



SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
TORONTO CENTRAL COUNCIL

turning concern into action

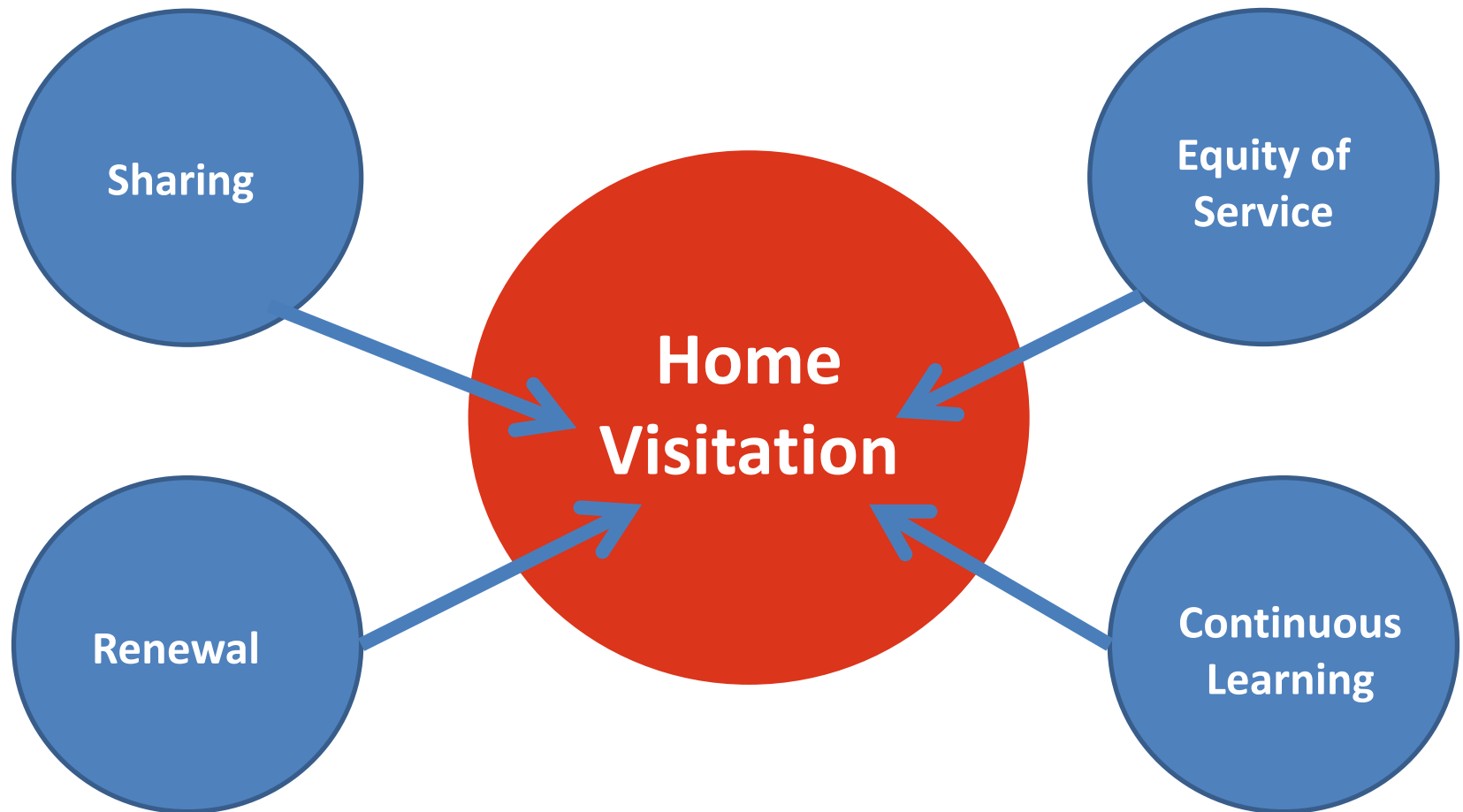


High Five

Our 5 Guiding Principles
To Serve

Our Neighbours in Need

Our Five Guiding Principles *to Serve* Our Neighbours in Need



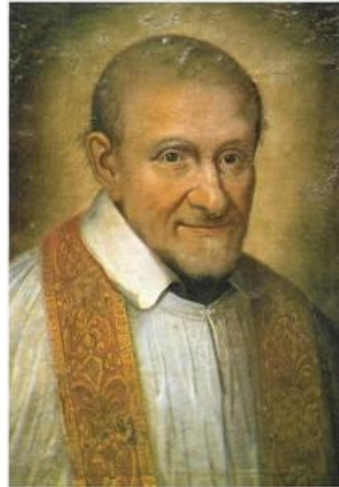
Vincentian Spirituality

- Being a Vincentian is a calling, a vocation, to go out and serve our neighbours in need.
- We are all connected by prayer.
- We are connected by our personal contact with the poor.
- Together, have been serving Christ in the poor for **164 years in Ontario**, with our first conference at St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto.

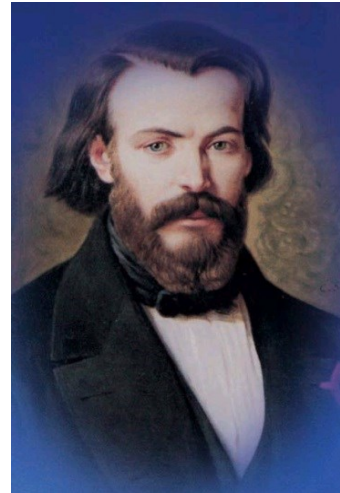


A History of Sharing as Brothers & Sisters in Christ

**Saint Vincent de Paul
(1581-1660) Age - 79**



**Blessed Frederic Ozanam
(1813 - 1853) Age - 40**



**Saint Louise de Marillac
(1591 - 1660) Age - 69**



**Blessed Rosalie Rendu
(1786 – 1856) Age - 70**



History – Closer to Home

- **Canadian Founder, Quebec:**

Dr. Joseph Painchaud (1819 – 1855) Age 36

Studied medicine in Paris where he joined the Society.

Returned home, and introduced the Society to Canada

Established the first Conference Notre-Dame at Quebec's Cathedral (now the Basilica)



- **Toronto, Ontario Founder:**

George Manly Muir (1807-1882) Age 75

The first Toronto Conference started in 1851 at St.

Michael's Cathedral, under the leadership of George Manly Muir, a Lawyer and circuit court judge.



Toronto Central Council Mission Statement

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is a lay Catholic organization whose mission is to live the Gospel message by **serving Christ through our neighbours in need with love, respect, justice and joy.**

Members of the Society are committed to **turning concern into action.** Toronto Central Council provides the leadership, coordination, and support required by our Vincentian volunteers and our staff to succeed in that mission.

Vision Statement

