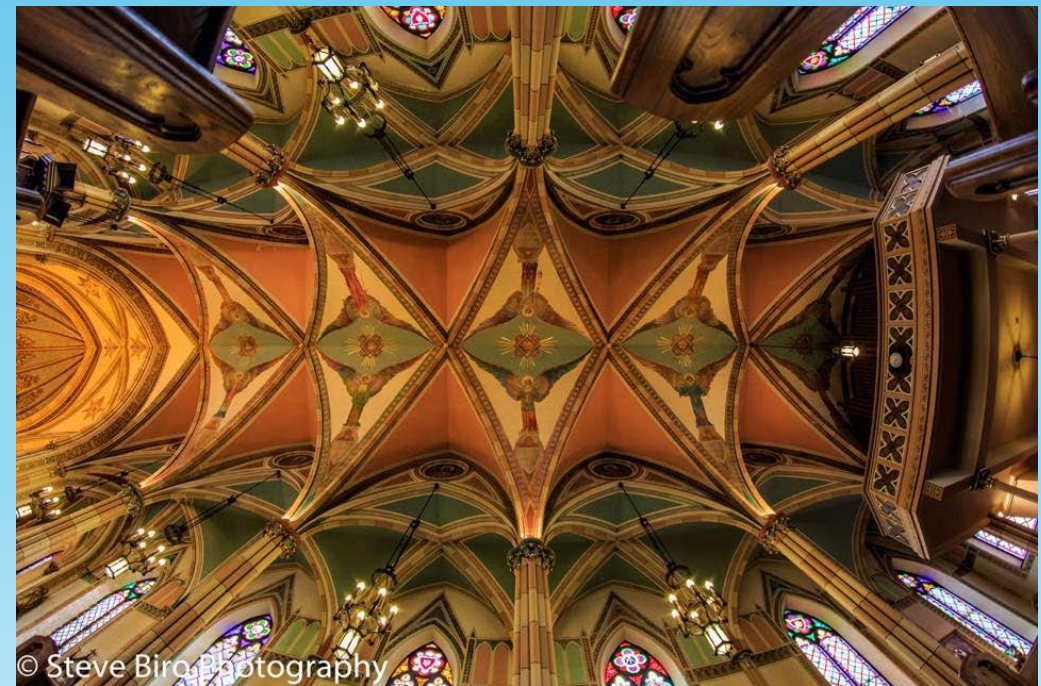




Our Lady of the Assumption **252 Yrs.**



- Married 3 kids 3 grandkids
- Hospice Spiritual Care
- WECD SB Parent's Committee
- Seminary Formation Team
- Auditor for marriage tribunal
- Spiritual Advisor – WWPC of SSVP
- Vincentian for over 24 years.



© Steve Birn Photography

A Vincentian talking with Vincentians!



TOGETHER AS **FAMILY**



The conference theme clearly shows that the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is **all about families**

The Secrets of every
happy Vincentian family!



What we'll talk about ...

- **The family ... what and why?**
- **How is SSVP like family?**
- **Dysfunctional families?**
- **Secrets for every happy Vincentian Family**



Our premise ...



- 1. Working together as family makes us different than the government institutions & agencies that people-in-need must use.**
- 2. The people we serve are our friends and neighbours rather than our clients**



Our premise ...



3. **We** work from a position of love rather than of pity or responsibility ... we love them
4. **We** care not only for them but for each other
5. **We** become more Christ-like.



Sample Families from TV



Name of the TV Show?

Name(s) of the Family?

