



# SISTERS OF CHARITY OF ST.VINCENT DE PAUL OF SUWON

*Jesus Christ has called us into the congregation of the Sisters of charity of St.Vincent de paul.*

We want to surrender ourselves to God through a life according to the evangelical counsels and to serve our neighbor with compassionate love (Constitution 101)

## [ Motto ]

“The Poor are our master and Lord”

## [ Charism ]

To serve the poor, the sick and the needy with compassionate heart as exemplified in the life of St.Vincent de Paul who believed that the poor are our lords and masters.

## 1. WHO WE ARE



In origin we were called Sisters of Charity. In the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, following his example, we serve:

- The sick and the elderly
- Deprived children and young people
- The mentally or physically disabled
- Sick prisoners and all in need of our help

We serve in:

- Hospitals and nursing homes and their training school
- In Kindergartens and children's homes and their related schools
- In Parish and Church education of establishments
- and in Mission areas

When we visit people, we should be full of compassionate love both in word and deed.

In the poor and suffering, we serve Christ Our Lord. We see "the Lord in the poor (St. Vincent de Paul)" and find the face of Jesus in all who need our help.

Christ exists in the center of our life and community. It is His love that binds us together. We follow His call with "Humility, Simplicity and Charity (St. Vincent de Paul)".

With complete confidence in the Providence of our heavenly Father and trusting the protection of Mary with her humble dispositions, we go forward.

## 1.1 OUR HISTORY IS



On March 25, 1841, “Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul” was founded by the Bishop of Friedrich Klemens in Paderborn, German. Paderborn was turning into an industrial city and the demands for hospitals for ailing workers and the poor increased. In the meantime, the Capuchin convent in Paderborn was shut down because there was no candidate. Suffragan Dammers renovated the institute into Landes hospital. He then planned to found a religious congregation among the members of Elisabeth which had been already organized among the pious nurses who were observing strict rules of life while working at the hospital.

In 1840, Bishop Friedrich Klemens sent some Elisabeth members to the “Sisters of Charity in Strasbourg” for their formation and, in 1841, formally established Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul of Paderborn.

According to the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, Paderborn community responded to the request for missionaries made by the first bishop of Suwon Diocese, Youn Kong-hi, Victorinus. They sent three missionary sisters who arrived at Suwon, Korea on January, 8, 1965. This became the beginning of Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of Suwon. St. Vincent hospital opened on June, 3, 1967 and continued medical apostolate until today.

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With the spiritual heritage of our patrons St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac, we, Sisters of Charity, are following Jesus in serving the poor and the afflicted.

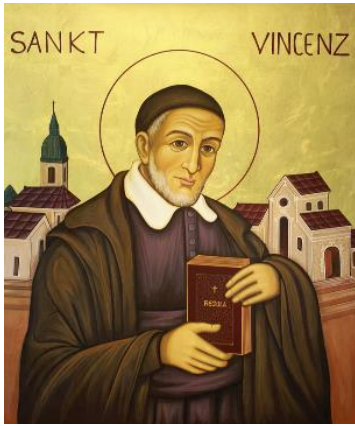
## 1.2 OUR SPIRITUALITY IS

**“The poor are our Master” - St. Vincent de Paul -**

The spirituality of Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul is rooted in the life and the teaching of St.

Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac who have met the Lord in the poor as they contemplated Jesus Christ preaching the Good News to the poor. Following the footstep of those saints, we, the Sisters, are serving Christ by practice of love for the poor and the afflicted which is seen in the act of Good Samaritan asked for no returns.-

### **A way of St. Vincent de Paul, Apostle of the Poor**



St. Vincent was born in 1581 in the village of Pouy in Gascony, France, to peasant farmers.

After his study in the school run by Franciscan, he got ordained to the priesthood in 1600. In the remarkable year of 1617, he experienced a profound spiritual conversion during his ministries to the poor, which led him to realize that serving the poor is serving God. He, thereby, walked into the life thoroughly dedicated to God through the service for the poor.

