

St. Vincent de Paul Georgia



2024 INVITATION TO SERVE Information Packet

Love your Neighbor
Live Vincentian



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April 23, 2024

Dear Vincentians,

With gratitude and much hope for the future of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, we embark on a mission to recruit new members and share the good news of the impact Vincentians are making in their communities and parishes. Most importantly, the goal of our new campaign is to inspire others to grow closer to God through love and service to our neighbors in need. Our theme, **“Love Your Neighbor. Live Vincentian,”** is meant to reflect the spirit of our ministry, in which we see neighbors as equals, and live our Vincentian values not only through our work with neighbors, but in our daily lives.

Heartfelt words from our Vincentian members best communicate what it truly means to Live Vincentian. Through Vincentian testimonies, we hope to touch the hearts of your fellow parishioners who are looking for a way to grow their faith and serve the community with loving, tangible support.

It’s no secret: the vast needs in our communities are growing. Neighbors need us more than ever. It’s easy to get caught up in the volume and complexity of our work. Be encouraged! This is God’s work, not ours. Working through Him, you touch the hearts of our neighbors and show the face of Christ in the course of your work to alleviate a difficult circumstance.

Your Council team is here to help your recruiting efforts. This packet outlines the materials available to you along with best practices and steps for using the materials. Please remember, an Invitation to Serve happens on a personal level. Reach out to your friends and acquaintances at church. Engage with them at conference meetings. Find jobs for them to do. Help them feel welcome and needed! More laborers are in needed in the Vincentian fields, and it takes all of us working together to grow our members.

Let’s join in prayer for this effort. And please know that your Vincentian Services team is here to help. We are ready to serve!

In Christ,

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Prayer for Vincentian Recruiting Efforts

Lord, we ask you to guide our efforts to recruit new Vincentian members. Help us to use the tools available to us in a way that honors your intention for our mission. We ask you to touch the hearts of people seeking to grow in faith and serve their neighbor. Send them to us with an open heart and willingness to serve. Remind us daily that all we do is for the greater good of your Kingdom. We ask this through the intercession of St. Vincent de Paul, Blessed Rosalie Rendu, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and St. Louise de Marillac. Amen.

Invitation to Serve Overview

Objectives:

- To invite and assist interested people to join our ministry of service to those in need
- To strengthen our Conferences with new members dedicated to the mission of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia

How:

Campaign objectives will be achieved by:

- Sharing Vincentian testimony on spiritual and personal growth realized through the ministry
- Communicating the essence of our work to serve God and love our neighbor
- Raising awareness of our work throughout the Archdiocese of Atlanta and Diocese of Savannah
- Requesting Pastoral support in our efforts to recruit members
- Reaching people looking for ways to grow their faith and serve our brothers and sisters in need
- Providing publicity aids and suggested pulpit talks for use in conference recruiting
- Providing a template for ministry fairs and recruiting weekends
- Providing best practices for welcome meetings and on-boarding new Vincentians
- Offering conference and/or district-level new member training sessions
- Offering Ozanam training for new members within 3-6 months of their onboarding

When:

- 2024 Council-wide campaign from the anniversary of the Society to the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul: April 23, 2024- September 27, 2024
- Ongoing/year-round Invitation to Serve recruiting efforts at the conference level.
- Designated ministry day at the conference level.

“Love Your Neighbor. Live Vincentian.” Council-based Campaign

- The “Love Your Neighbor. Live Vincentian.” recruiting effort is a direct response campaign including a QR code on all campaign materials, directing Vincentian prospects to a web page and web form which will collect data of interested members.
- Leads will be forwarded to conference presidents or designee for timely follow-up (for conferences that have opted in to the campaign).
- Council awareness-building promotion includes Georgia Bulletin advertising and articles; social media; Archdiocese newsletter; website landing page including video testimonies.
- Council letter to pastors, encouraging support of recruiting efforts and a conference recruiting weekend.
- Conference recruiting toolkit includes:
 - Folder of informational materials for Welcome Meetings with flyers including
 - 1) overview of SVdP
 - 2) potential roles for new members
 - 3) customizable flyer for conference-specific information
 - Digital tools including social media graphics and post verbiage and testimonial videos
 - Bulletin announcements and pulpit talks