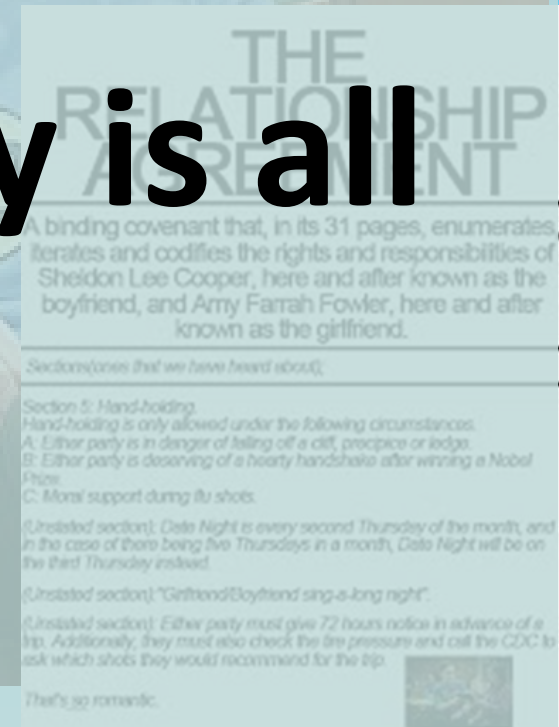




The family ... what and why?

**We are all part of a family
either when we were
growing up or now ... we
know what a family is all
about!**

**Big Bang Theory
Sheldon & Amy**



The family ... what and why?

**Well ... we're
Christians and
Christians are
made for
relationships!**

The family ... what and why?

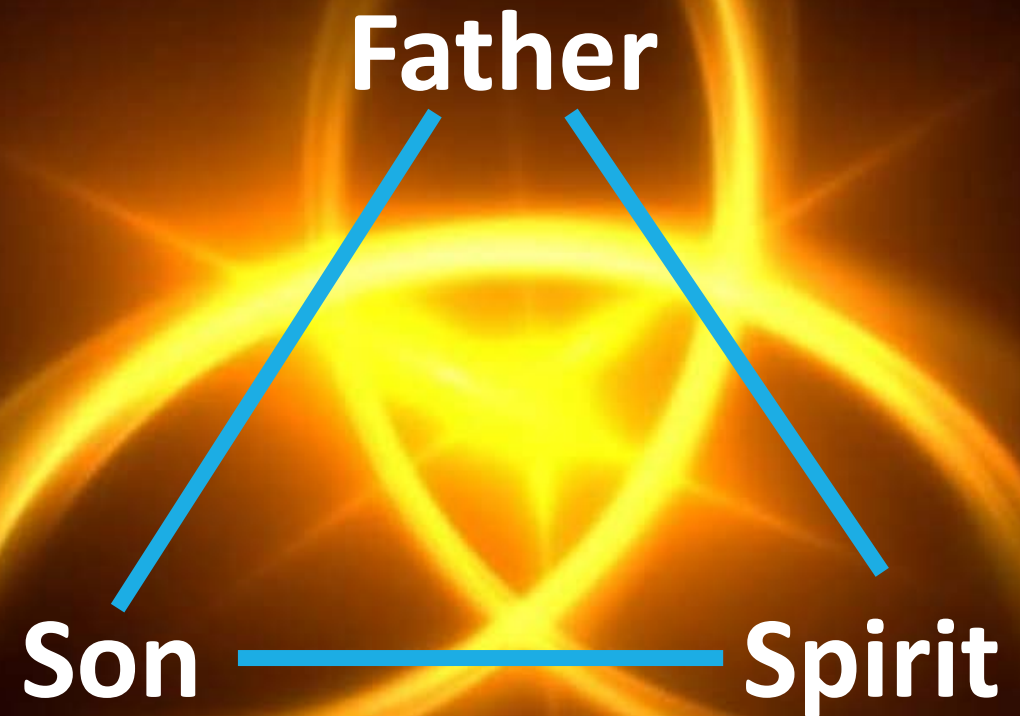


**We're made to live
in community ... to
relate to each
other ... to form
families.**

The family ... what and why?



**The Trinity ...
relationships so close
that they
are one!**



The family ... what and why?



**The Trinity ...
relationships so close
that they
are Family!**

Father
Family
Son Spirit

The family ... what and why?



**God is quite
literally ... love!**

The Expert!

