

# Let's Talk

## .... About Diversity and Systemic Racism.

To integrate a short discussion into your meeting, we suggest that you choose only one or two points to talk about and that you set a time limit.

How do the points discussed apply to the neighbours you serve?

### *Some people think...*

The Black Lives Matter and other anti-racism movements are worthy causes, but really have nothing to do with me and my Vincentian mission of charity. Our conference helps everyone who asks for help, regardless of colour or religion.

### *But the reality is...*

- Offering assistance while turning a blind eye to the root causes of economic injustice is inadequate. Our Vincentian mission of charity urges us to work towards addressing injustices such as racism that contribute to poverty.
- Recognizing that systemic racism exists and acknowledging its adverse effects is an important first step. We should do our best to educate ourselves and empathize with our brothers and sisters who are victims of systemic barriers.
- Our society benefits from a mixture of diverse ideas, approaches and points of view. Our institutions, community groups, church groups and social circles should also strive to include the diversity of experience, cultures and race that exists in the community.

### *So now what?*

- Does your conference membership reflect the diversity of colour, languages and cultures that exist in your parish boundaries?
- How can we do a better job of recruiting members that reflect the diversity of our community?

Vincentian view of Black Lives Matter movement:

<https://ssvp.on.ca/socjus/en/news.php?item=27>