Preparation and Recruiting Weekend

Preparation

- Familiarize your conference members with the Council campaign landing page, Vincentian testimonies and campaign messaging. <https://svdpgeorgia.org/join-svdp/>
- Meet with your pastor to share your need for more members and the current campaign recruiting effort. Request a date for a recruiting weekend including a pulpit announcement.
- Plan for bulletin announcements three weeks prior to the recruiting weekend.
- Download campaign digital toolkit including social media graphics, memes, and other content (including pulpit talks and parish bulletin announcements in this packet) for sharing in your parish community. <https://svdpgeorgia.org/members/recruitment-marketing/recruitment-growth/>
- Order Marketing Materials including folders and flyers <https://svdpgeorgia.org/members/recruitment-marketing/marketing-toolbox/>
- <https://svdpgeorgia.org/members/recruitment-marketing/marketing-toolbox/>
- Request from the Council a customized flyer for your recruiting folder.
- Meet with your parish communications lead to request promotion of the recruiting effort through parish emails, website and social media.
- Make requests of your Vincentian members to participate in your conference recruiting weekend, including inviting at least one person to the Welcome Meeting.
- Reserve a room at the parish for a Welcome Meeting. Request Vincentian attendance.

Promotion

- Submit Parish Bulletin announcement number 1 for weekend of ____.
- Submit Parish Bulletin announcement number 2 for weekend of ____.
- Submit Parish Bulletin announcement number 3 for weekend of ____.

Conference recruiting weekend

- A Vincentian will speak from the pulpit at each Mass, provided pastor approval. (If there is not a Conference Vincentian who is available and comfortable to speak, a Council representative can give the pulpit talk.)
- Information tables will be set up in visible, designated space, including informational flyers and sample Welcome Folder.
- Promote the array of volunteer/member roles available for people in all walks of life.

- Include QR code to Council landing page and videos and/or customized conference-based videos or testimonies.
- Sign -up sheets will be available with date and time of Welcome Meeting during the following week. Make sure to get email addresses and phone numbers.

Follow up

- Call the people who signed up and invite them to the Welcome Meeting.
- Share the array of opportunities to engage, including those for busy individuals with few hours to serve.
- Assign Vincentian mentors to new / prospective members.
- Develop a plan to engage new / prospective members, including assisting case workers on casework, serving as a secondary on home visits and engaging in group activities such as pantry days or a planned special event.

Keys to Success

For the Recruitment Weekend:

- Give the presentation from the pulpit. As a best practice, customize the pulpit talk for your conference and follow the script of the presentation.
- Ensure bulletin announcements are planned at least 3 weeks prior to the weekend.
- Encourage your pastor/priest to verbally support the effort during announcements, but not as a substitute for the pulpit talk.
- Accompany the weekend with videos & slides running in the narthex, via parish email and other methods of parish communications.
- Promote the Welcome Meeting at the recruiting event.

For the Welcome Meeting:

- Schedule the Welcome Meeting for 2-3 weeks after the recruiting weekend, offering people time to plan their schedule, but in a timely manner to maintain interest.
- If the Welcome Meeting occurs during a regular conference meeting, plan accordingly and adjust the agenda to focus on new members.
- Encourage attendance at the Welcome Meeting with phone calls prior to the meeting and assignment of Vincentians to each potential member.
- Be prepared to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities immediately after the orientation.
- Use the tools available, including the “Love Your Neighbor. Live Vincentian.” recruiting folders with inserts as well as the Welcome SVdP Conference slide deck as a guide for the meeting presentation.
- Request from the Council office, a customized flyer for insert into the campaign folder.
- Include several Vincentians on the agenda and ensure to leave plenty of time for Q&A. Council staff is available to attend and speak or assist as needed.

For new Member Retention:

- Ask existing Vincentians to mentor new volunteers. Assign each new volunteer to a mentor.
- Plan opportunities for new volunteers to engage, such as serving as a secondary on home visits or assisting with a group activity.
- Create learning opportunities in conference meetings to engage volunteers/ new members in various aspects of Conference activities, e.g., local resources, food pantry, home visits, etc.
- Think outside-the-box on potential roles for new members: communications, database, advocacy, resource research, etc.

Sample Parish Bulletin Announcements

Love your Neighbor
Live Vincentian

Week one:

St. Vincent de Paul needs you!

Are you looking for ways to experience Christ? Members of the (church name) St. Vincent de Paul conference invite you to share in their ministry of experiencing Christ by serving our neighbors in need. Vincentians will be in the Narthex. after mass the weekend of (dates) to talk to parishioners interested in learning what it means to “Live Vincentian.” We see Christ in the poor because Jesus told us “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do for me.”

