

Mission – Notes to Accompany 2022 Gathering on Mission

Mission defined

Mission is a way of naming God's initiative, the work of God's own Spirit who is renewing the face of the earth. ... by God's grace and foolishness, [we] are called, challenged and commissioned to participate ... God's mission has [us], individually and collectively..." **Fr. Anthony Gittens**

These faithful are by baptism made one body with Christ...; they are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out for their own part the mission ... in the world.

Light of the Nations, §31

God's Mission as Understood by Jesus' Life

Love of God and all people.

Justice for all.

Vincentian Mission

Our Mission is a participation in the very mission of Jesus Christ:

To love and serve people who are poor, especially the most abandoned, the most vulnerable;

To bring the Good News of God's love;

To collaborate with others; and

To act simply, humbly and with great love.

SCL Mission

Impelled by the love of Christ,
we, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth,
offer every loving service in our power
to meet the critical needs of God's people.

SCL Directional Statement Chapter 2016

We, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, affirm our call to communion and mission as women of the Church. In the spirit of our heritage, we continue to seek the path of charity and justice in our day.

Impelled by our baptismal commitment, we claim as our own the prophetic mission of Jesus and our call to discipleship.

In collaboration with those who also embrace Gospel values, we affirm our evolving charism and re-envision our ministry and sponsored works to sustain our mission.

Mindful of the fragility of the earth and of the suffering of God's people, especially the exploited and marginalized, we commit ourselves to address these critical needs and their systemic causes.

SCLA Mission Statement

Impelled by the love of Christ,
we strive to make a difference as we
pray,
serve with joy,
act with justice,
build community and
care for all creation.

SCL Associate Values

Vincentian spirit	We live and act with humility, simplicity and charity.
Service	We strive to meet the critical needs of God's people and the Earth.
Collaboration	We work with others in support of Jesus' mission.
Courage	We act boldly and with integrity.
Compassion	We respond to others with mercy and love.

Quotes about Mission

“Continuing the mission of Christ ... ought to be seen as a hunger and thirst for justice, a desire to build the kingdom of God and his justice.”

Sr. Maria Pilar Lopez, D.C., The Prophetic Dimension of the Vincentian Charism in light of the Social Doctrine of the Church

“Notwithstanding my age and infirmities, I do not hold myself excused from the obligation of laboring in the service of the poor ... If my voice is too weak to be heard in great cathedrals, ...what will prevent me from gathering a few poor people around my chair and speaking to them of God's love?” ***St. Vincent de Paul***

“I am a mission on this earth; that is the reason why I am here in this world. We have to regard ourselves as sealed, even branded, by this mission of bringing light, blessing, enlivening, raising up, healing and freeing...Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and God himself is present in their lives.” ***Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, §273.***

Questions for reflection:

How do these missions intersect?

How do I keep the mission central in my life?

What aspect of mission is a struggle for me?

Something I heard that stayed with me....