



ST STANISLAUS' COLLEGE

VINCENTIAN PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

PREAMBLE

The Vincentian Philosophy of Education seeks to proclaim the Gospel in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul and in so doing to form people that they may bring the Good News to the poor and stand with them in solidarity.

The following principles are regarded as fundamental to the task of assisting young people to develop a synthesis of faith and culture and a personal integration of faith and life.

- Jesus Christ sent by God, the Person in Whom all human values find their fulfilment and unity, is the Model of authentic human life which we offer.
- In the certainty that the Holy Spirit is at work in every person who seeks the truth we offer our catholic faith and culture to all, non-christians included.
- Since faith is a gift of God and cannot be imposed, we proclaim the Gospel and offer a formation based on the values of that Gospel while respecting the religious freedom and personal conscience of individual students and their parents.
- Formation for living according to the Gospel message is continually fed and stimulated by its Source of Life, the Saving Word of Christ. This is expressed in the Scriptures, in tradition, especially liturgical and sacramental tradition, and in the lives of people, past and present who bear witness to that Word. Mary the mother of God is a singular model and excellent example of that which we as Christians desire and hope wholly to be in faith, charity and union with Christ.
- The justification for a catholic college is its sharing in the evangelizing mission of the Church; as such the mandate for our apostolic undertaking is given by the Bishops to whom we are responsible in the person of the local Bishop.
- The promotion of the fundamental equality and dignity of all persons is the basis for our preferential option for the poor, for those who, regardless of the reason, are marginalised in our society, and for those who are deprived of family help and affection.
- Since parents are primarily and principally responsible for the education of their children a Vincentian College community forms and fosters a partnership with them in the context of the local ecclesial community.
- Witness to the integration of faith and vocation in life takes place in a genuine community of faith in which the complementary vocations of lay and religious women and men are recognised, welcomed and fostered.
- A good educational environment is one where young people gradually learn to open themselves continually to life as it is and to create in themselves a clear meaning of life;

hence students are to be active agents in their own formation and in the formation of their peers.

- Ongoing formation of all involved in the apostolate of educating young people is necessary prerequisite for maintaining the self-criticism needed to evaluate and improve the formation that is offered. Such ongoing formation will seek to develop the educator humanly, professionally, religiously and spiritually in the tradition of Vincent de Paul.
- The educational program is directed to the integral formation of each student so that he, whatever his ability, is extended to the fullest degree possible in all areas of his formation.

AIM

To proclaim the Gospel in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul and to offer an integral human formation for living according to that same Gospel with due emphasis given to the spiritual, intellectual, psychological, physical, moral and social growth of each person in order that students may reach the maturity and inner-directedness required for meeting the commitments of their vocation within and for the larger community.

This formation is offered to all via the provision of an environment that contributes to the wholeness of each in a Vincentian College community. We aim, furthermore, to give special attention to those who are disadvantaged and poor.

GOALS

General Goals

We aim:

- To impart a knowledge of God and of God's activity in our world.
- To deepen each person's relationship with God, and with others.
- To take the Gospel of Jesus Christ as our charter of life and in accordance with it to promote the dignity and worth of each person.
- To lead all to a deeper life, of worship.
- To be a people of prayer both as individuals and as a community.
- To bear witness to our personal integration of faith and life in our daily lives.
- To sustain and foster a community in which people are responsible and inner-directed, capable of choosing freely in conformity with their informed conscience.
- To encourage the pursuit of excellence in all areas of human endeavour.
- To foster the Vincentian spirit as an integral part of the Vincentian College life. Manifestations of this spirit are: a trust in God's providence; unpretentiousness; a generous, gentle and unwavering care for the weak and marginalised, transparency and loyalty in one's relationships; a friendliness to all, staff and students alike.

Specific Goals

In the area of Spiritual Formation we aim:

- To assist each student to come to a personal commitment to the Lord Jesus and to preserve in that commitment.
- To provide a thorough and reflective knowledge of the catholic faith and the opportunities to practice it.
- To develop in students a reverence for the presence of Christ in the Sacred Scriptures, in the Sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, and in the Community gathered together to pray in Christ's name.

- To assist students to discover in themselves meaning for their lives and hope for the future.
- To develop in students a sense of belonging to the universal Church and to the local church community.

In the area of Intellectual Formation we aim:

- To instill in students the desire and the will to search for the truth at all times.
- To develop each student's intellect to its fullest academic, creative and aesthetic potential.
- To foster an appreciation for cultural values and for learning in all its forms.
- To encourage students to see the knowledge that they acquire as a call to serve, to be responsive to others, responsible for others and to work together in fulfilling that responsibility.

In the area of Physical Formation we aim:

- To provide an environment which is healthy and conducive to good health.
- To provide an experience of physical activities not simply as an exercise for the body, but as an opportunity for the development of moral and social virtues.

In the area of Moral and Social Formation we aim:

- To develop in students a spirit of solidarity, particularly with respect to the weak, the fragile and the outcast.
- To assist students to reflect critically on our society's values and foster in them the courage to oppose its elements of materialism, pragmatism, hedonism and technocracy.
- To enable students to become self-disciplined, to take progressive responsibility for their lives and actions to work with others for the betterment of our world.
- To assist students to embrace a set of coherent values centred on love, justice, truth and fidelity.
- To develop leadership and community building skills in students and to provide opportunities to exercise those skills.
- To develop in students an appreciation of how their work shares in God's creative activity and to foster in them a respect for the environment and an attitude of care for our world.