Contact (conference president or designated representative name and contact info)

And learn more here: www.svdpgorgia.org/join-svdpg

Week two:

Save the Date: St. Vincent de Paul ministry members will be available after mass the weekend of (dates) to talk to parishioners interested in learning what it means to “Live Vincentian.” If you consider yourself to be a naturally compassionate person and looking for a way to grow your faith, we need you! Come and share your gifts with people in need by joining St. Vincent de Paul.

Contact (conference president or designated representative name and contact info)

And learn more here: www.svdpgorgia.org/join-svdpg

Week three:

Love Your Neighbor. Live Vincentian. St. Vincent de Paul is conducting a recruiting campaign to grow our parish-based volunteers, known as Vincentians, in response to the growing need in our communities. The mission of our organization is deeply rooted in the tradition of serving neighbors in need through personal relationships and direct aid offered with dignity and respect. This call to serve will help fulfill your needs to be involved with a ministry that goes to the very heart of Christ’s teaching to love and care for all people. Join us after mass next weekend to talk to a SVdP conference representative and learn what it means to “Live Vincentian.”

Contact (conference president or designated representative name and contact info)

And learn more here: www.svdpgorgia.org/join-svdpg

Sample Pulpit Talk

Tips: Relax. Speak, slowly and clearly into the microphone.

My name is _____ and I am a member of the St. Vincent de Paul conference here at _____. I would like to spend a few minutes to tell you about our ministry and how you might benefit from growing your faith with us.

Jesus said, “The poor will always be with us”. Many are surprised to learn that the poor are found not just within the inner city or in deep rural areas, but also right here in our own local communities. They are families and individuals on a limited income who are having problems paying their rent, utility bills. They may have an unexpected car repair and can’t make it to work. Or they may not even have enough money to buy food for their children.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul can be found where there is poverty and people in need. While our work can be complex, our focus is simple: to grow in faith through serving our neighbor. Guided by the two great commandments: to love God and love our neighbor, we are a person-to-person Catholic ministry that sees the face of Christ in the faces of those whom we serve. We are in 73 parishes in the Archdiocese of Atlanta and Diocese of Savannah, in every state in the U.S., and 152 countries around the world. We have a conference at our parish because there are so many people in need in and around our parish. Through the Holy Spirit, you are the reason why we are able to support our neighbors. You donate money, food, clothing, and gift cards at Christmas. But what we also need is the gift of your time. I am here today to invite you to serve with us and put your Catholic faith into action.

Around the state we served close to 200,000 people last year and don’t have enough Vincentians to keep up. So we’re looking for volunteers to work with those in need, speak with them over the phone, visit them as a part of a team, give them food from our pantry, offer financial assistance, or simply listen to them. If you don’t think you can do it, trust me, you can. Those in need are often praying for a blessing - a miracle. A simple conversation with them can make a big difference in their life.

Many of you might also be thinking that you simply don’t have the time to squeeze another activity into an already busy lifestyle. With this ministry, the amount of time you wish to dedicate is completely up to you...whether it is one hour per week or one hour per month.

We have a table set up in the narthex with volunteers to answer your questions and a signup sheet if you want to learn more. There are also flyers next to the signup sheet with more information on the ministry and volunteer needs.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right; they shall be satisfied.

Take the opportunity to put your faith into action and do God’s will, helping those who need it most.

Blessed are the merciful; they will be shown mercy.

Take the opportunity to put your faith in action and show mercy to those who are suffering. You won’t regret it.

Lastly, I will leave you with Christ’s words: “What you do for the least of mine you do for me”. If you have ever felt like Christ has called you to live those words, then this is the right ministry for you.

Sample Talk from Pulpit (Spanish)
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Buenos Días! Me llamo _____ y soy miembro de la Conferencia de San Vincete de Paúl, aqui en la parroquia de _____.

San Vicente de Paúl es una sociedad Católica de laicos que trabaja para ayudar a los pobres y necesitados. No somos una agencia de servicios sociales. Formamos un ministerio que trabaja con personas individuales y tratamos de ver el rostro de JesuCristo en cada persona que sufre. Trabajamos en la mayoría de las parroquias de esta Diócesis; trabajamos en todos los estados de este país, y en 132 países en el mundo.

