

Spiritual Readings for the month of June 2021

Please choose a reading and questions for reflection.

Reading # 1: Visiting in Pairs (The Rule; Section 3:17)

Home visitation is a fundamental activity of the Society, and has been carried out in pairs since the beginning of the Society in the 1830's. This traditional activity shall continue to be carried out by two members, preferably a man and a woman. The Society has a moral and a legal responsibility to exercise due care and diligence for the protection of the visitors and of those being served. Visiting in pairs constitutes a reasonable and necessary obligation. That kind of visit gives the two Vincentians the opportunity to see different aspects of a problem and other possibilities for solving it. It also helps foster friendship between members, which is so important to the Society and follows the example of Our Lord who sent out his disciples in pairs for mutual support and inspiration.

From Rule and Statutes Society Saint Vincent de Paul, Canada

‘Jesus called the twelve, and began to send them out by two and two; and gave them authority over unclean spirits’; [Mk 6.7], And again in the Gospel of Luke, ‘the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.’ Lk. 10.1

Travelling and working in pairs is a time-honoured way to do God's work. Furthermore, the obligation to do SSVP home visitation in pairs is written into the Rule of the Society.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Do you agree with this rule? Does working in pairs enrich your experience as a member of the SSVP, if so how?

For this past year, the need for pandemic quarantine has disrupted this ‘fundamental activity’.

2. How has this time been for you as a SSVP member? Do you miss this interaction with Neighbours in Need; have you been anxious about their welfare or maybe in need of this break?

3. Have there been some benefits to a slower pace of visits, have you got to know some people more intimately or able to better appreciate their circumstances?

4. Is there any aspect of your conference home visitation process that you would like to improve post –pandemic?

Sr. Yvonne Gray, St Anselm's Conference, Toronto

Reading # 2: Divine Turn around

Many times, we go through extremely difficult times in life and wonder if things will ever get better. This is a state that we share with many individuals that we serve on a daily basis. The battles of life differ for everyone. As Christians we have a grace and a blessing that we are able to share with those around us – The Love and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have the word of God that is a comfort to our soul. Below are two keys to divine turnaround that we can apply in our lives and share with all we reach out to.

1. The Prayer of faith turns hopeless situations around.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

For the rest of the world seeing is believing for us as Christians it actually works differently. We believe in the love and power of God and then we see him move in our lives.

Mark 11:22-24: And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Matthew 21:22 And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.

Whenever you are going through the trials of life lift up your eyes to heaven believing that God cares about you.

In Matthew 11:28 Jesus says, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

2. The words you speak have power: Watch what you say:

When you speak you give life to what you say, what you say will eventually become your reality. You are where you are today in part because of what you have been saying to yourself. Words are like seeds, and they grow, you are prophesying your future. Your life will move in the direction of your words. Stop the negative self talk and speak Joy, peace, favour, break through and victory into your life.

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Proverbs 16:24 Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.

Every morning when you wake up speak a blessing over your life and over all you love and serve.

Reflection:

1. God cares speak to him . . .
2. Watch what you say . . .