St. Paul

1 Corinthians

Family

The family ... what and why?



First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthian

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **it does not rejoice in wrong-doing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.**

Love is ... patient, kind, not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude or irritable or resentful ...

The family ... what and why?



First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthian

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrong-doing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

**Love... does not rejoice in wrong-
doing ... rejoices in the truth...
bears all things ...believes ...
hopes and endures all things!**

The family ... what and why?

1. Christians are all about relationships



it does not seek its own interests It bears all things
1 Corinthians 13 endures
is not pompous
Love is patient believes all things
believes it does not brood
Love is kind but rejoices
endures truth bears hopes all things
it is not quick tempered it is not rude
rejoice it does not rejoice over wrongdoing
with the truth it is not inflated

2. Relationships form families

3. Families are about Love

Fundamental Aspects of Being Family



1. **T**here is love (and all that goes with it)
2. **F**amilies are messy
3. **M**utual respect for each other
4. **A** purpose beyond the individuals
5. **D**on't strive to do the minimum

The family ... what and why?

Fundamental Aspects of Being Family



6. Important family rituals
7. More than anything, we see in each other the face of Christ and resolve to bring each other to holiness; to love one another, to serve each other, and to be the people God means us to be

The family ... what and why?

Fundamental Aspects of Being Family



8. **S**erve each other
9. **F**ather-figure (or someone in that role) accepts and encourages his family
10. **M**other-figure (or someone in that role) forms and prepares her family to go out into the world.

The family ... what and why?

What we'll talk about ...



- The family ... what and why?
- **How is SSVP like family?**
- Dysfunctional families?
- Secrets for every happy Vincentian Family



If not a family ... then what?



"I'm from the
government
and I'm
here to
help."



Government Agency

*The Secrets of every
happy Vincentian family!*



If not a family ... then what?



The Inquisition



If not a family ... then what?



The Judge and Jury



If not a family ... then what?



The Lecturer



If not a family ... then what?



The Secret Society



If not a family ... then what?



The Secret Society

The Inquisition

The Lecturer

The Government

The Judge and Jury

Agency



As members of the Society, we
gather into conferences based
on a family model ...



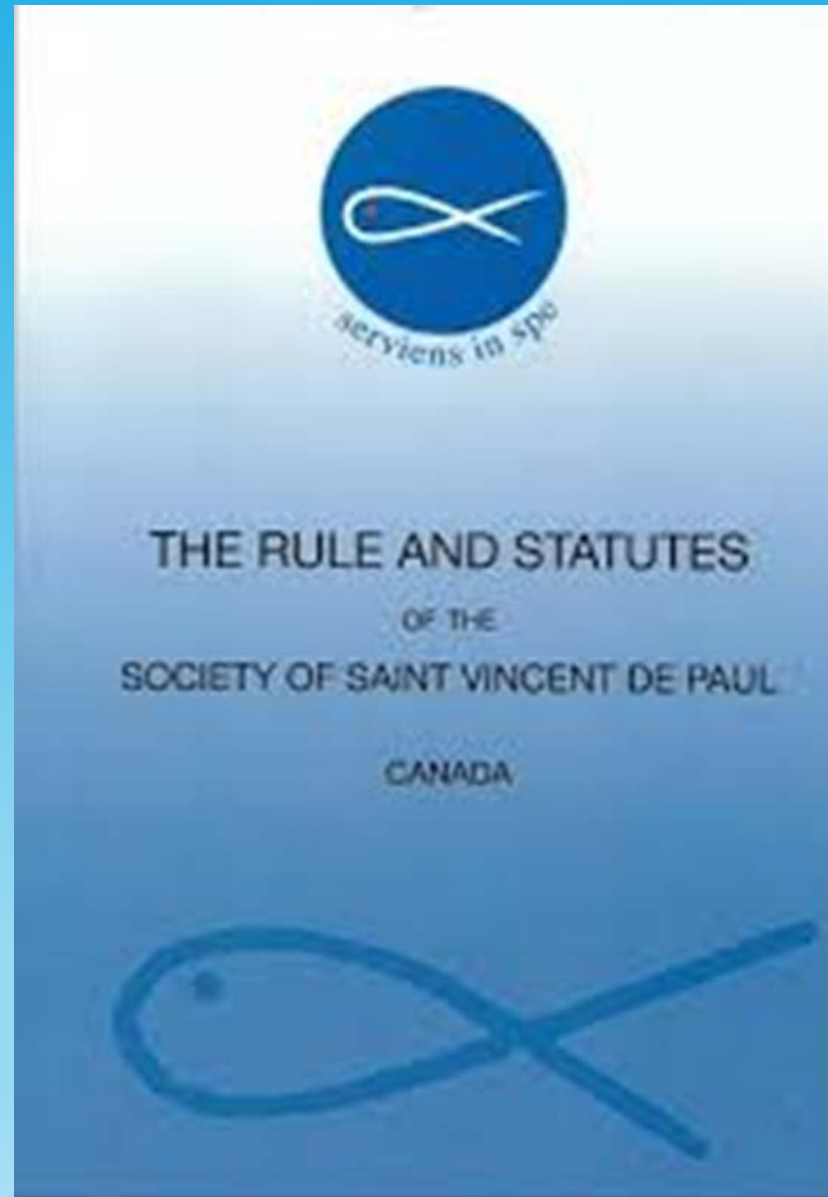
How is SSVP like family?



