



## A PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

**Leader:**

**Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will descend on us as we begin our meeting. God who is in heaven and yet with us, your love is revealed through our understanding and celebration of your mysteries. See your people gathered here in prayer. We ask for the grace to be open to receive the Spirit's flame as we strive to renew the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. With one voice may we praise your name in joy and thanksgiving as we explore the very best ways to serve the poor and each other as we ponder the question: What is a "Live Organization?"**

**(Each one read a line)**

- **A live organization has parking problems; a dying organization doesn't.**
- **A live organization often changes the way things are done to do things better; a dying organization doesn't need to change a thing.**
- **A live organization invites people to risk involvement and new ideas; a dying organization plays it safe and never risks anything.**
- **A live organization uses its traditions, resources and buildings to serve God and people; a dying organization uses people to serve its traditions and buildings.**
- **A live organization celebrates the future with hope; a dying organization worries.**
- **A live organization has lots of noise, excitement and sometimes confusion around it; a dying organization enjoys and encourages peace and quiet.**
- **A live organization forgives and seeks forgiveness; a dying organization never makes a mistake.**
- **A live organization is filled with and makes room for donors and lots of volunteers; a dying organization is filled with only memories of great days gone forever.**
- **A live organization looks for challenges and opportunities; a dying organization looks for problems, dangers and who to blame.**

- A live organization engages in ministry evangelized; a dying organization fossilizes.
- A live organization supports its vision and mission; a dying organization sees no need for either.

**Leader:**

**God of history and of our heart,  
so much has happened to us during these whirlwind days:  
we've been brave and scared;  
we've decided, and we've waffled;  
we've laughed and we've cried.  
You know our frail heart and our frayed history,  
and now another time begins.  
O God, help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
to believe in beginnings and  
help each member to make beginnings:**



**(Alternate Sides)**

- to begin going out of our weary minds into fresh dreams,
- to dare to make our own bold tracks in the land of now;
- to begin forgiving, that we may know truth;
- to begin questioning the unquestionable, that we may know truth;
- to begin sacrificing, that we may accomplish justice;
- to begin risking, that we may make peace.

**(Together)**

**God, help us to believe in beginnings.  
To trust that in the necessary but difficult journey  
in the darkness of the cocoon,  
a transformation is occurring  
and that new life like a butterfly will emerge.**

**Help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to make a beginning,  
to be a beginning,  
so that we may not just grow old,  
but grow new each day of this amazing life  
you call us to live with the passion of Vincent and Frederic.  
May you grace us with strength and courage,  
as we walk with you trusting in your Providence. Amen.**