Our volunteer members turn concern into action through direct, compassionate service to those in need. **Toronto Central Council** will support and assist them in this mission by:

- Developing and implementing **recruitment strategies**, aimed at attracting a diverse group of new members
- **Supporting the work** of particular councils to open new conferences and revitalize ones that are struggling
- Providing a variety of **training and sharing opportunities** for members
- Seeking out and responding to **new opportunities to meet the ever-changing needs** of the poor and others in need.

Toronto Central Council (TCC) Today:

- **110 active Conferences** through out Toronto Central Council
- Over **1,400 Vincentians** are actively working in these Conferences
- Over **65,000** people are being visited each year by Vincentians
- **250** people have a place to call home in a residential program operated by TCC
- Over **1,100** girls attend Marygrove Camp and **600** boys attend Camp Ozanam, both fully subsidized camping experiences.

The Conference is essential to:

- ❖ Assisting our neighbours in need
- ❖ Providing members with opportunities to share and grow in their faith through service to those in need
- ❖ Supporting the parish community to deliver on its Christian responsibility to serve those in need
- ❖ Helping the pastor address poverty-related needs in the parish

Special Works – Our Programs

- Women's Emergency & Transitional Housing Program - 4
Mary's Home, Amelie House, St. Clare's Residence and Elisa House
- Ozanam House – Transitional accommodation and support for men waiting entry into a substance abuse program.
- St Francis Residence – Helps increase the quality of life for 24 men and women experiencing mental illness.
- St. Vincent de Paul Community Houses – **13** Homes in the GTA for men recovering from addiction.
- De Paul, Vincent and Martineau Houses – **3** Residential care houses to support men and women who are developmentally disabled.
- Camps Marygrove for girls and Ozanam for boys – Fully subsidized summer camping experience for girls 5-13 and boys 6-12.

