

EXHIBIT A (Exerpts from a Letter written by Father William
Munshower to fellow priests in 1974)

Dear Father:

I was so taken with the members and the works of St. Vincent de Paul from a previous assignment that I promoted it within months of arriving here at Holy Spirit Parish. The response to the pulpit appeal for an initial meeting was very encouraging. Since then, now two years later, we have a solid and diversified conference which has become essential to our parish life. The Society not only accomplishes its social purposes, which are essentially works of mercy described in the gospel, but is the source of its members' spirituality: prayer, scripture, fellowship and service in the right proportions. St. Vincent de Paul members, it can be said, generally pray more, are closer to their parish, serve their fellow men, and are more informed than the average parishioner. Father, they will be your right arm and a source of inspiration to your own ministry to the extent that you encourage and chaplain your St. Vincent de Paul Conference. You will never feel that your ministry is your exclusive burden.

If a family is in financial trouble, call your St. Vincent de Paul Society; if somebody comes in off the road needing help, call your St. Vincent de Paul Society; if your sick need visiting, your shut-in's need encouragement, your elderly need transportation to church or the market, call your St. Vincent de Paul Society; if a man or woman comes to you with alcoholic problems, a fallen away Catholic needs contact, if potential converts need encouragement, call your St. Vincent de Paul members; if a man or woman come to you needing something more in their spiritual life, introduce them to the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Father, you need, and your parish needs, dedicated lay men and women who want to do more, who want to live the gospel more fully -- this is where the St. Vincent de Paul Society comes in. I have seen it work. I recommend that you start the Society in your parish. I don't have to attend every meeting -- I can't. And I doubt that you can. I like to attend.

Sincerely yours,

(Rev.) William Munshower