We meet families face to face when we visit those that we help. . .



How is SSVP like family?



How is SSVP like family?



rule-web-feb-2017.pdf

https://www.ssvp.ca/sites/default/files/rule-web-feb-2017.pdf

on page

1 of 26

Options

love and respect, aid and developme

We also seek to deepen our spiritualit

members, so that, seeing how we ser

people are attracted to the Society a

MISSION

The Society of Saint Vincent de P

mission is:

To live the Gospel message by serv

justice and joy.

VALUES

The Mission of the Society of Sain

tians, we:

- see Christ in anyone who suf
- come together as a family;
- have personal contact with th

“Find on page” in the
Rule ...
“Family” used 26
times

How is SSVPlike family?

This is apparent for the society at our **very core**.

At each gathering we recite the **Society Values** which says in part ...

How is SSVP like family?

*“... as Vincentians, we see **Christ** in all who suffer, come together as **family**, have personal contact with the **poor** and help in all possible ways”*

pg. 11.

And in the **SSVP**
Rule it says ...

*From the US
Rule*

*“It is there, in that
family setting,
Vincentians are
asked to **listen**,
offer humble
advice, and
render
assistance.”*

How is SSVP like family?

And in the **SSVP**
Rule it says ...

4.3 *The Vincentian
Family*
... *the Society
maintains and
develops close
relationships with
other branches of
the **Vincentian
family**, while
preserving its identity.*

Pg. 127

How is SSVP like family?

And in the **SSVP**
Rule it says ...

4.3 *The Vincentian
Family cont'd*
*Members throughout
the world, together
with other
communities inspired
by the spirituality of
St. Vincent de Paul
and with those whom
they help, form a
single family.* Pg. 127

How is SSVP like family?

And in the **SSVP**
Rule it says ...

*From duties of the
President*

*... developing and
maintaining
productive
relationships with
members of the*

***Vincentian family**
in Canada; p88*

How is SSVP like family?

And in the **SSVP**
Rule it says ...

Regarding Sharing of Funds

*The Society may not,
at any level, allot
funds to other
organizations, except
for branches of the
Vincentian family,
for example, the
Sisters of Charity.*

Pg. 108

How is SSVP like family?

And in the **SSVP**
Rule it says ...

How is SSVP like family?

*From the Memorial
Service*

*We are gathered today
as a **Vincentian
Family** to honor the
memory of our
Vincentian Brothers
and Sisters who have
passed from this life to
rest in the arms of the
Lord. Pg. 171*

And in the **SSVP**
Rule it says ...