VincenPaul Community Homes



A supportive, caring environment

Vincent House De Paul House Martineau House



Toronto Central Council

Special Works

Home for Individuals with Mental Illnesses

St. Francis Residence

- ❖ 24 residents – 10 women and 14 men
- ❖ Community based boarding home
- ❖ Permanent residency care home



Toronto Central Council Special Works - Stores

- ❖ Retail operations in 2 locations
(Etobicoke and Oshawa)
- ❖ Voucher partnership with Salvation Army to better serve neighbours in need in communities across the city
- ❖ Clothes procured through Bundle Up collections
- ❖ New bed, table and chairs program

Toronto Central Council

Special Works

Gower Park Place – East York

- ❖ Helping those in need get affordable housing
- ❖ 164 units
- ❖ Not for profit
- ❖ Rent geared to income (RGI) housing



Review: Basic Requirements of Membership

- The primary goal of the Society is to serve to **ALL** the poor regardless of religion, ethnicity, gender etc. and to promote their dignity.
- Vincentians believe that they are **servicing Christ** when they serve the poor.
- **No work of charity is foreign to the Society.**
- Vincentians serve through **person to person** contact with the poor.
- Vincentians are characterized by their spirit of **charity, humility, and justice.**
- While remaining faithful to the teachings of our Catholic faith, members of **other faiths are welcome** to join the Society.

