted boxes with clothes on top.
- Fridge and stove in middle of room.

After your time spent with the family, how has that contact with the poor strengthened

Your Faith?

Your relationship with God?

Scenario 3

- Single mother needs food.
- Has 3 children all under the age of 4 years.
- Has been cut off Child Tax Credit Benefit, did not file income tax return.

Home Visit observation

- Home is public housing project, very untidy, litter everywhere, grass-weeds overgrown.
- Front door all scratched and dented, door latch battered from being kicked in.
- Inside, walls and floors very dirty, clothes scattered all around floor, a few holes in the walls.
- Kitchen table very old, one leg wobbly, 3 chairs, not stable.
- Dimly lit.
- While speaking to mother, a child about 3 years old enters the kitchen, opens fridge and closes, opens microwave and closes, pulls chair over, opens cupboard and closes.....walks away quietly.
- To go to the church hall, requires 2 bus transfers, very difficult to take 3 young children, has no family/friends to care for children.

After your time spent with the family, how has that contact with the poor strengthened

Your Faith?

Your relationship with God?

Scenario 4 (optional)

- A wife calls the church, is in need of food.
- Daughter requires special diet supplement to gain weight.
- Lost rental apartment to fire.
- Lost all possessions, thought landlord insurance covered their possessions.

Home Visit Observation

- The home is a Bi Level home, tired looking, poor neighborhood.
- The front door is missing glass and screen, door bell does not work.
- A young woman answers the door, not the person who called the church, she gets the daughter of the woman who called.
- Daughter says mother is at work (dry cleaner), she will call her on cell to come home.
- Upon entry, in the living room there are several; adults lounging around (6 families share home).
- Furniture ,miss matched, old, musty.
- Bedroom has 1 queen bed and sponge on floor.

After your time spent with the family, how has that contact with the poor strengthened

Your Faith?

Your relationship with God?

Vincentian Spirituality with God

– how does this factor in?

- Knowledge of the poor and needy is not gained by pouring over books or in discussions with politicians, but by visiting the slums where they live, sitting by the bedside of the dying, feeling the cold they feel and learning from their lips the causes of their woes. (Frederick Ozanam)
- In Home Visits, we are profoundly touched and transformed by those who are poor. As we go on a home visit, we let go of our comfort zone, our sense of being in control and we come face to face with our own vulnerability.

Help in All Possible Ways - Other -

- Help in All Possible Ways – This is the 4th Value listed in our Mission and Values Statement
- Are there any families that assistance provided by Your Home or My Home methods that we do not serve?
 - Who are they?
 - Why do they not qualify for Your Home or My Home assistance?

Where do we go from here?

- If a person has not conducted home visits, wants to try and experience this form of contact, how can it be achieved?
- If a person conducts home visits, such as a food drop off delivery and wants a more meaningful visit, how can this be achieved?