



The Vincentian Call to Social Justice: **Overcoming Biases and Building Inclusive Communities**

Vincentian Family – Social Justice Committee

October 7th, 2024

Opening Prayer:

In my prayer, make me a baby girl
Who when born is considered to be a burden or curse on the family
That I may know what it is to feel unwanted.

In my prayer, make me a girl whose brothers are the only ones sent to school –
That I may understand:
Before our creator we are equal, still one is deprived

In my prayer, make me a young girl who is not married –
That I may know the fear of how property will hinder my choice for marriage

In my prayer, make me a young girl married in a family exchange –
That I may understand: Without any source of income,
how can I bring candy for my children?

In my fast, make me an empty bowl –
That you may fill the hollow space in me with love.

In my almsgiving, make me a grain of rice –
That in the company of others, my gifts may feed a starving world.

**O Lord, give me strength – that I can share the sadness of my fellow
Beings and bring a light of hope for them.**



1. Seeing Beyond Ourselves, Embracing Diversity, Building Inclusive Communities

Discussion: Which part of the article resonated with you the most in your Vincentian work?



2. Seeing Beyond Ourselves & Facing Biases

Discussion: What biases or judgments do we need to overcome in our own work or communities?



3. The Beauty of Difference & Building Inclusive Communities

Discussion: How can we make our work more inclusive and welcoming to all people, regardless of their background?



4. Allowing the Holy Spirit to Work Through Us

Discussion: In what ways have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in your Vincentian service?



5. Commitments and Action Steps

Discussion: Members to share one concrete action they can take in their Vincentian work to better serve others in the spirit of social justice.

What will you do differently this week to build inclusivity or challenge bias?

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Reflective Closing Prayer Introduction:

As we conclude our workshop, let us join together in a reflective prayer. We will invite different members to read a paragraph aloud in the next two slides.

We hope this will allow us to reflect on the themes we've discussed today—**seeing beyond ourselves, embracing diversity, and being guided by the Holy Spirit in our service to others.**

6. Reflective Closing Prayer 1 of 2

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with hearts full of gratitude for the time we've spent together today, reflecting on the call to see beyond ourselves and to serve others in the spirit of love and justice. We thank You for the opportunity to learn, to share, and to grow as a community of Vincentians, united by our mission to reflect Your love to all those we encounter.

Lord, help us to look beyond our own perspectives, our biases, and our judgments, and to see every person as Your beloved child, made in Your image. Fill our hearts with compassion, that we may embrace the beauty of diversity and work tirelessly to build inclusive communities where all are welcomed, heard, and valued.

6. Reflective Closing Prayer 2 of 2

Today, we lift up in prayer the Haitian community in Springfield, OH, and all those who find themselves marginalized or misunderstood. Lord, in Your mercy, bring healing where there has been harm and misunderstanding. Help us to challenge harmful stereotypes and biases, opening our hearts and minds to the richness of every culture and the dignity of every person. May we, through Your grace, be voices of kindness and understanding in a world that often divides.

As we leave this place, we ask for the guidance of Your Holy Spirit. Teach us to surrender to Your will, allowing You to work through us, so that we may see the face of Christ in every person we serve and, in turn, be the face of Christ to those in need.

Grant us the courage to challenge our own prejudices, the wisdom to listen deeply to others, and the strength to act in love and justice. May we go forth with renewed commitment to be instruments of Your mercy, serving with humility, grace, and a heart open to Your leading.

In all we do, may Your name be glorified.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.