Our Logo

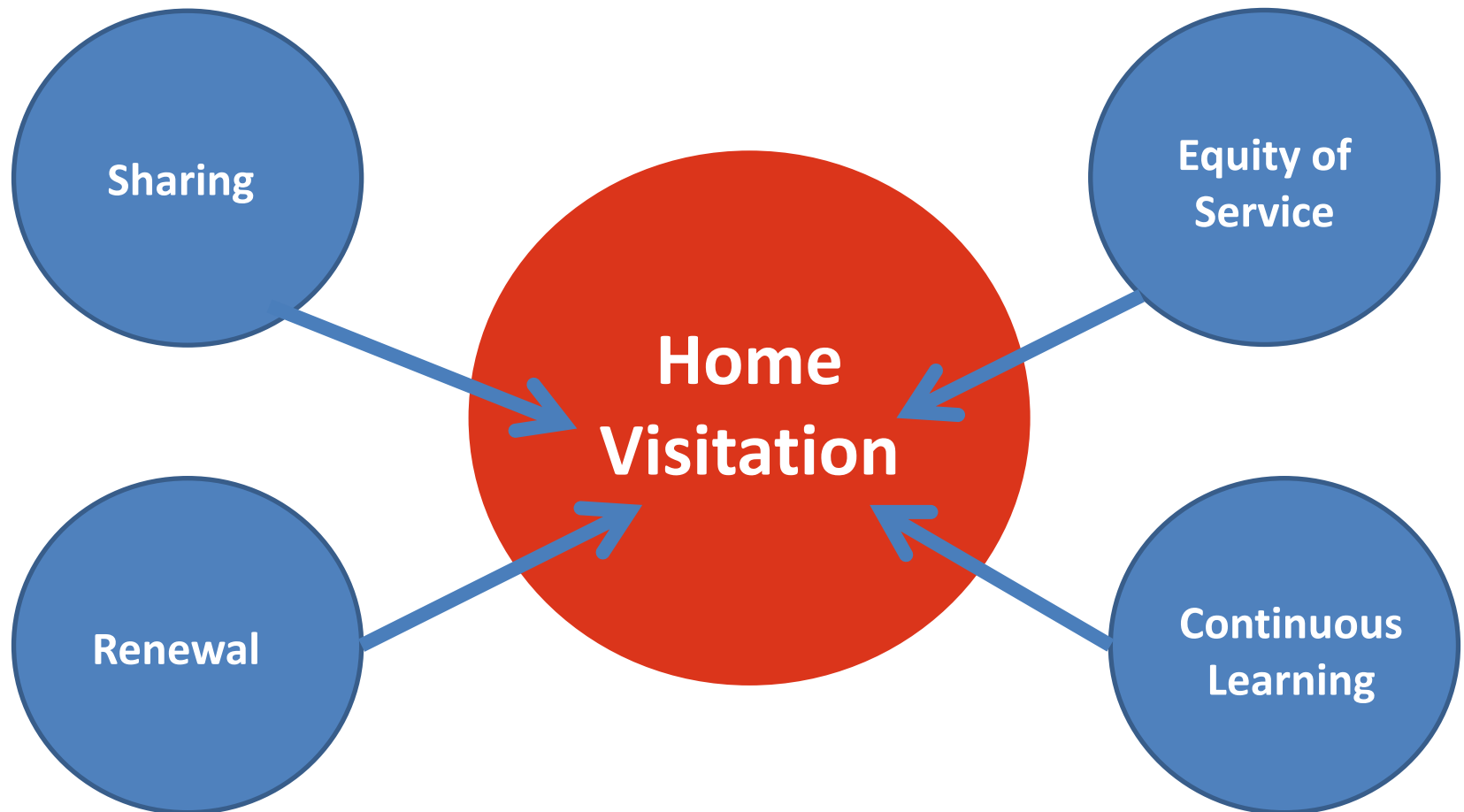


The fish is the symbol of Christianity and, in this case, represents the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul.

The eye of the fish is the vigilant eye of God seeking to help the poor in our midst. The crossing at the tail or the tie-knot represents unity and oneness among members and also the union with the poor.

The circle bounding the logo signifies the global or worldwide stature of the SSVP, an international Society. The words serviens in spe mean to serve in hope, the hope that comes from Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Five Guiding Principles *to Serve* Our Neighbours in Need



Home Visitation – Guiding Principle 1

- Visiting neighbours in need in their homes is the primary and preferred form of meaningful, person-to-person service by Vincentians in each conference.



Overall Purpose of Home Visits

1. Listening
2. Referrals
3. Friendship
4. Material Assistance
5. Spirituality



Planning Meaningful Home Visits

- ❖ Always **in pairs**
- ❖ We help to address **immediate need** through material assistance
- ❖ We bring **love, hope, compassion** and **respect**
- ❖ We bring the gift of ourselves as a neighbour / friend
- ❖ We **listen, listen, listen** for ways to help them move forward in ways that are ***meaningful to them***

St. Basil's Church

Sunday Sept 9, 1900

The Conference met after High Mass. Rev. L. Brennan, the Secretary, Treasurer and four other members being present when the Roll was called.

In the absence of the President & Vice-President Mr. Thos. Kirby occupied the Chair and after opening the meeting read a short meditation on "Christ our Lord". The Minutes of Aug 5 were read and confirmed.

Mrs. Nicholl and Miss O'Grady were granted the usual weekly allowance.

Rev. L. Brennan reported that Annie Kenny had been sick for some time past and had gone to the House of Providence. It was decided to pay the sum of \$2.00 per month to the H of P. for her support.

Mr. W. O'Connor reported having visited the Hospital. Mr. P. Kelly volunteered as Visitor to Hospital for 5-day. The Monthly Reports for July and August were read showing an expenditure of \$5.20 for July and \$4.43 for August and bal on hand Sept 1. of \$10.20

Collection in the Box 1.94

Collection at the Meeting .40

The Meeting then adjourned

Will M. Morgan
Sec

Long Term Neighbours in Need

Each home visit is intended to help the neighbour get through a particular difficulty **and** to move forward in some way that is meaningful to them.

The first few visits will generally focus almost exclusively on the first objective. After a number of visits, the focus will generally move much more to the second objective.