St. Vincent organized and facilitated conferences and retreats for clergy for their renewal, established seminary and the Congregation of the Mission for the better ministry to the poor and founded Confraternities of Charity and Daughters of Charity in order to serve the poor in more organized way. At the heart of these accomplishments abided a firm belief that *“all human beings created in the image of God have the same dignity”*. This faith led him to dedicate himself with his own charism based on 'serve Christ in the poor'.

Vincent de Paul, at the age of 79, returned to the Lord on September 27 in 1660, was canonized in 1737 and in 1885, Pope Leo XIII named him Patron of All Charitable Works.

### **- A way of St. Louise de Marillac, Companion of the Mercy of God**



Louise, was born out of wedlock in the prominent de Marillac family in 1591, France. Louise was never able to feel her mother's warmth. Unfortunately, she also lost her beloved father when she was only 13. Louise, then, was entrusted to the hands of his uncle and was sent to a technical institution. She spent her adolescence in there and had her first experience of poverty. She learned practical skills such as cooking and sowing there, which was a great help in serving the poor and the community life in the future.

At the age of twenty-two in 1613, she got married to Antoine Le Gras, but her marriage did not last any longer than twelve years due to the illness of his husband. Whereas she had to encounter the painful part of human experience, she also went through spiritual conversion which made her

realize God's calling for her. During the Mass on the solemnity of Pentecost in 1623, she was liberated from all of her anxieties through what is called "*Experience of Illumination*". Meanwhile, she was introduced to Vincent de Paul to be her spiritual director. This experience and the meeting with Vincent finally formed her into a great collaborator of God in serving the poor.

In 1633, she founded Daughters of Charity with Vincent de Paul to meet the spiritual and corporal need of the poor. It was the first noncloistered religious institute of women in the Church devoted to active charitable work.

Her earthly life ended on March 15 in 1660. She was canonized on March 11, 1934, and declared Patroness of Christian Social Workers in 1960.

### - A way of charity

Charity, the center of the Gospel, is to open our heart to the poverty of the world. The acts of charity in which God embraced the poor and offered himself to them through Christ is the sign that reveals Him and His mighty power.

### Spirituality of Sts. Vincent and Louise



The life and the service of Sts. Vincent and Louise are rooted in their full trust in God's providence. They heard the cry of the poor in the midst of life's events, understood God's providence and their mission and embodied their spirituality by practically participating in the reality through the effective care for the spiritual and corporal needs.

### Characteristics of the spirituality of St. Vincent de Paul

- Service for the poor
- Trust in God's providence
- Love that is universal and integrated
- Solidarity and collaboration
- Practical vision of the reality



*“Her actions are not her own, but those of Jesus Christ: she serves the sick with the love of Jesus Christ; the meekness of Jesus Christ governs her speech when faced with contradiction, she practices the patience of Jesus Christ, she has the obedience of Jesus Christ..... Her actions are not those of a mere creature, but of Jesus Christ Himself.” (Coste, CCD IX, 332)*

Sisters of Charity are to devote their life to the love both affective and effective in order to constantly discover Christ in the poor through faith in God’s providence as our patron St. Vincent de Paul showed us an example.

### **1.3 OUR LIFE IS**

*“Jesus Christ has called us into the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. We want to surrender ourselves to God through a life lived according to the evangelical counsels and to serve our neighbor with compassionate love.” [The Constitutions 101]*



#### **1) Vowed Life**

During his life on earth, Jesus Christ called certain people to faith and to the service for their neighbor. Since the early days of the Church, Christians have gathered in community to accept the challenges of the Gospel and to support each other in living out their vocation. Jesus Christ continues to call the people and has called us especially into the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. In response to this call, we want to dedicate ourselves to God through a life lived according to the evangelical counsels and to serve our neighbor with compassionate love. [The Constitutions 101]



## 2) Liturgy and Prayer

Jesus, having been an example himself, urges us to always pray and never be discouraged. (Lk 18,1) Through the Liturgy of the Hours, we participate in the prayer of the Church. We glorify God in praise and in our gratitude to Him and entrust to Him the concerns of our time, of our Congregation and of those who need our help through the intercessions. [The Constitutions 305]



## 3) Community Life

Love for the Lord and the same vocation for all to serve in charity have brought us together as a community. Community life is an essential element in our life. Our life together is modeled on that of the early Christian communities. [The Constitutions 501, 513]



