



# KEYNOTE ADDRESS

## Neighborly Love: Nurturing the Vincentian Spirit

### **Marge McGinley, Vincentian Spiritual Advisor**

Marge McGinley has been a member and Spiritual Advisor for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for 27 years. She has served as a professional hospital chaplain for as many years, while leading parish formation programs for men, women and children coming into the Catholic faith. Deeply-rooted in Vincentian values, Marge's decades of experience with St. Vincent de Paul in the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey includes work as District President, Diocesan President, Regional Spiritual Advisor, Diocesan Chairperson of Spirituality, Formation and Leadership Development and as National Chairperson of the Formation Committee.

Marge holds a certificate in Ministry to the Bereaved from the Archdiocese of New York and a Certificate in Parish Administration from the Diocese of Trenton. Her Clinical Pastoral Education (Chaplaincy Training) was accomplished at Cooper Medical Center in Camden, NJ. Her B.A. of Human Services further complements her ability to recognize the social issues and family dynamics in every setting. Marge has been recognized as an Outstanding Woman of the Year in Social Service for her work with the marginalized population of her community.

Marge is mother to four adult children and five grandchildren, and recently celebrated 46 years of marriage. She exudes joy and spirituality in every encounter with neighbors and Vincentians and is thrilled to present the keynote address in our "Love Your Neighbor. Live Vincentian" Spring to Life event.



Spring  
To Life

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR  
Live Vincentian

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## Addressing the Needs of Unhoused and Undocumented Neighbors

In this hour, we will touch on challenges faced by two separate groups of vulnerable individuals within our community: People who are unhoused and also those who are undocumented. Communities of both unhoused and undocumented neighbors are growing in many areas of our state. This trend continues to pose challenges in our work to serve neighbors in need. This session will provide tangible tools for vetting the needs of people experiencing homelessness, including use of a standard vulnerability index to provide caseworkers with a better view of the individual's housing history, current needs and potential housing options. The session will also lend insight into the pathways and restrictions we experience in serving our undocumented neighbors. While resources may be limited for our unhoused or undocumented neighbors, the purpose of this session is to empower Vincentians with knowledge to inform their casework and Conference guidelines.

## Love Your Neighbor, Live Vincentian

### Conference Revitalization and Recruiting

This session is designed to provide members with strategies and techniques for fostering Conference revitalization and volunteer recruitment. Vincentians will learn best practices for using the new recruitment toolkit and communicate the Vincentian message through social media, parish outreach, cross-ministry promotion. Vincentians will be invited to share ideas and experiences to inspire Conference growth and vitality.

## Transformative Service

### Integrating Trauma Awareness into Vincentian Volunteerism

Trauma-Informed Care in Volunteering is designed to equip volunteers with a high-level understanding of the effects of trauma on human behavior and relationships. Our experience as Vincentians tells us that many of our neighbors have likely experienced, or are currently experiencing, some form of trauma in their lives. Our goal for this session is to help provide insight into how traumatic events can affect judgement, emotions and executive functioning required in our day-to-day decision-making. With knowledge and understanding, we aim to provide compassionate service to our neighbors, meeting them where they are with encouragement and hope.

# SPRING TO LIFE

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## Divine Presence in Action

### **Exploring the Spiritual Aspect of the Vincentian Home Visit**

This session explores spiritual principles underlying our mission and practice of the Vincentian home visit. Throughout the hour, participants will examine the Vincentian tradition of home visits in pairs, emphasizing the importance of encountering individuals and families in their lived realities with compassion, dignity, and respect. Drawing from Vincentian spirituality, participants will explore the themes of solidarity, empathy, and humility as central to the home visit experience.

## Setting Limits with Compassion

### **Boundary Dynamics in Vincentian Casework**

This session discusses the delicate balance of defining boundaries while serving neighbors with compassion and care. Discussion will include strategies for selfcare and stress management to mitigate burnout. Emphasis will be placed on recognizing our own needs and limitations, while maintaining a heart of Christian joy in service to our neighbor.

## Conference Support Center - Tools and Resources

This session will overview Council resources in the areas of hunger, housing and health- to support conferences in their service to neighbors. Our specialized case worker will review eligibility and processes for accessing government applications including Medicaid, nutritional assistance (WIC/SNAP) and childcare assistance (CAPS). The session will also cover food pantry assistance, access to the SVdP free pharmacy available to all neighbors in need, Motel-to-Home housing program and more.

## Voice of the Poor

This session will touch on the role Vincentians play in advocating for social justice and understanding the plight of impoverished and marginalized populations. Our role as the voice of the voiceless is to see social issues from the perspective of those who suffer from injustice. The session will highlight the Voter Voice tool as a means for Vincentians to stay connected to important issues and communicate with legislators on issues pertinent to our mission.