*Forming
Conferences
to prepare training
courses and
encourage
Vincentians to attend
them, to foster
interest in
cooperation with the
Vincentian Family,
Pg. 123*

How is SSVP like family?

Grandparents

- Set moral tone
- Establish family rituals
- We emulate them
- Good example

1581 – 1660

1591-1660

Parents

- Gave birth to the family
- Establish the rules
- Form and teach us
- With us day to day
- Good example

1813 – 1853

1786 - 1856

How is SSVP like family?

What we'll talk about ...

- The family ... what and why?
- How is SSVP like family?
- **Dysfunctional families?**
- Secrets for every happy
Vincentian Family

The Expert!
St. Paul
1 Corinthians



First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians



If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels ... but do not have love ... I am a **noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.**

First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians



If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² **And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.** ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains ... but do not have love ...

I am nothing

Dysfunctional families?

First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians



If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,^[a] but do not have love, I gain nothing.**

If I give away all my possessions, and if
I hand over my body so that I may
boast ... but do not have love ...
I gain nothing.

Dysfunctional families?

Do I love my family when ...



- **M**y children don't follow curfew
- **M**y spouse spends too much time at work
- **T**hey refuse to sit down for a family meal
- **T**hey won't help around the house
- **T**hey spend all of their time
in front of the TV.





Barriers to coming together as family

- **G**roups that form cliques
- **I**nadequate formation, and understanding of Vincentian spirituality
- **A** lack of praying together, for each other





Barriers to coming together as family

- **B**eing judgmental of others
- **I**nadequate affirmation for the group
- **N**o apparent love for each other
- **S**aying things that shouldn't be said.



What we'll talk about ...

- The family ... what and why?
- How is SSVP like family?
- Dysfunctional families?
- **Secrets for every happy Vincentian Family**



I get it ... It's good
to be **family** ... but
how!

Secrets of Every Happy Vincentian Family





Utilize the basic principles and realities of family life or the **“The Secrets of Every Happy Vincentian Family”** to help your conference operate like family.

Secrets of Every Happy Vincentian Family



1

Accept the
Messiness



```
graph LR; A[Accept the Messiness] --> B[ ]; B --> C[ ]; C --> D[ ]
```

- **P**eople aren't perfect ... so families aren't perfect ... and your conference isn't perfect
- **S**et target of perfection ... don't insist on it
- **A**cept each other where you're at
- **F**ind beauty in the mess that is yours.

2

Accept the
Messiness



Have Respect
for Each Other



- Treat each other with kindness
- Treat each other with dignity



2

Accept the
Messiness

Have Respect
for Each Other

- **T**reat each other like family.



3

Accept the
Messiness



Have Respect
for Each Other



Be something
more than the
individuals



- **H**ave a purpose that is greater than each other.

Frederic Ozanam steadfastly refused to ever allow himself to be elected president of the Society. He never used the Society as a means of personal aggrandizement.



4

Accept the
Messiness



Have Respect
for Each Other



Be something
more than the
individuals



We serve each
other like
family

- Put yourself at service of those in your conference
- How can you help them?



5

We pray for
each other like
family



- Pray together
- for each other
- Bring each other to holiness



5

We pray for
each other like
family



- Pray for each other's **h**health, **h**appiness, & **h**oliness.



6

We pray for
each other like
family



Don't strive to
do the
minimum



- Don't live your life by a relationship agreement
- Do what needs to be done
- Contribute generously to the group.

THE RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT

A binding covenant that, in its 31 pages, enumerates, iterates and codifies the rights and responsibilities of Sheldon Lee Cooper, here and after known as the boyfriend, and Amy Farrah Fowler, here and after known as the girlfriend.

Sections (ones that we have heard about):

Section 5: Hand-holding.

Hand-holding is only allowed under the following circumstances:

A: Either party is in danger of falling off a cliff, precipice or ledge.