#### 4) Completion of Consecrated Life

Our consecrated life with Christ reaches its consummation in death. Then we will be welcomed into his arms of love and experience the Christ's power of resurrection. "So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. Because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4, 16. 18) [The Constitutions 313]

## 2. WHERE WE SERVE

We live our vocation in the midst of the world. Therefore, we should be close to the people and be open to everything that affects them. At the same time, we must be equally attentive to follow the Lord and available to carry out his will. [The Constitutions 205]





## 2.1 APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

### 2.1.1 MEDICAL SERVICE

#### - The Catholic Univ. of Korea St. Vincent's Hospital



To serve our Lord in the sick, in accordance with St. Vincent's spirit, St. Vincent's Hospital opened on June 3, 1967. St. Vincent's Hospital, a member of the hospitals of the Catholic University of Korea, is now serving in the local community with over 800 beds and the Sisters are working for those who are suffering from diseases in medical care, hospital ministry, and management.

#### - Ansan Vincent's Clinic



As the foreign laborers in Korea increase in number, we open Ansan Vincent's Clinic (est. 2004) for those who cannot benefit from medical insurance such as the poor and the foreign workers. Supporting them to access to the proper medical care, we infuse them hope in their emotional and financial difficulties.

#### - Hospital Ministry (Assistant Chaplain in 9 Hospitals)



With spiritual care, we help the patients who encounter a variety of difficulties in the hospital and care the spiritual growth of the patients and the staffs.



## 2.1.2 SOCIAL WELFARE



After Korea War, Korean society has witnessed a soaraway economic growth with a successful application of economic development policy. On the other hand, civilization and industrialization brought about social issues such as urban poor, gap of the standard of living between urban and rural areas and need to care of the marginalized like the aged, single-mothers and the youth.



As a response to the need of the time, we participate in social welfare in order to carry out Vincentian spirituality. The institutions we are running are following:

- Free nursing home for the aged , “**St. Louise’ House**” (est. 1991) and “**St. Anne’s House**” (est. 2002, Denver, USA) / <http://www.luise.or.kr>



- For single mothers, “**House of Life**” (est.1993, from prenatal care until a year after childbirth) <http://www.vinhome.or.kr/> and “**House of Motherhood**” (est. 2008, infant care and vocational training for social adjustment) <http://www.mosong.or.kr/>

- For youth, “**St. Vincent’s Youth**” (est. 1999 Suwon

<http://www.vin.or.kr/>, 2001 Seoul <http://www.stvin.or.kr/>)

As the welfare system of the country is being developed, the congregation felt the arising need for domiciliary care and community welfare. Hereby, we opened

- “St. Vincent’s Sharing Center, **Hanulmaru**” for our neighbors in need (since 2010), a center for visiting houses, organizing different activities in cooperation with other residents in the community.

With expanding globalization and marriage immigrant culture in Korea, we felt the necessity to care especially for the female marriage immigrants and their children. In response to this, we run

- “St. Vincent’s Multi-cultural Family Support Center” (since 2009) <http://center.vincent.or.kr/> which offers language classes, tutorial and counseling to help the immigrants and their children to adapt themselves to Korean society.

For the children with the home environment where the parents cannot attend to their needs in different reasons,

- “**Hanwool Learning Center**” (since 2011) is supporting them in their study and social interaction.

### 2.1.3 APOSTOLATE IN PARISHES (23 parishes)



We carry on the mission in various parishes in order to cooperate with the Church for evangelization. According to their needs and in cooperation with the parish priest, we support the parishioners in their life as a Christian through activities and liturgy in a community. Especially, we care for the marginalized according to the charism of our Congregation.

### KINDERGARTEN (6 places)



We infuse Christian values and faith into the children in order for them to learn ways to live together with one another in the world. The effort for the evangelization in the family is also made through parents education.

### 2.1.4 OTHER APOSTOLIC MINISTRIES

- Inae Orchard <http://www.inaefarm.com/>



We participate in care for creation through prayer and labor in nature. We strive to preserve our environment and lives through eco-friendly farming.

