



# BETTER SERVING PEOPLE IN NEED

STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 TO 2019

## Message from the State President

The St Vincent de Paul Society was founded by a group of Catholic university students who were willing to take a risk. They took the risk of responding to the glaring inequality and injustice emerging in their time. We who have come after them are guided by the same desire to do God's Will through faithful service to the people who are pushed to the margins of society. Our calling will never change. Our historical focus on Christ's Poor will never change. However the context in which we carry out our mission has changed. If we want to be truly faithful to our calling then we must look at how we should change in response to the signs of the times.

This Strategic Plan challenges us to be clear in our desire to serve Christ in the Poor, to fearlessly speak out against the causes of poverty and inequality, and to build a more sustainable St Vincent de Paul Society in Victoria. The ultimate goal of this plan is to equip us as members to give hope to all of the people we assist. Our message is that no matter how hard things get, we will always be there for them to provide them with assistance and to stand up for people without a voice.

**Michael Liddy**

## Our Mission

The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organisation that aspires to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

## Our Aspiration

An Australia transformed by compassion and built on justice.

## Our Vision

The St Vincent de Paul Society aspires to be recognised as a caring Catholic charity offering "a hand up" to people in need. We do this by respecting their dignity, sharing our hope, and encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.

## Our Key Values

**Commitment**

Loyalty in service to our mission, vision and values

**Compassion**

Welcoming and serving all with understanding and without judgement

**Respect**

Service to all regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender or political opinions

**Integrity**

Promoting, maintaining and adhering to our mission, vision and values

**Empathy**

Establishing relationships based on respect, trust, friendship and perception

**Advocacy**

Working to transform the causes of poverty and challenging the causes of human injustice

**Courage**

Encouraging spiritual growth, welcoming innovation and giving hope for the future

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2015 TO 2019

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Our priority focus areas over the next four years are:

- Spirituality & Sustainability
- Service & Membership
- Governance & Communication
- Advocacy & Partnerships

These focus areas will guide our actions, policies and programs as we pursue the strategies necessary to achieve our objectives through our guiding principles.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE | 1

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### SPIRITUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY

#### Building a unified, spiritual and sustainable Society.

- 1.1 The Society will take all initiatives to ensure that the spirituality and ethos upon which we are based are embedded in all areas and activities.
- 1.2 The Society will implement initiatives from the National Council Spirituality Advisory Committee to enrich the spiritual and prayer life of members and councils.
- 1.3 The Society will grow its conference membership base, to explore initiatives that will ensure that it recruits and retains a vibrant membership of all ages.
- 1.4 The Society will ensure that it has strong, secure and diverse income streams that will continue to provide resources to serve people in need, including supporting and growing its charity retail services.

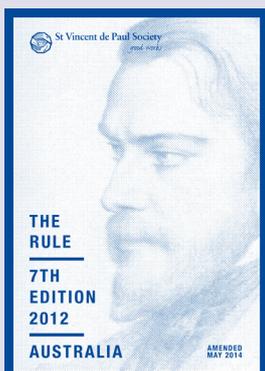
## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE | 2

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### SERVICE & MEMBERSHIP

#### Serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy.

- 2.1 The Society will explore its responses to those we serve to improve the effectiveness of our services. These services may include, but are not confined to, financial counselling services, education assistance and other preventative services.
- 2.2 The Society will explore its responses to homelessness in the community.
- 2.3 The Society will review current membership requirements and training programs and explore future opportunities to enable best practice in serving people in need.
- 2.4 The Society will provide appropriate training and leadership development opportunities that will equip us with a strong, effective collective group of people, competent, empowered and engaged to fulfil our mission.
- 2.5 The Society will continue to actively recruit and train a vibrant membership base, with an emphasis of inclusion of youth and young people.
- 2.6 The Society will ensure an appropriate induction process will be required for each new member and volunteer, to equip him/her for their roles and responsibilities in the Society. A 'sign on' commitment to the values, ethos, processes and policies of the Society will be required as part of this induction process.