Review: The Practical Aspects of Meaningful Home Visits

- Vincentians always visit in pairs
- Setting an appointment for the visit
- Ensuring that the location provides privacy and confidentiality
- Pre-planning to ensure a meaningful and personal visit
- Knowing something about history of the family or person
- Listening to the neighbour in need as they explain their situation
- Providing meaningful advice and support in addition to the voucher
- Keeping records of the visit and any follow-up

Equity of Service – Guiding Principle 2

Neighbours in need in similar circumstances and with similar needs, receive similar levels of service across the GTA.





Equity in:

- our fundraising efforts.
- our response time to calls.
- our availability.
- the information and resources we share.
- serving with the person-to-person contact, personal gift of the heart, humility, respect and discretion.



Equity: Overcoming Challenges

- How is your Conference doing in raising the Funds necessary to meet the needs of our Conference?
- How is your Particular Council doing in funding the needs of Conferences who lack sufficient funds?
- How does the 3-month rule accommodate higher expense periods such as Christmas?

Quick Reference Guide – Food Vouchers

Deciding How Much to Give:

Conferences and members bring their **compassion**, **judgement** and **experience** to bear when making the decision on how much assistance to provide.

Examples of assistance, following the public health guidelines:



1 adult or youth over 13 years old
\$7.00 per day*



1 child under 13 years old
\$5.00 per day*



1 adult and 2 children
\$17.00 per day*

Adults	Children	Per Day	3 – 5 days help
Single Mom	2 youngsters	\$17.00	\$50 - \$80.00
Couple	1 teenager	\$21.00	\$70 - \$115.00

Types of Material Assistance

Food Vouchers:

In most cases, the main reason for the call for assistance is for help with food. The amount given in food vouchers provided to families or single people should be **based on the assessed level of need.**

Stores Vouchers:

The store vouchers are issued to those in need who require **clothing, household goods or furniture items.** Payment for these vouchers comes from the issuing conference through their Particular Council. Conferences can order vouchers from the head office.

New Beds, Tables and Chairs:

The determination for ordering new beds, tables and chairs must come after a **home visit has taken place so that the need can be verified.** An authorized member of the conference can place an order for the items by calling the Distribution Centre at 416 364-5577 ext. 252 or by emailing the request to stores@ssvptoronto.ca

The Society is not a Christmas Funding Organization.

It is important not to overemphasize Christmas assistance to the detriment of our other services.