## - St. Vincent's Retreat House



Just like Jesus staying before God alone, the Sisters rest and pray in this retreat house in order to renew their passion for the mission.

## 2.2 MISSION ABROAD

Our Missionary work in foreign countries finds its source in the Charism and passion of St. Vincent de Paul. St. Vincent sent missionaries to Africa to preach the Good News to the poor in spite of all the difficulties and dangers and even his Brothers' objections. Our congregation, which was established in 1965 with the mission from the Sisters of Charity of Paderborn, Germany, started the mission in Southeast Asian countries in 2005 in celebration of the "40th Anniversary of Foundation in Korea," to continue this mission spirit of St. Vincent and the German Sisters.

### - Myanmar

Our Sisters conduct free surgeries and medical service every year by establishing ties with St. Vincent's Hospital in Korea and local medical institutions in Myanmar. They run learning centers, provide free meals and education on hygiene and sex issues to children who do not receive formal school education and to those who are emotionally unstable in poor areas of Yangon, the former capital of Myanmar. Also, in collaboration with the Catholic Medical Association and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Myanmar, the Sisters visit the Catholic communities in ethnic minorities and refugee regions to provide medical service and support scholarships. Now, we are accompanied by the Sisters of Myanmar who belong to our congregation in the Myanmar mission and are contributing to the growth of a few local churches in the Myanmar society through effective and continued activities, where Buddhism and military authorities are currently the priority.





## - Bangladesh



strength to survive discrimination in their Islamic society.

The Sisters provide free medical service and surgery in cooperation with medical service teams from Korea and Italy at “St. Vincent de Paul’s Sick Shelter & Clinic” in Mymensingh Diocese and take care of the poor who live in remote areas. Also, the Sisters provide the needed care and opportunities of education to growing young girls from minority ethnic groups at "House of Hope" where they are given hope and

## - Philippines



We founded “the International Formation House” in Manila, Philippines, in 2011 for the initial formation (Postulancy, Noviciate) of the candidates who joined our Order from the mission countries. Besides the formation, the missionary Sisters are engaged in apostolate activities for local churches since 2013. They provide medical service through “Family Care Center” in housing area in Bagong Silangan, run free

feeding centers, a learning center and in Payatas, landfill sites. They serve the poor, who are our Lord, by providing health service, welfare improvement and home support for local poor people. We have also opened “St. Vincent Mission Center” in celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism in the Philippines in 2017, a place where the members of our congregation and our collaborators can learn English, have a mission experience and can also have international exchange and ties with the local Vincentians in the country.

## 2.3 ASSOCIATES

The Second Vatican Council emphasizes various gifts of ministries and the role of the laity. Sisters continue that ministries with lay partners in Vincentian Spirituality.

### - Ladies of St. Louise



Ladies of St. Louise is living out our spirituality by doing voluntary service and care in different parts of our ministry. They have developed a solid partnership with the congregation since its establishment in 1986.

### - Benefactors Association for Charity



Benefactors Association for Charity (est. 1987), in order to share their resources according to St. Vincent's spirit, is supporting our ministries in foreign missions (Bangladesh, Myanmar and the Philippines), several welfare facilities and scholarship program for youth.

Mass for benefactors: Rosary and confession at 1:30 p.m./ Mass at 2:00 p.m. on every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, Chapel in Mother House

Inquiry: T. 031-249-1125; 010-9274-8108/ E-mail: [vin8108@hanmail.net](mailto:vin8108@hanmail.net)

### - The Lay Association of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul/ L.A.C.V



The Lay Association of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul (L.A.C.V), launched on March 14, 2015, was organized as an international lay leaders' group which is to share the same charism and spirituality of the congregation. In solidarity with the congregation, they play their role as companions of charity through spiritual service like retreat direction, lecture and counseling and corporal service like fundraising to support the children in the foreign mission areas.

Regular meeting: 2 p.m. ~5 p.m. on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, Hall in Mother House

Inquiry: Center for Vincentian Spirituality/ T. 031-249-1121/ E-mail: [lacv0927@hanmail.net](mailto:lacv0927@hanmail.net)

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