



MEMBER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

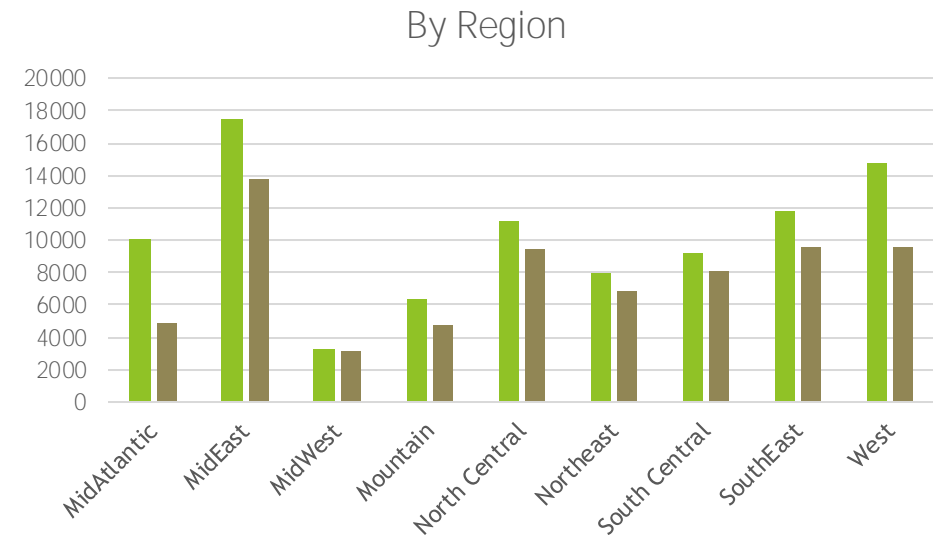
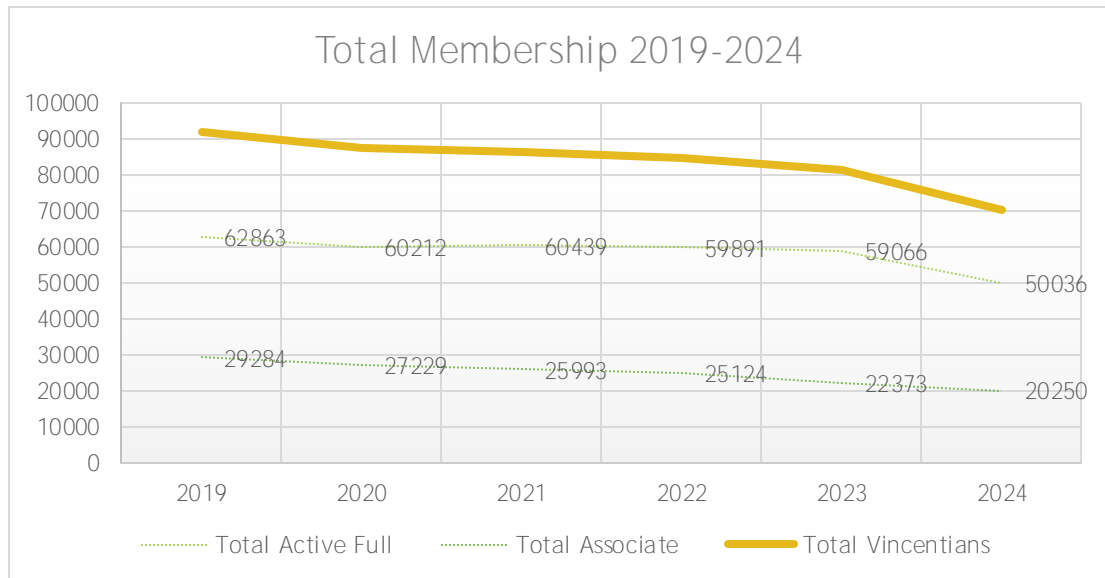
Committee Update, Spring 2025



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE USA

MEMBERSHIP IN DECLINE

We are down **24%** over the past 5 years. We have **22,000** less Vincentians today than we did in 2019. Not a single region grew membership in this period of time.



