

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Vincent de Paul Center Nederland
center for social spirituality



Vincent de Paul Center in The Netherlands is a center for social spirituality. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660), a French priest, worked in the 17th century on an agenda of religious renewal, social action, and professional development. Building on this agenda, we aim – four centuries later – to contribute to the well-being of people, to the strength of communities and to the quality of the natural environment.



COURSE 'ABOUT OUR VIEW ON LIFE'

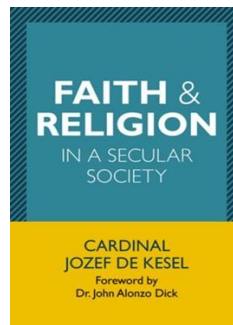
project coordinators Tjeu van Knippenberg and Marieke van de Ven

With the new course '*About our view on life*' we aim to strengthen the practice of religious and spiritual communication in church and society.

As a prologue to the course, we invited the Belgian Cardinal Jozef de Kesel to discuss his publication '*Faith & Religion in a Secular Society*'. Around 70 interested people attended the inspiring meeting on October 8th in concert hall '*De Vereeniging*' in Nijmegen.



interviewer Liesbeth Jansen during the Prologue in conversation with Cardinal Jozef de Kesel



central theme of the Prologue



during the break together with chairman Tjeu van Knippenberg

After the Prologue, the actual course began. Started with a kick-off meeting, three modules followed. First an introduction in the model '*Between Name and Identity*'. Next '*Four Domains of Communication*' and finally '*Practices*'. At the closing meeting, scheduled for early 2026, participants will present their final project.

The course has been accredited with 12 points by the Dutch SKGV (Quality Register of Spiritual Counselors).

The course accommodated twelve participants while ten teachers provided the content for the meetings. We chose the hospitable Titus Brandsma Memorial in Nijmegen as the venue for our meetings.



TUESDAY CONFERENCES

project coordinator Barrie Needham

Tuesday Conferences are small-scale meetings exploring both old and new sources of spirituality. The gatherings are open to anyone who is motivated to explore spiritual orientations. In 2025, we organized three series of four meetings each. And there was an additional meeting, called '*Tuesday Conference Extra*'.

- Series March: *'In Dialogue with spiritual and religious Worldviews'*
facilitated by Nicolette Hijweege, Wim Smeets, Christ Tielemans and Marieke Rijpkema
- Series June: *'Texts to Share'*
with contributions by Louis Sibbald, Kees Waardenburg, Tjeu van Knippenberg, Rob van Woerkom, Els Hoefnagels, Daniël van Dijk, Maria Heijltjes, Wilhelmine van Vugt, Evelien van Aller, and Peter van der Velden
- Meeting September: Tuesday Conference Extra *'The Importance of Dietrich Bonhoeffer for Today'*
facilitated by Kees Waardenburg
- Series November: *'Exploring Spirituality'*
facilitated by Tjeu van Knippenberg, Paul Oosterhoff, Barrie Needham, and Leon Claessen.



series *'Meeting spiritual Worldviews'*



series *'Texts to Share'*



series *'Exploring Spirituality'*

At the final meeting, Barrie Needham stepped down as coordinator. He organized several wonderful series, for which we are very grateful.

From the first Tuesday Conference in 2013 until now, we did organize a total of 138 meetings.

PROJECT 'GENERATION17'

project coordinator Tjeu van Knippenberg

Project *'Generation17'* – known as G17 – is a project about our views on our lives in our world. The name *'Generation17'* refers to the fact that — based on four generations per century — we are the 17th generation after the decisive turning point for Vincent de Paul in the year 1617.

In small groups, participants share experiences on themes related to their personal, social and religious orientation in life. The G17-groups in 2025 are:

- *'Religious and Cultural Biography'*, Tjeu van Knippenberg, contact person
- *'Life Stories & Orientations on Life'*, André Haverkort, contact person
- *'Inspiring and Being Inspired'*, Marike de Valk, contact person
- *'Bible Explorations'*, Marieke van de Ven, contact person
- *'Table Companions'*, Theo Gallé, contact person
- *'Ancient Biblical Stories in Modern Literature'*, Philip Verdult, contact person

The contact persons meet bi-annually in the working-group. In 2025, there was a total of 39 meetings of the various G17-groups.

GUIDING & COACHING

Tjeu van Knippenberg

Another key activity is guiding and coaching individuals and groups. This involves conversations about finding direction, connection and ground in personal and shared life paths.

COOPERATING

As a center, we are part of a network of related organizations, both locally, nationally, and internationally. Below, our most important contacts and activities in 2025.

Vincentian cooperation

- *Congregation of the Mission*

The Congregation of the Mission (CM), founded in 1625 by Vincent de Paul, is a religious society of priests. Its core missionary work is a combination of evangelization and practical aid. Tjeu van Knippenberg is a member of the congregation and will serve on the Council until the end of 2025.

