

Facilitating Faith in Action

Facilitating Faith in Action: A Formation and Training Program for Spiritual Advisers begins with a face to face workshop in early 2019. See details below.



What

The Spirituality Committee of NSW is delighted to launch a program **to enrich our spiritual advisers**. This initiative provides **support for spiritual advisers in their pivotal role of assisting Conferences** to be 'genuine communities of faith and love, of prayer and action' (The Rule, 1: 3.3). Through skills development, resource sharing, reflective exercises, and exploring the role of spiritual adviser the **program aims to build confidence, and increase skill and understanding** for members who provide **spiritual leadership** to their Conference or Council.

When

20 – 21 March 2019. Beginning at 12:30 with lunch on Wednesday 20 March and concluding at 2 pm (after lunch) on Thursday 21 March.

Where

Venue: St Joseph's Centre, Baulkham Hills (For those who are flying, we will arrange transport for participants from the airport or from the Lewisham office to Baulkham Hills.)

In addition to wonderful hospitality, the Sisters of Saint Joseph Centre at Baulkham Hills offers spacious grounds, conference facilities, and accommodation -- an ideal setting for this event.

Participants may live-in or commute. For those commuting, the program finishes at 8 pm on Wednesday and commences at 8:30 am Thursday.



Who

All Spiritual Advisers or members interested in becoming a spiritual adviser are encouraged to express interest. Because 'the President of the Conference or Council will have special responsibility for promoting Vincentian spirituality' (The Rule: Part 1: 3.11) all Conference and Council Presidents are also invited to express an interest.

Places are limited to 40 people and we hope for at least 2 participants from each Central Council in NSW. Expressions of interest will be reviewed by a working group of the Spirituality Committee and participants will be notified by 20 February.

Please express your interest no later than 10 February 2019.



Some preparatory work will be required and this will be provided to participants by 1 March.

More details on next page.....

How

Participants attending the workshop will receive a Spiritual Advisers Handbook and follow up support and resources to facilitate their ongoing formation. Establishing a peer relationship with another participant will be encouraged to extend their learning and formation after the event. The workshop will offer participants the opportunity to experience different styles of spiritual reflection as well as skills practice in listening and facilitating.

Program Outcomes

The intention of the 20 -21 March workshop is for participants to:

- Be able to listen with sensitivity, respect and empathy to individuals and groups;
- Feel empowered, confident, and authentic in their role as spiritual adviser;
- Be aware of a range of resources that will assist them in their role of spiritual adviser;
- Establish supportive relationships with one or more other spiritual advisers and be an active participant in any relevant network of spiritual advisers that emerges through this program;
- Be confident to encourage the members of their Conference to position spirituality as central in Conference life;
- Enable and animate reflection on service, i.e. Help Conference members to make the connection between their service and spirituality.

Why

Continual renewal of our members is facilitated by considered and constant attention to the spirituality of the Society. The Spiritual Adviser has a key role in the life of Conferences and Councils to help to animate and facilitate Vincentian practice.

Blessed Frédéric Ozanam was adamant that our work of charity can only be sustained through both a personal faith life and shared spirituality. This spirituality is more than the reflection at the beginning of the meeting. It also exhibits itself in the way we engage with one another and those we assist and the manner in which we discuss the situations of those we serve.

The Spiritual Adviser may have a prophetic role in the life of a Conference or Council, assisting members to remember that being a Vincentian is not only about giving a hand up but also about deepening our faith through service and community.



How to express your interest?

If you are available and would like to attend the workshop on 20-21 March, please

Email or write Kate Scholl, kate.scholl@vinnies.org.au

PO Box 5 Petersham, NSW 2049

Tel: (02) 9568 0209 or 0425 211 065

Deadline is 10th February, but we encourage your response before this date.

- Include your email address and contact phone number. Please indicate your current role and involvement in the Society and how you hope that participating in this event will enrich your service. Please also advise us if you would like to stay overnight at St Joseph's on the Wednesday night.

If you have any questions, please contact Kate Scholl or Leo Tucker (Leo Tucker Leo.tucker@vinnies.org.au Tel: 9568 0227 or 0416 144 223) or the Spirituality committee member from your Central Council.