



## Simple Spiritual Reflection

*The following spiritual reflections focus on our Vincentian lives, both at a personal level and as members of the Society. They delve, among others, into our common bond in serving others; relationships with our neighbours-in-need and with one another; our journey together toward holiness; and the SSVP mission and selected guiding principles and fundamental characteristics.*

*Conference and Councils may consider using them in their future regular meeting.*

### Reflection: On Caring for One Another

*“It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2.20)*

In Devotion TV on December 20, 2023, Fr. Mark Miller, CSsR posed and helped us ponder: **Why did God create human beings?** *God created us to look after one another and the planet, and ultimately to respond in love to God who is love. Jesus reminds us the poor will always have with you. Well, why bother since the poor are a permanent fixture of society? But they fail to understand Jesus was referring to a well-known text from the Jewish Torah that says, “I therefore command you, you shall open wide your hand to your brother or sister, to the needy and to the poor in your land. For Christians, the economy and the culture and the injustices of society are a reality within which we live but more and more Pope Francis reminds us Christians do not stand around and watch, rather we are called to look after one another in our families first but even more so in our outreach to the poor and the marginalized, the oppressed, the victims of our world who so often are also the first victims of a deeply compromised natural environment.*

*A farmer will tell you about how the land responds to his care and how that response of beauty and health is the source of his trust in God. It is the same for those who accompany the weakest of human among us. I often remember the words of a friend, “I always thought of myself as being kind and compassionate when doing some good work. But I am more blessed and receive more from my sisters and brothers than I could ever give. Maybe that is the lesson of caring for one another. Maybe that’s why we were created to learn the lessons of caring.*

### Reflection Questions

1. Recall a time when you felt to serve others clearly drove you to share this life. How does your gift of faith help you in creating a better world?
2. How readily do you to think through and act on the many needs of those around you?

**Let us pray...** Lord, may we seek You more and help us move past selfishness in all its forms. May we always recognize we are not intended to live solely for ourselves, serving in hope and walking into our neighbours-in-needs’ every situation. Guide us, too, to freely turn to those who cry for justice and long for dignity.

*Jose I. Torres, Chair National Spirituality Committee*

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About the writer: Jose is a chartered professional accountant. He is a member of Saint John of the Cross, Mississauga, Ontario Conference, a member of the Greater Toronto Central Council Spirituality Committee, and President as well as Spiritual Facilitator of the Peel North Particular Council. He has been recently appointed as member of the Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin (CFSPD) Board of Directors.