



Home Visit Workshop

Serving Our Neighbors Where They Live





Welcome

Objectives for today:

- Explore the “why” of the Home Visit, especially after this period of reduced home visits due to COVID
- Share information that can help make our home visits more rewarding, enjoyable and effective



Prayer

Father, we ask you to provide what we need to do the work you have given us. Fill our hearts with your love. Help us to listen with compassion and to speak with kindness and confidence.

We pray for the grace to let go of preconceived judgments so that we can be true peacemakers. Stir in us the fire of your love and guide us with discernment. Fill our hearts with wisdom, generosity and kindness. Inspire us with joy and patience.

Be at work in us so that we bring good news to the downcast, healing to the broken-hearted, hope to the destitute, and love and compassion to all who are suffering.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Home Visit Background





Origin of the Home Visit





Home Visits – Conversion of Heart

Frederic Ozanam's Reasons for Home Visits

Home visits are:

- Personal
- Intimate
- Comfortable for the neighbor; revealing to the Vincentian
- Transformative



What is the Purpose of a Home Visit?

What we bring:

- Presence & Compassion
- Information & Self-Help
- A Little Material Help

All of this provides Hope.

Why Not in the Office?

Wouldn't it be easier and more efficient to ask those in need to come to us?

Easier for us . . . Not easier for them

Not as effective

Quality, not quantity!





The Role of the Vincentian

“

**For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a
stranger and you welcomed me, naked
and you clothed me, ill and you cared
for me, in prison and you visited me.”**

”

~ Matthew 25:35-36~

Our Timeless Home Visit





Preparing for the Home Visit





Home Visit Guidelines

- If You're On A Witch Hunt, Stay Home.
- If You're An Expert On Life, Stay Home.
- If You Cannot Smile And Be Pleasant, Stay Home.
- Who Owns The Groceries? Let Go!
- We Are Responsible For Our Effort,
Not For Success.
- Your Decision Is The Right One

Mike Syslo – SVdP National



Getting Ready for the Home Visit

Before a Home Visit:

- Review notes, history and other info
- Take resources, e.g., food box, vouchers, “leave-behinds”
- Pray with your partner



The Home Visit Team





The Home Visit Team





“Friends” “Equals” “Connectors”





Home Visit Skills





“Transaction” or “Visit”





Communication Tips

- Let neighbor make “Opening Statement”.
- Start with open-ended questions.
- Listen more than you talk – active listening.
- Confirm what you heard / Mirror their words
- Continue with clarifying questions.
- Suggestions, not orders.
- Be compassionate and empathetic.
- Find something they have done well.
- When visiting non-native English speakers: speak slowly – but not loudly.



Two Approaches to Working with Our Neighbors



Motivational



Two Approaches to Working with Our Neighbors

“Fix It” Approach

- Attitude: Sympathy
- Focus: On the neighbor’s problems
- Vincentian takes the initiative to define and solve the problems
- Vincentian explains to the neighbor
- Vincentian uses parent voice
- Vincentian brings resources to the neighbor
- Confrontation
- Assumes neighbor doesn’t understand the problems
- or the need to make changes
- Vincentian assumes the neighbor needs advice and direct persuasion
- Vincentian metaphor: Mechanic

“Motivational” Approach

- Attitude: Empathy
- Focus: Emphasize the neighbor’s strengths
- Vincentian encourages the neighbor to define and solve the problem
- Vincentian explores with the neighbor
- Vincentian uses adult voice
- Vincentian builds resources with the neighbor
- Collaboration
- Assumes neighbor knows the problems exist but simply lacks the motivation to change
- Vincentian believes the neighbor can and will internalize and own need to change
- Vincentian metaphor: Gardener



Conference-specific Guidelines Empower Home Visitors

- Who we can help
- How often we can help
- The type of help we can offer
- How much we are able to help at one time (\$)



Praying with Our Neighbors



SVdP Spirituality: A Tradition of Prayer

“As for your conduct toward the poor, may you never take the attitude of merely getting the task done. You must show them affection, serving them from the heart...

Above all, you must have great care for their salvation, **never leaving without having uttered some good word.**”

-St. Louise de Marillac





Offering – Not Pushing - Prayer

Ask “Have you prayed about this? Would you like to pray with us now?”

“We often say a prayer at the end of a visit, but it’s completely up to you. Would you be comfortable if we prayed together now?”

“It sounds like you have many challenges right now with the illness and your job search. That’s a lot weighing on you. Would it help if we took a minute to pray together before we leave?”