B: Either party is deserving of a hearty handshake after winning a Nobel Prize.

C:

Moral support during flu shots.

(Unstated section): Date Night is every second Thursday of the month, and in the case of there being five Thursdays in a month, Date Night will be on the third Thursday instead.

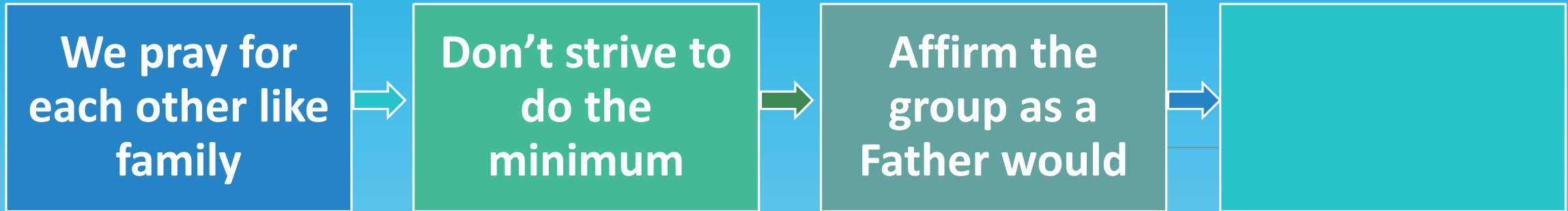
(Unstated section): "Girlfriend/Boyfriend sing-a-long night".

(Unstated section): Either party must give 72 hours notice in advance of a trip. Additionally, they must also check the tire pressure and call the CDC to ask which shots they would recommend for the trip.

That's so romantic.



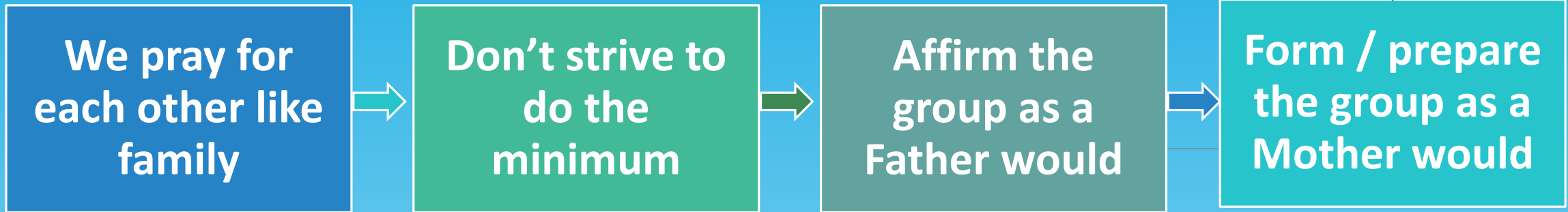
7



- **S**omeone must be the father figure
- **S**et the path for the family
- **A**ffirm the conference as you would family.



8



- **F**orm the group as a mother does
- **P**repare and guide them
- **F**orm them as you would form family.



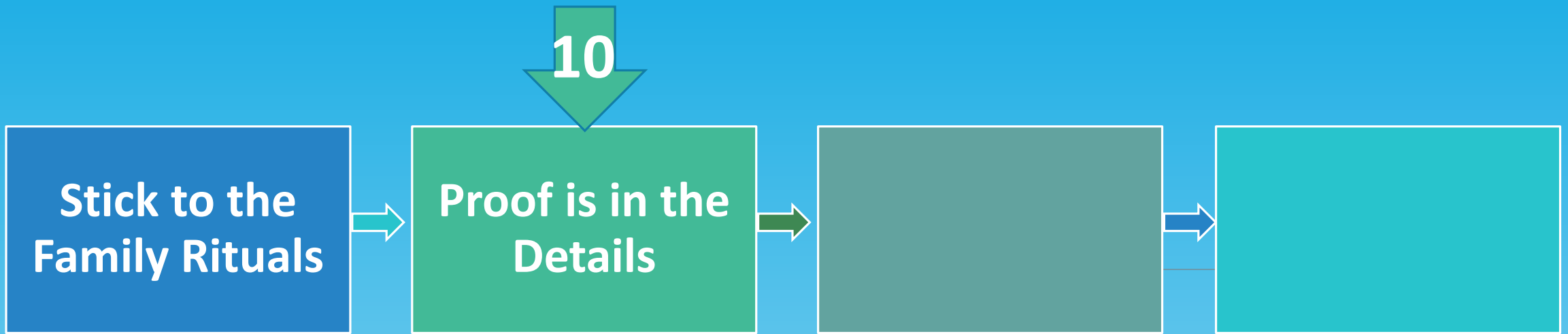
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Stick to the
Family Rituals