MISSION | VISION | CHARTER

Mission: With the inspiration and support of the Clergy, a growing # of servant leaders in Catholic communities across the United States identify The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul as their vocation, have the knowledge and tools needed to excel, and are engaging increasingly at the Conference, Council, and National level.

Vision: A bench of engaged Vincentian leaders ready to serve neighbors in need at Conference, Council, Regional, and National level

Charter: The Member and Leadership Development Committee of the National Council Board of Directors is charged with defining best practices for membership growth, onboarding processes, spiritual enrichment, and identifying and advancing Vincentian leadership in a society and Catholic church that is changing rapidly.



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WHO IS THE MEMBER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE?

- Youth & Young Adults
- Vincentian Leaders
- Council Leadership
- National Board Members
- Regional leaders from
NE, SE, SW, MW, NW
- Commercial Leaders



COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

National Vice President: Sean Myers (Dallas, TX)

Chairperson: John Paul (JP) Brissette (Providence, RI)

Membership Growth

Chair: Christine McCarthy
(Wausau, WI)

Objective: Add 10,000 new members in FY 2026

Leadership Development

Chair: Doug DeCosta (Cape Cod, MA)

Objective: Establish a culture of mentorship at all levels of Society

Clergy Partnership

Chair: Tom Berg (Asheville, NC)

Objective: Strengthen partnerships with seminarians, clergy, and bishops

Advancing Diversity (Multicultural | Age | Location)



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MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Goal: 10,000 New Members in FY 2026

1. Launch "Just Ask" Program

- *Referrals are the #1 "lead source" for Vincentians*
- *If every Vincentian asks just 1 person to join*
- *Make it fun*

2. Not just a youth movement

- *YCP*
- *More than home visits*
- *Never write off the elderly*



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Goal: Create a culture of mentorship throughout the society

1. One day annual retreats

- *Spiritual retreat*
- *Identifying & nurturing leaders*
- *Succession planning*
- *Election changes*

2. Localized mentoring

- *New and fresh onboarding of new members*
- *Identify and nurture future leaders*
- *Mentor within conference and within the district*



CLERGY PARTNERSHIP

Goal: Working partnerships with Bishops, Priests & Seminarians

1. Video Series

- *What a conference does for my parish and my diocese*
- *Bishops, Priests, Seminarians, Deacons*

2. Council Program

- *Nurturing the relationship at ever level*

3. National Meeting Clergy Track

- *Sessions*
- *Dinners*



REGIONAL MEETING UPDATES

Membership Growth

Presenter: Christine McCarthy

President, Lighthouse District Council of Wisconsin

Ozanam Formator



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NATIONAL MARKETING PROGRAM



WE ARE THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Are you looking for a ministry
where you can:

- Grow in holiness
- Build friendships
- Serve the poor right here,
in our own neighborhood

We are men and women of
every age, every race, every
income level, who share our
blessings of time, talent, and

treasure with those who need
help and hope, regardless
of their religion, age, or
background.

No work of charity is foreign to
the Society. Join our mission,
and grow in spirituality,
friendship, and service.

See the Face of Christ.
Be the Face of Christ.

10,000 new members

Introduced last summer.

Brought in an estimated 500+ new Vincentians



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THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO GROW CONFERENCE MEMBERS

- At the National meeting we asked 200 participants in a membership workshop how they came to join SVDP
- 80% said they were asked by a Vincentian!
- This led to our new membership Campaign:
“Just Ask”
- For this campaign to be successful we needed it to be:
 - Simple
 - Doable
 - Finite
 - Trackable
 - Inclusive
 - and FUN!!



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“JUST ASK”

What is the “Just Ask” Campaign?

→ It is the program to bring 10,000 new members into the society by Sept. 30, 2026.

How does it work?

→ **We want every Vincentian to “Just Ask”** one person to join the Society this year.

Just Ask one person!



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SO, WHO DO YOU ASK?



1. Look around you in Church.
2. Ask your parish Priest or Deacon who he thinks would make a good Vincentian.
3. If you want to get something done ask a busy person.
4. Check out the Lectors, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Rel. Ed. Teachers, Knights of Columbus, Confirmation Students!
5. You only have to find One!
6. But beware, it could change both your lives!