“Los pobres estarán con nosotros siempre”!----Se hallan los pobres en el centro de cada ciudad, y estan también en _____(otro ciudad), _____(otro ciudad), _____(otro ciudad), y en cualquier otro lugar. Son familias y individuales que tienen recursos limitados y problemas cuando tratan de pagar sus cuentas de renta, agua, y electricidad. A veces, no tienen dinero para comprar comida para los niños.

Donde hay pobreza y personas necesitadas, trabaja San Vincente de Paúl. Hay gente pobre que necesita asistencia en esta area, y por eso nuestra conferencia de San Vicente de Paúl se mantiene muy ocupada en esta parroquia de _____. Somos un grupo pequeño de personas dedicadas, pero necesitamos la asistencia de otros, como ustedes.

Hoy vengo aquí **para invitarle a usted para participar y servir** con los otros miembros de San Vincente de Paúl. Les queremos ofrecer una oportunidad de **poner en práctica** la fe Católica, para servir a los que más necesitan nuestra ayuda.

Hay muchas personas que contribuyen fondos, los que necesitamos mucho, pero necesitamos especialmente **el tiempo** y la asistencia de personas como ustedes.

Necesitamos a voluntarios para visitar las casas de los necesitados, para llevarles comida, y a veces, ayuda financiera, y a veces, nada mas para sentarnos con ellos y poder escucharlos. San Vicente de Paúl ofrece otras oportunidades para voluntarios, por ejemplo: en los bancos de comida, en tiendas donde vendemos ropa, en los comedores donde alimentamos a la gente pobre, y muchas oportunidades mas donde usted puede ser un voluntario. Ustedes pueden decidir cuanto tiempo quieren trabajar ---- una hora o mas cada semana, o una hora o mas cada mes. Dios los premiara!.

Para más información, pueden preguntar a nuestros voluntarios despues de la Misa . Tendremos una reunión _____ para expliar lo que es necesario.

Ojalá y que puedan considerar este desafío y las palabras de JesuCristo: “Cuando lo hicieron con alguno de los más pequeños de estos mis hermanos, me lo hicieron a mí.” Yo no necsito su ayuda: **JesuCristo la necesita, porque los hijos de Cristo son necesitados, y Cristo nos invita a servir a estas personas.**

Después de la Misa, miembros y representantes de San Vicente de Paúl estaran en el salón detrás para explicar sus prequntas y aceptar nombres y números de teléfono de personas interesadas en ayudarnos. Muchas gracias por su atención. Que Dios los bendiga a ustedes y a sus familias!

Welcome Meeting Sample Agenda

- I. Greet attendees (10-15 min)
 - Refreshments
 - Sign in table with materials:
 - 1) New Member Handbook
 - 2) Campaign Folder
 - 3) Name Tags
 - 4) Sign-in sheet
- II. Take Seats/ Reflection/Prayer (5-10 min)
- III. Introductions (10-15 min)
- IV. Share Welcome SVdP GA slide presentation (20 min)
 - Walk through slides swiftly and informally
 - Include 1-2 campaign testimony videos
 - Consider breaking up presentation between 2-3 Vincentians
 - Include information specific to the conference needs and work
- V. Q&A (10-15 min)
 - Invite discussion on what roles people are interested in
- VI. Thanks and Next Steps (5-10 min)
 - Encourage attendees to review new member handbook and campaign folder materials; and consider what interests them
 - Inform about the requirement for background checks and Virtus if not currently in system
 - Inform of next steps, including an email from their conference mentor

*Download a copy of the Welcome SVdP GA slide deck through our online toolbox: www.svdpggeorgia/members

For your convenience all "Invitation to Serve" materials are available in electronic form to facilitate necessary alterations, make multiple copies or adapt them to your specific needs, situations and circumstances.

www.svdpggeorgia/members (scroll to Quick Links)

Results Report Form

Please complete this form and return it to:

**SVdP Georgia Council Office
Attn: Gina Wilson
2050- C Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Or by email at gwilson@svdpgeorgia.org**

Conference: _____

Number of Masses at which Invitation to Serve presentations were made _____

Date of weekend that presentations were made _____

Total number of people who signed up for an Orientation Meeting _____

Total number of people who signed up for an Orientation Meeting that attended _____

Date of Orientation Meeting _____

Do you have any suggestions that you feel would add value to the Invitation to Serve program?

What would you like to see done differently at next year's Invitation Serve?

What aspects of the program did you find of particular value?

Any additional comments?
