

Requirements of SSVP members

- **Membership**
- **Equality**
- **Meetings of the Vincentian members**
- **Fraternity and simplicity**
- **Preserving the spirit**

Membership

The Society is open to all those who seek to live their faith loving and committing themselves to their neighbor in need.

Every member should foster ecumenism Each Vincentian should seek to deepen a personal commitment to ecumenism and to cooperation in works of charity and justice as a contribution towards the achievement of that full and visible unity of the Church for which Christ prayed, *‘that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they be one in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me’* (Jn 17:21).

Equality

The Society, in each of its Conferences (the primary basic unit of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul), makes no distinction regarding gender, wealth, occupation, social status or ethnic origin.

Meetings of the Vincentian members

The members meet as brothers and sisters with Christ in the midst of them, in Conferences that are genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action. Spiritual bonds and friendship between members are essential, as is the common mission to help the poor and marginalized. The entire Society is a true and unique worldwide Community of Vincentian friends.

Frequency of the meetings

The Conferences meet regularly and consistently, usually weekly, but at least every fortnight.

Fraternity and simplicity

Meetings are held in a spirit of fraternity, simplicity and Christian joy.

Preserving the spirit

Members of all ages strive to preserve the spirit of youth, which is characterized by enthusiasm, adaptability and creative imagination. They are willing to make sacrifices and take risks for the benefit of the poor wherever they may be: by sharing their discomfort, needs, and sorrows and defending their rights.