AMAZING THINGS CAN
HAPPEN WHEN YOU:

“JUST ASK”!

YOU CHANGE THEIR LIVES BUT THEY ALSO CHANGE
YOURS!



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WE TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE OF
HIS YES.

AND OUR DISTRICT COUNCIL
CAME TOGETHER TO PUT ON A
GREAT EVENT FOR THE HOMELESS
FAMILIES IN GREEN BAY IN
DECEMBER, TWO YEARS
RUNNING.



CALLED BELIEVE YOU ARE
LOVED!!

NEVER BE AFRAID TO BEG FOR
THE POOR!
OR ASK!



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Friends of the Poor Walk 2023.



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WE NEED YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



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NEVER WRITE OFF THE ELDERLY!



Many of our older Vincentians are aging out of home visits.
Does that mean done being active Vincentians? **ABSOLUTELY NOT!**
Does that mean we stop doing home visits? **ABSOLUTELY NOT!**

Many opportunities are available for them to participate:

*Conference Officer positions | Call back person | Assist with Annual Reports
Maintain Conference records | Participate in Conference or Council events
Mentor new members on Home Visits | Caller at Bingo night
Volunteer in the Food Pantry | Make quilts for our FINs,
Put together toiletry kits | Write thank you notes | Pray for us!*

The list goes on!



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BEFORE YOU EXPECT OTHERS TO JOIN YOU NEED TO ASK YOURSELF WHY DID YOU JOIN?

The 3 basic tenets of being a Vincentian are:

- 1. Spirituality**
- 2. Friendship**
- 3. Service to the Poor**



MOST ANSWER

“I JOINED TO HELP THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY”



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MOST STAY

1. Spiritual enrichment of seeing and being the face of Christ
2. Friendships developed with other Vincentians & Neighbors
3. Serving our friends and neighbors who live in poverty



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OK, you ask someone to consider joining SVDP.
What now?

You did an Invitation To Serve at Church and have
a follow up meeting. **What's next?**

Create a Culture of Welcome in your Conference!

- Use the National Council Template: Creating a Culture of Welcome
- Be flexible on meeting times and activities. (pizza parties, work shifts together at food pantries, **stores, shelters, family dinners together....etc.) Be creative!**
- Tell them they will see the Face of Christ in the Poor.
- Tell them about life changing home visits. Transformative! For both the Vincentian and our Friend in Need. Use personal examples.

Always remember the 3 tenets of SVDP: Spirituality, Friendship and Service to the Poor!!!



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SPIRITUALITY

ON THE CONFERENCE LEVEL:

1. GO TO MASS TOGETHER. ESPECIALLY ON VINCENTIAN FEAST DAYS
2. GOSPEL REFLECTION AT MEETINGS
3. USE THOUGHT PROVOKING PRAYERS FOR OPENING AND CLOSING MEETINGS
4. USE MUSIC
5. PASS THE CRUCIFIX! VERY POWERFUL

ON THE DISTRICT LEVEL:

1. SPIRITUAL RETREATS WITH BIG NAME SPEAKERS
2. MASS AT DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETINGS
3. ALWAYS BEGIN WITH A SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

BE CREATIVE AND BE BRAVE....JUST ASK!



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FRIENDSHIP

YOU NEVER KNOW WHO WILL SAY YES TO YOUR ASK!

I ASKED GREEN BAY PACKER JON RUNYAN TO HELP OUT OUR SVDP DISTRICT COUNCIL WITH OUR EVENTS AND HE SAID YES. HE SAID HE WAS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GIVE BACK AND NOW HE KNOWS THIS IS IT!

HE ALSO DID “MY CLEATS, MY CAUSE” FOR SVDP GREEN BAY, 3 YEARS IN A ROW!
BE BRAVE....JUST ASK!



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SERVICE TO THE POOR

IT BEGINS WITH US GOING TO THEM.

THIS CAN NOT BE STRESSED ENOUGH.
IN THE RULE IT STATES: *"VISITS TO THOSE IN NEED
SHOULD BE MADE IN THEIR ENVIRONMENTS."*

WE DID 2 EVENTS IN 2023 FOR THE HOMELESS LIVING IN A
LOCAL PARK IN GREEN BAY.. THE FIRST WAS A FULL
BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SUPPLIES AND GAMES.
THE SECOND WAS PIZZA, PIE AND BINGO!