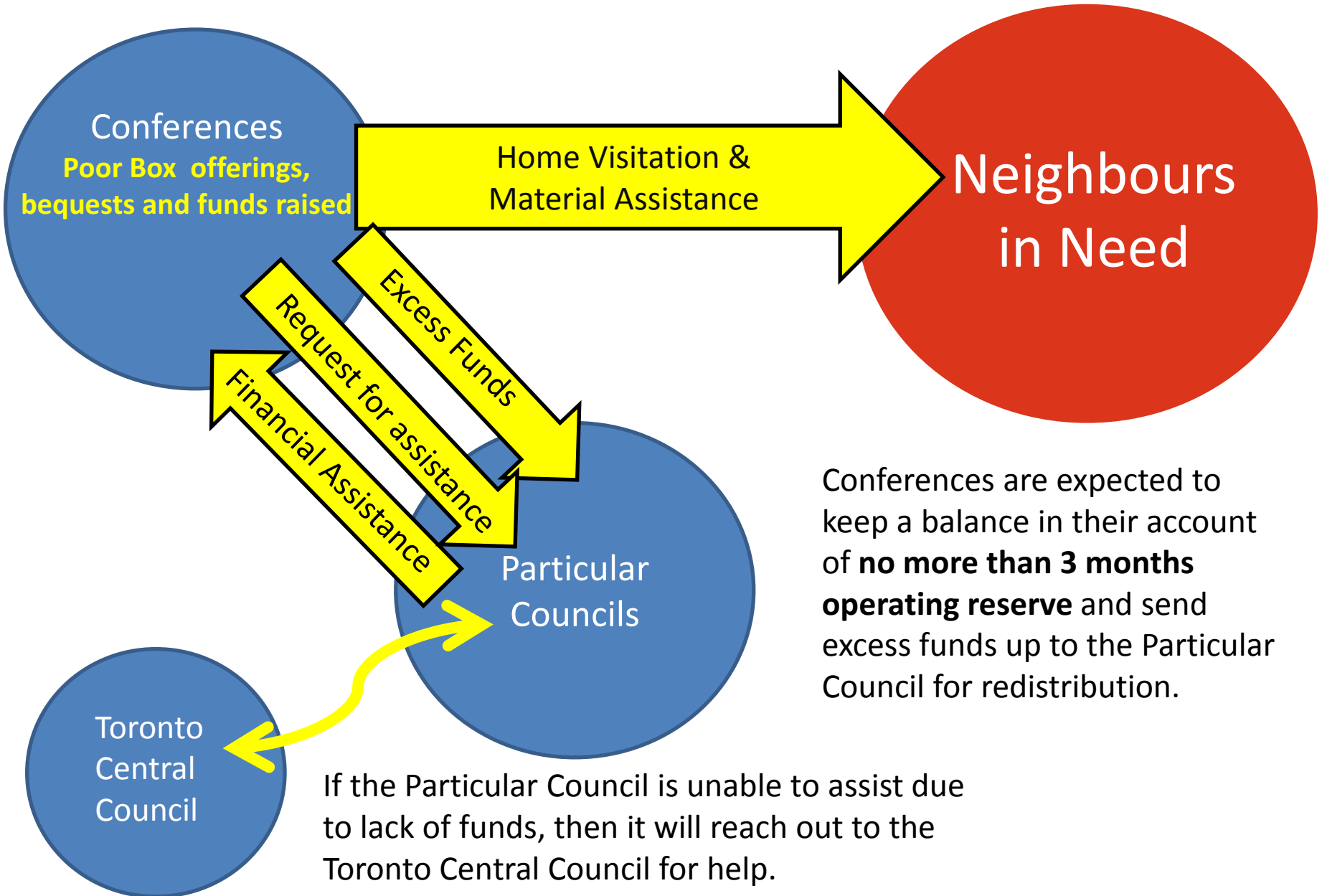
Calls for help at this time of year tend to increase significantly. Thankfully the generosity of our parishioners also increases at Christmas and in most cases conferences are able to meet the needs of all those who reach out for assistance.

Sharing – Guiding Principle 3

- Since a fundamental principle of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is that funds are moved within the Society to where they are most needed, conferences send excess funds up, normally keeping a balance in their account of no more than three months reserve (i.e. the average amount that they would spend in three months).



The Path for Sharing



Conferences are expected to keep a balance in their account of **no more than 3 months operating reserve** and send excess funds up to the Particular Council for redistribution.

If the Particular Council is unable to assist due to lack of funds, then it will reach out to the Toronto Central Council for help.