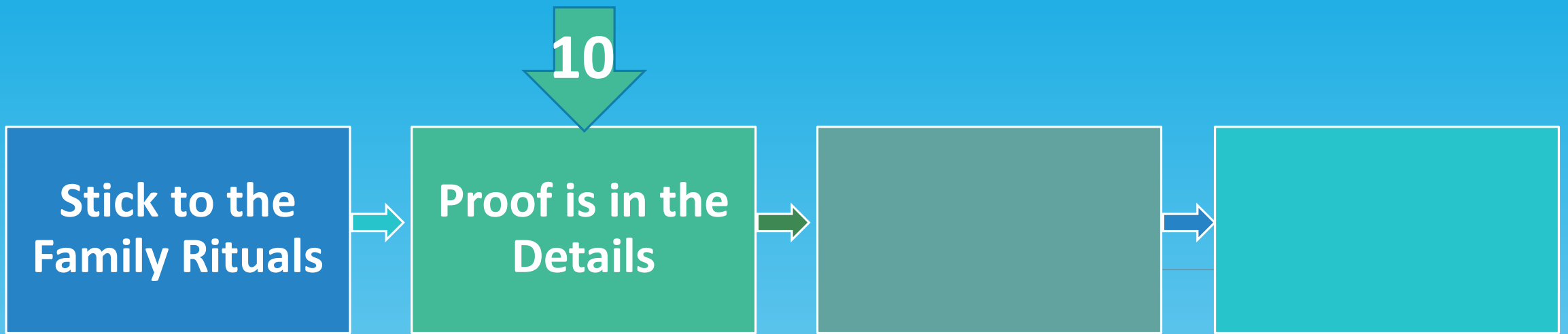


- **D**evelop rituals for your family
- **C**onsider how you run the meeting
- **S**pecial events, dinners.



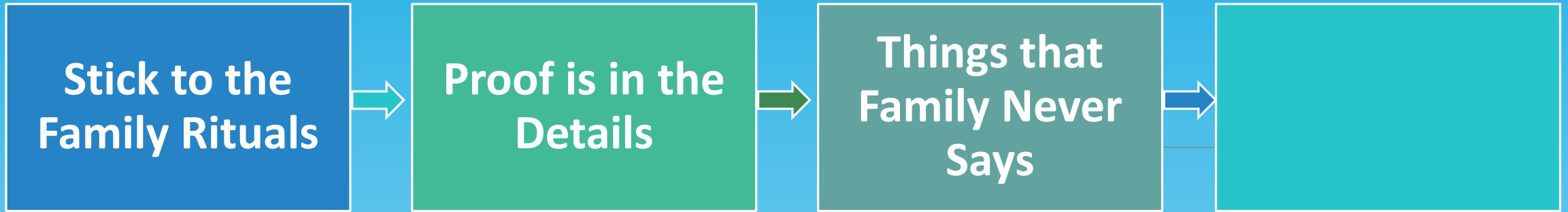


- **Do I love the family that is so demanding of our time and resources?**
- **Do I love the Society member who doesn't carry their share of the work?**



- **Do I love those we serve who always seem to want more?**
- **Do I love the society member who constantly complains?**

11



- That's not how we do it
- They spend every night at the bingo
- They're not from around here.