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MAKE YOUR CONFERENCE AS STRONG AS POSSIBLE!



- There are numerous opportunities for learning!
- Ozanam Orientation
- Invitation for Renewal
- Printed Material
- Webinars
- Meetings
- Serving in Hope formation program
- Invitation To Serve
- Culture of Welcome
- Standards of Excellence



Never Quit Learning!

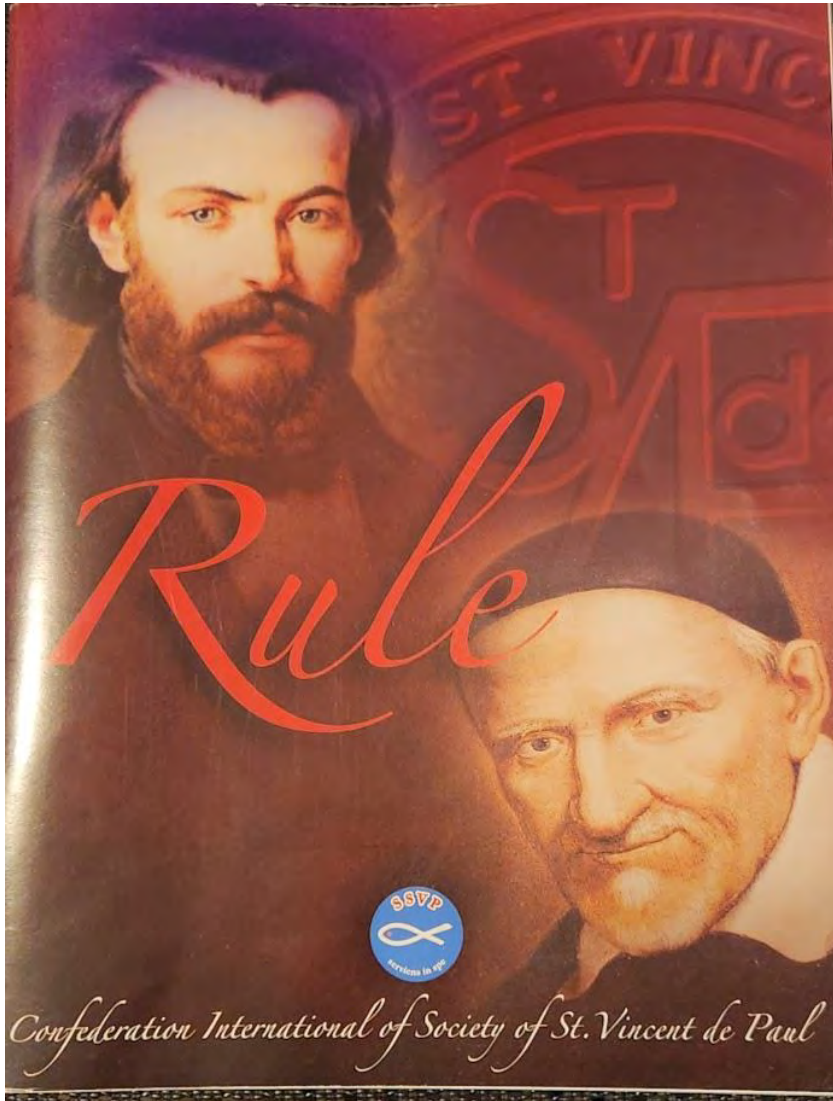


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THE RULE

Have a question about something, look it up in the Rule.

When someone questions you, show them The Rule.



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THE MANUAL AND THE MEMBER HANDBOOK

- The Manual is a wonderful resource to find the answers to your day-to-day questions.
- The Members Handbook is great for giving to prospective Vincentians thinking about joining us.
- A great concise and small handbook to carry with us.
- Never be afraid to look things up! We all are continually learning.



THE STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

A SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST TO SEE WHERE YOUR CONFERENCE
AND COUNCIL ARE IN RESPECT TO THE
THE RULE.

WE ARE ONE SOCIETY!

Always reach for the stars!



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QUESTIONS?



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