

What was it like to learn from Vincent?

vincent-life-lessons-series-facebook

You have seen the graphic for this series. What was it like to sit across the table from Vincent and learn from him?

Each Tuesday the more pastorally concerned clergy would gather to learn from Vincent. Abelly states that more than 12,000 ordinands made their retreats at St. Lazare during Vincent's lifetime.

A large number of Vincent's letters are, basically, spiritual direction for his priests, brothers, sisters, and friends.

How about a front row seat at one of Pope Francis' morning celebrations in his house? Can you imagine that?

Unfortunately, none of us will ever experience sitting across the desk from St. Vincent. Nor will many of us feel the impact of morning Eucharist with the Pope.

What we do have is an article by former Superior General Robert Maloney, the 22nd successor of St. Vincent, on [Vincent and Formation](#).

The thesis of this article is that being a Vincentian also means being a formator... leading others to a fuller participation in the evangelization of the poor.

Of particular interest to us today is sitting across the table from Father Maloney as he offers his insights on ten characteristics we can learn from St. Vincent.

- Deeply rooted in the person of Jesus
- Fully immersed in the Vincentian charism
- In contact with the world of the poor
- Capable of being a guide on the spiritual journey
- A good listener
- A good communicator, skilled in using contemporary means for engaging others in the formation process
- Knowledgeable about the social teaching of the Church
- In dialogue with the life of his students and with lay life
- In touch with the various groups in our Vincentian Family
- Truly missionary

Points for personal reflection

- **Can I visualize myself sitting across the desk from Vincent... Louise, Frederic or any of the founders in the Vincentian Family?**
- **Can I be still enough to let them speak to me?**

LEARNING