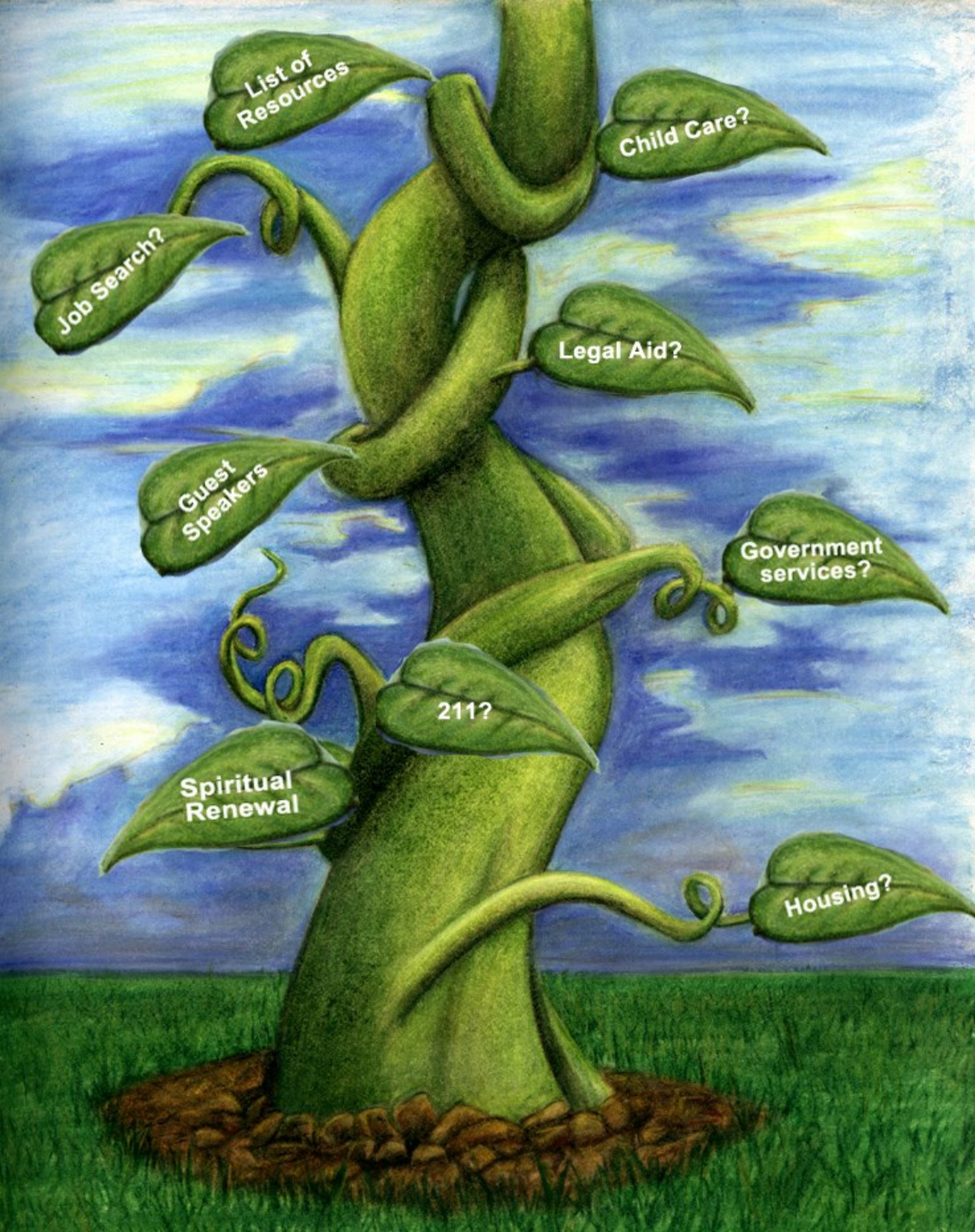
Sharing: A Discussion

- Does your Conference raise enough funds to meet the needs of your neighbours in need?
- How is your PC doing in funding the needs of Conferences who lack sufficient funds?
- What happens if the Conference were to encounter a shortfall after remitting excess funds to the Particular Council ?
- How does the 3-month rule accommodate higher expense periods such as Christmas?
- Some parishioners, or pastors, may expect that funds raised in the parish are expended in the parish. How would you justify the Society's practice?

Continuous Learning – Guiding Principle 4

- Since we strive to serve our neighbours in need by helping them to meet some of their immediate needs, as well as by assisting them in their efforts to move forward, Vincentians strive to continue to grow in the knowledge and skills required to achieve these goals.





Growing in
Knowledge and
Skills to better
serve our
neighbours in
need.

Renewal – Guiding Principle 5

- In order to appropriately and effectively serve neighbours in need, the conference needs to be spiritual, active, committed and creative. Such a conference is difficult to maintain without a sufficient number of active members and without the addition of new members.



