

Suggested Interview Questions for Jane Knuth, author of
Thrift Store Saints: Meeting Jesus 25¢ at a Time
(Loyola Press, October, 2010)

How did you first start volunteering at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store?

When did you realize that you weren't just doing volunteer work, you were on a life-changing spiritual path?

Tell us about some of the "thrift store saints," such as the young woman you dub a "street theologian."

What is the mission of the de Paul thrift stores? How do they operate?

Tell us about the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

What is Vincentian spirituality?

How is that spirituality manifested in the thrift store?

How difficult is it for volunteers at the shop to get used to the idea that you're not there to "fix" the poor?

People often expect that working with poor people will be extremely depressing. Was it for you?

If volunteer work is not meant to "change the world," what is the purpose?

Why did St. Vincent de Paul deem it necessary to go to poor people to help them?

How can poor people be our teachers?

If you could debunk one myth about the people who need assistance in our society, what would it be?

What are some ways in our day-to-day lives we could better attend to people on the margins?

What advice do you have for other groups looking for volunteers?

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