



Medal "Charity in Hope"

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is a charitable association, of a humanitarian and social nature, whose members are lay people, and which, because of its Catholic character, is open to all those who wish to live their faith in love and service of their brothers and sisters. Its work consists of all kinds of spiritual, moral and economic help offered to those in need through personal contact to help them find freedom, integrity and human dignity. Since its creation in Paris in 1833 by a small group of students led by Frederic Ozanam, the Society has been rapidly expanding throughout the world. It is now established in 155 countries and serves more than 30 million people worldwide everyday.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul wishes to institute an award, a medal called "Charity in Hope", to give public recognition of the merits of persons or institutions that work for the benefit of the poorest people. Therefore, the Board of the International Council General of the Confederation of SSVP, based in Paris, decided at its meeting on December 16th, 2016, to approve the Regulations governing this award.



Regulation

Article 1.- The "Charity in Hope" medal may be awarded to all those natural or legal persons, other than members, employees, Vincentian Family or people with any working relationship with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and whose extraordinary merits entitle them to receive it. Likewise, those individuals or legal entities who have been benefactors of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in any part of the world may be granted this medal, meaning as such those who have donated goods of exceptional interest to the SSVP for the fulfilment or promotion of its social purposes.

Article 2.- The decision to grant the award shall be made by the Board of the International Council General following nominations by the Presidents of the Superior Councils which form the Confederation and also from nominations by the International Board itself. The Board has the option of consulting the views of former international presidents. Furthermore, a duly legalized Certificate will be issued as evidence of the award of the medal.

Article 3.- A report or supporting document will be attached to each application, explaining the merits and circumstances of the natural or legal person nominated for the award of the medal.

Article 4.- The applications will be submitted during the calendar year prior to the medal being awarded. Only one application per Council can be submitted each year. The deadline for delivery of applications to the CGI is February 28th.



Article 5.- As a general rule, the award will be granted each year, and the winning natural or legal person will be duly notified by the General Secretariat of the International Council General, which will keep a record of the number of medals awarded, once this regulation has entered into force.

Article 6.- The awarding of the medal requires approval of an absolute majority of the members of the International Council General's Board. If the terms of this regulation are not met, the medal may be withheld.

Article 7.- The "Charity in Hope" medal is made of metal (see attached image) and its design is as follows:

- Circular, 12 cm in diameter, fastened by a tri-coloured ribbon (red, white and blue) matching the international SSVP logo.
- Five petals: Symbolizing the five Vincentian virtues (laid down in Article 2.5.1 of the SSVP Rule).
- Five crosses: Symbolizing the five precepts of the Church.
- Ten red dots: Located at the edge of the medal, which remind us of the ten commandments of God's Law.
- The international logo of the SSVP with its motto, "Serving in Hope" will be in the centre, accompanied by the phrase which gives the medal its name: "Charity in Hope".
- On the back of the medal, the year the medal is awarded will be engraved.

Article 8.- The medal shall be awarded by the International President General, or his representative, at a suitable SSVP event that he considers most appropriate for the granting of the award, particularly at the annual meetings of the Council General held in June.

Article 9.- An absolute majority of the members is required to modify this regulation, on a proposal made by the International President General or by the majority of the members of the Board of the International Council.



Article 10.- The medal's award may be revoked by the Board of the General Council, with the agreement of the absolute majority of its members, if and when the behaviour of the medal's recipient has demonstrated disloyalty to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul or for any other serious circumstance that makes him/her unworthy of the award.

Article 11.- Any situation not foreseen by this regulation will be addressed and settled by the Board of the International General Council.

Article 12.- The Board of the International General Council will form the Selection Committee for the applications, with the support of former General Presidents.