Options for Leading Prayer

It's okay to read a prayer

- Traditional prayer
- Prayer card

It's okay to be spontaneous

- Authenticity, not eloquence
- Personalized

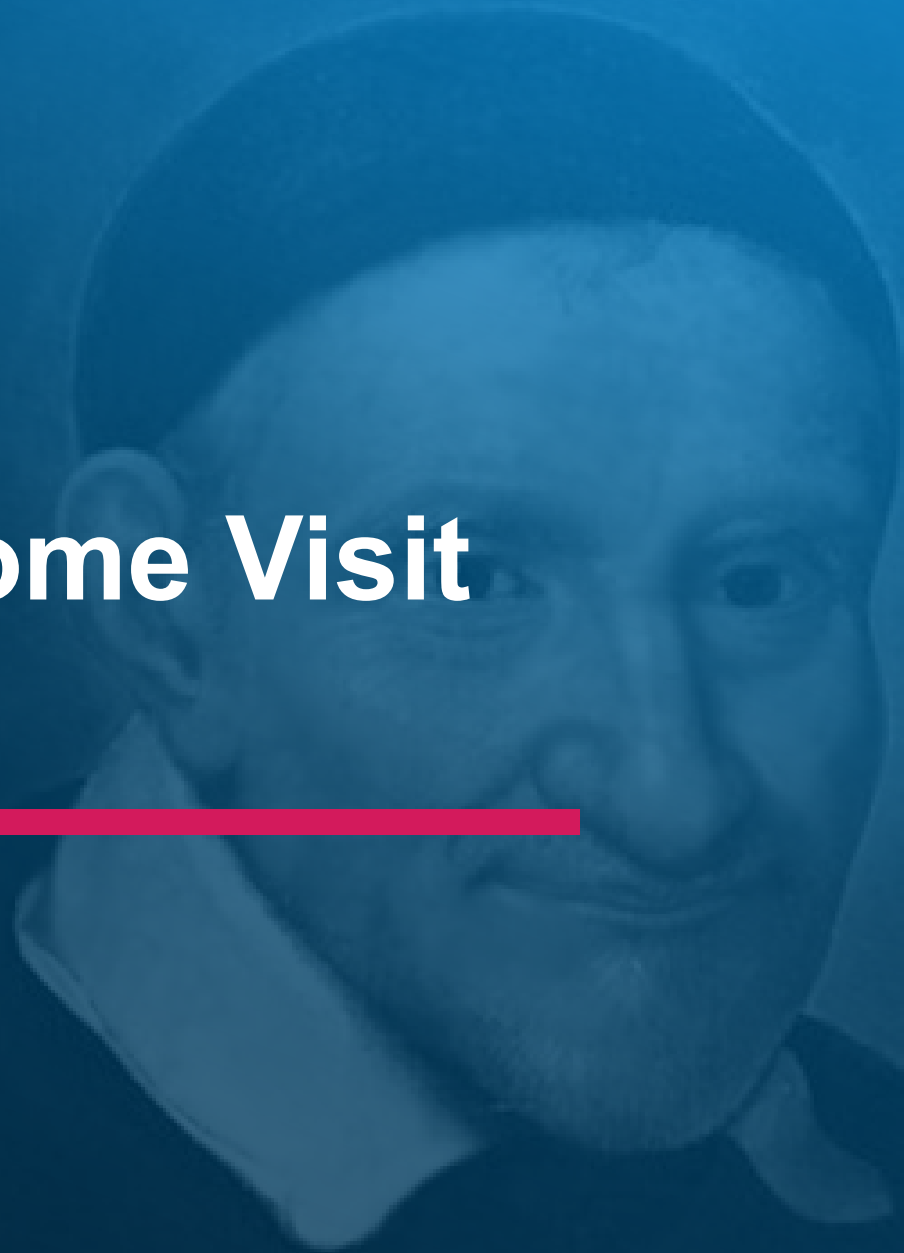


“A Recipe for Prayer”

1. Set a prayerful tone.
 - Posture
 - Moment of quiet
 - Address God
2. Give thanks.
 - For life
 - For blessings the neighbors have
 - For blessings the neighbors are
3. Ask God for what is needed.
 - Relate requests to what the neighbor has shared during the visit
 - Invite prayer from the neighbor
4. Conclude the prayer.
 - Use short concluding phrase
 - Amen



The Home Visit Itself





What is the Flow of a Home Visit?

- Introduce yourselves; explain you are here to help
- Let neighbor talk first
- Listen for needs (expressed and underlying)
- Create atmosphere of self help
- Inquire about what actions have already been taken
- Work with neighbor to prioritize needs
- Jointly develop action plan
- Set up a definite time for follow-up
- Prayer



Collaboration and Planning

- Where are you now / What have you done so far
- How you got to this situation
- What factors do you feel were under or out of your control?
- What has and hasn't worked?
- What would you like to be different, less frustrating about this situation?
- Looking forward: where would you like to be / what are your goals and dreams
- Choices available to you and their consequences
- Decisions / Action plan
- Necessary resources

“Leave-behinds”



Practice – Home Visit Role Play (Optional)



“The Jones family”



Follow-up

- Contacting the neighbor after visit
- Completing what was promised

Ongoing Formation

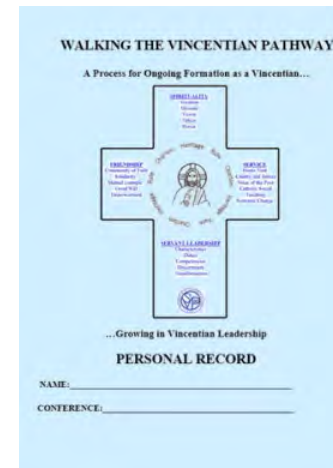
- Ozanam Orientation
- Serving in Hope – Module 7
- Spirituality of the Home Visit – Journal
- Vincentian Pathway
- Poverty Simulation (Systemic Change)



The Spirituality of the Home Visit



A JOURNAL





Reflecting on Home Visits

- What did you find interesting, inspiring, challenging?
- What touched your heart?
- How did you feel about the neighbor?
- Where did you find God?
- Where did you see the face of Christ?
- In what ways did the visit reveal the Vincentian Virtues?
- What would you do differently if you could?
- What insights will you take to the next home visit?



Prayer

Leader:

We thank you, Lord, for the many gifts of this day. We ask that you continue to bless those we visit in their homes. Inspire them, we pray, to trust in you and come to you with their needs. We pray that your work may be continued by your Vincentian servants and completed by your grace, in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and Blessed Frederic Ozanam.

(L) When we encounter brokenness in those we serve,
(All) Jesus, be our strength.

(L) When we proclaim the Gospel in word and deed,
(All) Jesus, be our strength.

(L) And when the burden of our ministry overwhelms us,
(All) Jesus, be our strength.

(All) In your name we pray, Amen.