Conference Check-up

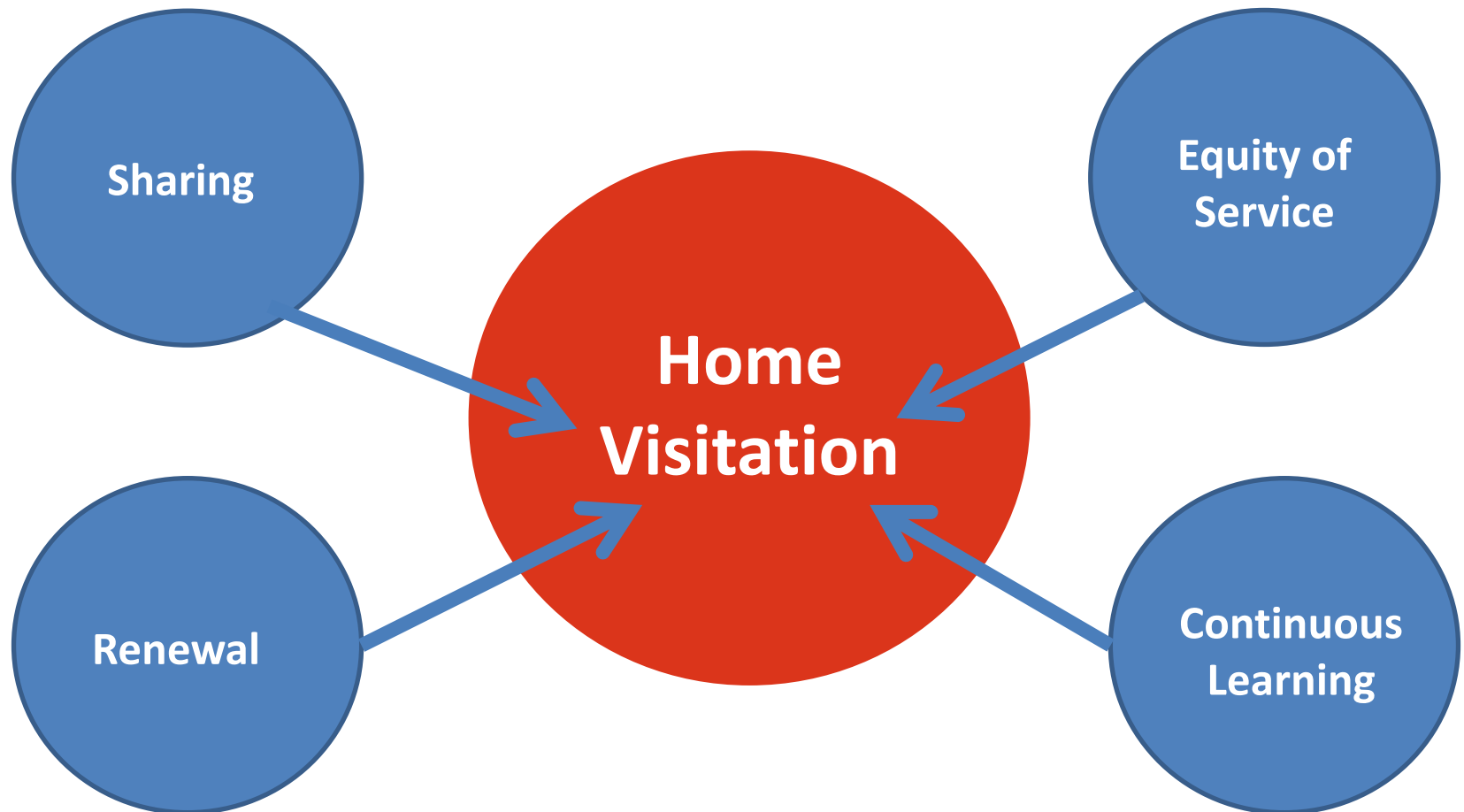
- What are we doing well?
- What can we do better?
- Are the conference members kept busy?
- Too busy? Recruit!
- Not busy enough: let us go to the poor... what else can we do?
- Do we have regular conference meetings?
- Along with the usual agenda items, what do we talk about? Do we share a laugh or two?
- How do we as Vincentians live and deepen our spirituality?

The Invitation

- Who invited you to make a commitment to serving our Neighbours in Need?
- Invite others to understand the **integrity** and **identity** of working in the faith.



Our Five Guiding Principles *to Serve* Our Neighbours in Need





Thanks!

- Your input is **MOST** important. Please fill out the Feedback forms, so that Toronto Central Council can better serve you!
- For more information visit:
www.ssvptoronto.ca or e-mail,
info@ssvptoronto.ca or
or call, (416)364-5577