

2020 Training and Formation Opportunities Descriptions

Dayton District Council

Contemplating the Face of Christ:

“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.”

Many of us may be familiar with this Bible verse above from 2 Corinthians 3:18, but do we fully appreciate what it means? Are we aware that each of us is called to a personal encounter with and to be transformed by Christ Himself? And do we know how this process happens? As Pope Saint John Paul II said: “The call to holiness is the essential vocation of all Christians.” In an informative presentation on the process of the soul’s sanctification through service to the poor, Mark Danis, the Director of Evangelization for the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, will discuss our individual call to holiness, and how the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul offers the opportunity for both this encounter with Christ and the means of individual sanctification.

Ozanam Orientation: The Ozanam Orientation is the required training program for all active members and Conference officers. It is a standard program developed by National St. Vincent de Paul Council, and should be attended by new and seasoned Vincentians. It includes such topics as Vincentian Spirituality, history of the Society, and why we make Home Visits.

Poverty Simulation: The Poverty Simulation challenges participants to walk in the shoes of our neighbors in need - to explore poverty experientially. Our objective is to help people in our community better understand the complexities of the experience of poverty, to focus on becoming more compassionate and to better interact with our neighbors-in-need.

Conference Secretary Training: In this training, we will learn more about the valuable role the Conference Secretary plays. The Secretary fulfills the role of Conference historian, statistician, and more. Best practices and record keeping skills will be two of the areas we will focus on.

Conference Treasurer Training: The Treasurer training focuses on record keeping, preparing a budget for the Conference, best practices, and preparation of the quarterly and annual reports. Digital record keeping is also discussed. This training features a panel of treasurers from a variety of Conferences who share their own experiences in the role.

Call Taker Workshop: Being a call taker may be the most challenging job that a Vincentian can have. It is sometimes difficult to make decisions about needs our neighbors face via phone. In this workshop, we will talk about helpful strategies for call taking, record keeping, and dealing with crisis situations. Much of the workshop consists of practicing responses to challenging scenarios.

Home Visit Workshop: The Home Visit is at the core of the Vincentian ministry. This training will discuss the spirituality as well the “mechanics” of the Home Visit. This training is helpful for new and seasoned home visitors, as well as Vincentians discerning whether home visiting would be a good fit for them.