12

Stick to the
Family Rituals



Proof is in the
Details



Things that
Family Never
Says



See Christ in
Your Members



We must see Christ in the disturbing
disguise of the poor.

— *Mother Teresa* —



**The poor are our passport to
paradise ... *1st world day of the poor***



Goal: To become a happy Vincentian family

Approach: Examine and implement the
“secrets”

- Accept the messiness
- Have respect for each other
- Be more than individuals
- Serve each other like family
- Pray for each other like family
- Don't strive to do the minimum
- Affirm the group as a parent would





- Form/prepare the group as a Parent would**
- Stick to the family rituals**
- Proof is in the pudding**
- Things that families never say**
- See Christ in your members**

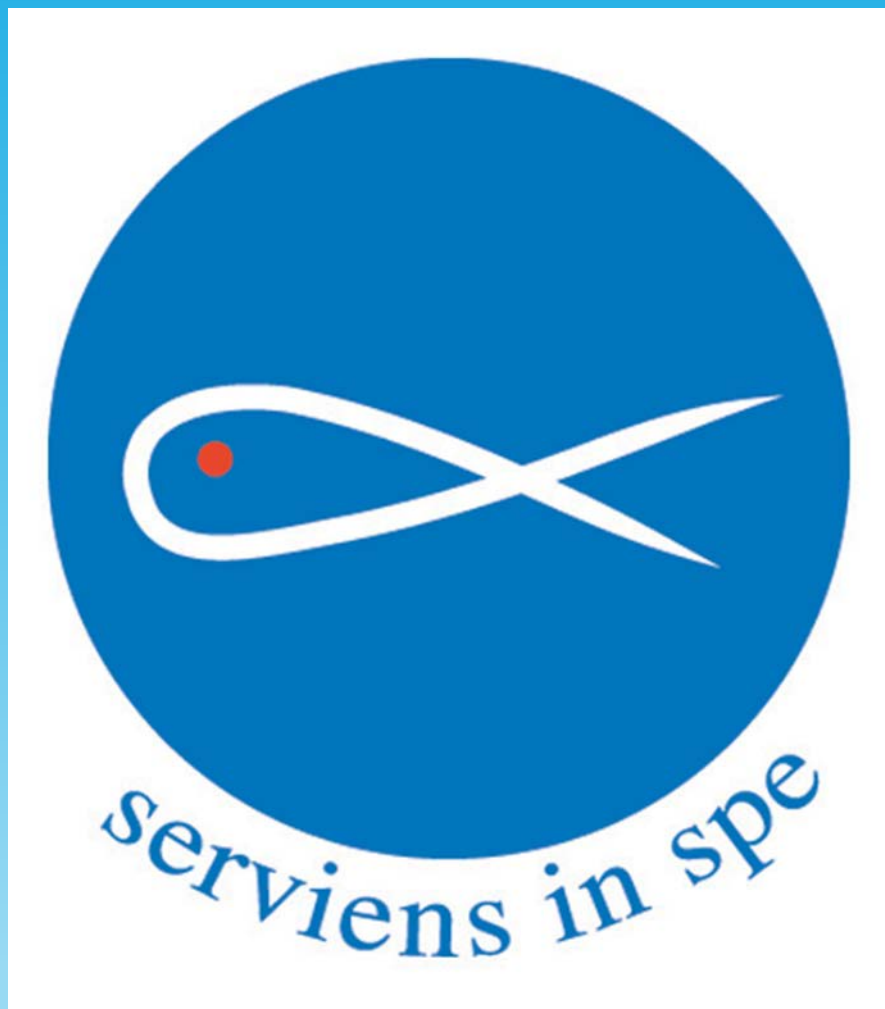


So ... we're from families ... we visit families ... but the question in the beginning was **“Are we families”!**

The answer is

“ We can be” ... because ...

We are Vincentians!



Thank you!