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE | 3

### GOVERNANCE & COMMUNICATION

**Councils exist to serve the conferences they coordinate.**

**The Vincentian response to communication is a willingness to learn and a desire to help.**

- 3.1 The Society will have strong, robust and effective organisational structures and practices that enable effective service delivery and governance.
- 3.2 The Society will review the effectiveness of its communication processes to ensure that we are appropriately engaging the membership in those processes.
- 3.3 The Society will enhance its information and communications technology infrastructure to maximise effective utilisation by members, volunteers and staff.
- 3.4 The Society will work towards a united and cohesive group embracing and connecting all its representatives:
  - Members
  - Volunteers
  - Associate Members
  - Staff

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE | 4

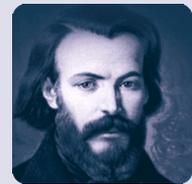
### ADVOCACY & PARTNERSHIPS

**Working to shape a more just and compassionate Society in partnership with like-minded organisations.**

**A voice for the voiceless: The society helps the poor and disadvantaged to speak for themselves. When they cannot, the Society must speak on behalf of those who are ignored.**

- 4.1 The Society will explore the most appropriate means by which to increase the collaboration between the Society, at conference and council level, with VincentCare Victoria to ensure maximum responses to those most deeply disadvantaged.
- 4.2 The Society will explore partnerships with other service providers as appropriate, to enhance our service delivery.
- 4.3 The Society will explore the resources required to increase its ability to act as a social advocate in all relevant forums.
- 4.4 The Society will strengthen its social justice work at State, Central and Regional Councils and conference levels.

## OUR INSPIRATIONAL LEADERS



Bl Frederic Ozanam  
1813-1853



St Vincent de Paul  
1581-1660



Fr Gerald Ward  
1806-1858



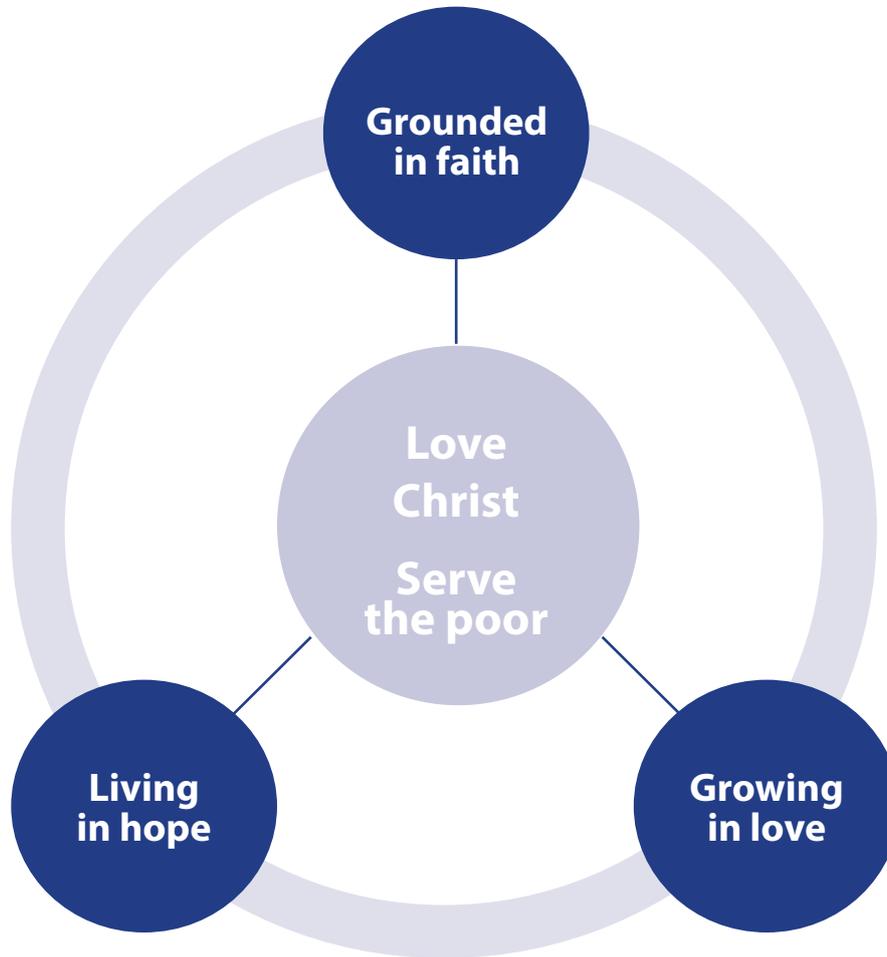
St Louise de Marillac  
1591-1660



Bl Rosalie Rendu  
1786-1856

STRATEGIC  
OBJECTIVES  
2015 TO 2019

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY  
OUR SPIRITUALITY



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
VICTORIA *good works*

**St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Inc.**

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