- *Vincentian Movement – coordinator Marlou Absil*

The Vincentian Movement is the successor to the former Platform CM & Co, a partnership between the Congregation of the Mission and four foundations, each with a specific Vincentian agenda. Together, they aim to contribute to updating and passing on the Vincentian charism. We are actively involved in this movement.

On May 3, the Mgr. Schraven Foundation, partner of the Vincentian Movement, presented during a symposium a compelling biography of Mgr. Schraven, written by prof. dr. Jan Jacobs.

During the symposium, the Vincent de Paul Center NL gave a double lecture.

prof. dr. Jan Jacobs during the presentation of his biography of Mgr. Schraven



- *Filles de la Charité*

The society 'Filles de la Charité', founded in 1633 by Vincent de Paul, has as its primary mission to help and support people in vulnerable situations. Sister Remigia is our contact person. Tjeu van Knippenberg is spiritual director; he monthly gives conferences with the sisters. In October, he attended the provincial meeting in Paris.

- *Vincentius Nederland*

Vincentius Nederland is the national umbrella organisation of nearly 50 local branches. Support for people in poverty and isolation is a central objective. During 2025 we had several meetings with members of the board, exploring new forms of cooperation.

- *Vincentius Nijmegen*

Vincentius Nijmegen is a vital and flourishing local organization that focuses primarily on the social action side of the Vincentian agenda. We rent a room at Vincentius Nijmegen as a meeting venue.

- *International Vincentian Family*

For the evaluation of the meeting in Rome, November 2024, we contributed with a short live-recorded testimonial and a written evaluation. With a mood board about our almost ten-year long collaboration, we gave thanks to Joe Agostino cm, at his farewell as international director of the Vincentian Family.

Local and regional cooperation

- *Antonius community Nijmegen*

In various ways we are connected to the Antonius Community in Nijmegen. Several of us do participate in the pastors' meeting, we host our Tuesday Conferences at the Antonius rectory and several leaders and participants of our activities are connected to the Antonius community.

- *ZINNET*

Zinnet is a regional transmural network of organisations that focus on questions and themes concerning meaning in life. We participate in the advisory board and steering committee.

- *Municipality and Neighbourhood*

With a few people from our neighbourhood, including the Antonius community, we joined the municipal project 'Neighbourhood Heroes' of the DAR, Nijmegen's city cleaning service. 'Neighbourhood Heroes' is a volunteer project for cleaning up litter in streets and squares.

OTHER ACTIVITIES & COOPERATION

when	activity	where
January	we signed the letter 'Feast of Creation', an ecumenical initiative for the preservation of creation	a global initiative
January	getting acquainted with a new employee of 'Nijmegen in Dialogue'	Nijmegen
January	participating at 'Jan Pubben Day'	Panningen
February	participating at the mini-symposium 'Religion in the secular sphere'	Tilburg
March	participating at the meeting 'Gender and Identity' - ZINNET	Nijmegen
May	participating at the afternoon symposium 'Temporarily vulnerable – aspects of poverty reduction'	Den Bosch
June	visit to the center 'De 3 Weg', a center for meaning, soul and care	Zuidwolde
September	conversation with Bishop mgr. Gerard de Korte about the course 'Around our view on Life'	Den Bosch
September	participating at Vincentius Day with a contribution from Vincentius Nijmegen	Panningen
October	participating at the anniversary conference of COiL (Center for Meetings on Questions concerning Life)	Nijmegen
October	attending lecture by Bishop mgr. Gerard de Korte on 'Justice'	Nijmegen
December	contributing to a community's preschool Christmas celebration	Nijmegen
December	foundation Vincent de Paul Center Nederland exists 13 years!	Nijmegen

BOARD

At the beginning of this year, we said goodbye to board member Nelleke Wijngaards-Serrarens. With her dedicated and professional contribution, she enriched the board for many years. We are very grateful for her contributions.

Vincent de Paul Center NL is a foundation with a small, facilitating board. Tjeu van Knippenberg is acting chair, Marieke van de Ven is secretary, and Winfried Nota is treasurer. We also have an executive board; board members are also project coordinators. In 2025 the board met five times.

The website was managed by Gerard Gerritsen. In January, we switched from Twitter to the social media platform Bluesky, where Peter de Goede managed the posts. Gerard Gerritsen also assisted with archives and technical support.

STATE OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

incoming		outgoing	
Contributions Course 'Our view on Life'	2.900	Course 'Our view on Life'	6.948
		Tuesday Conferences	1.241
		Gift to Vincentius Nijmegen	1.800
		Several costs such as administration, archive, hosting, printing etc.	2.612
Balance	9.701		
Total	12.601	Total	12.601