



Frederic's e-Gazette

an e-newsletter from
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE U.S.
SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



DECEMBER 12, 2024

A LETTER FROM YOUR SERVANT LEADERS



Michael Acaldo
National CEO

“Christmas came without ribbons!

It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags!” These words, from Dr. Seuss’s classic tale *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* place the upcoming Christmas Season into proper perspective.

As Vincentians, we all know that it is not the decorations, the gifts, or the glitz that are essential for Christmas. Jesus’ birth is the reason for the season and the time to

celebrate the beginning of our faith!

Who would ever want to be a Grinch during this most wonderful time of the year? Well, many of the general public might be shocked that St. Vincent de Paul had a temper and anger that would have made the Grinch proud!

Also, this week, Tim Williams and I had the great honor of visiting Father Ron Ramson, CM, at the **National Shrine of the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**. Wow, what a blessing for Tim and me to spend time with this extraordinary priest!

[Read More](#)

Merry Christmas,
Michael J. Acaldo
National CEO



UPCOMING WEBINARS & EVENTS

Poverty Program Committee Meetings

Voice for the Poor, ***January 9 at 4PM Central** [See you on Zoom](#)

Poverty Action, ***December 17 at 1PM Central** [See you on Zoom](#)

Homelessness Prevention, ***December Meeting Cancelled**

***Please note the change in dates for holidays.**

Multicultural Diversity Committee Meetings

Fourth Thursdays at 7PM Central [See you on Zoom](#)

Thursday, December 19 at 2:00PM CENTRAL

[Register Here: Voice of the Poor Webinar: Advocating After Disaster Strikes](#)

Please join Elizabeth Disco-Shearer, CEO of DSC, to learn how they serve our neighbors in need after disaster strikes. Hear how DSC interfaces with federal, state, and local agencies. Lastly, learn how Vincentians like you can get involved.

Wednesday, January 8 and 15 from 5:30PM - 8:30PM CENTRAL

[Register Here: Getting Ahead Facilitator Training](#)

This training will equip you with all the knowledge and resources to start a Getting Ahead program in your area or get involved with an existing program. **Registration closes December 19 at 5PM Central** to allow ordering/shipping/reading books from aha! Process.

To view the complete calendar, [click here](#).

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES



SVdP Makes Forbes Top Charities List Two Years in a Row

SVdP USA has been named to Forbes' list of Top Charities for the second year in a row! We entered the list at #75 and have climbed to #59 for 2024. President John Berry says, "This is an amazing accomplishment and is a testament to the incredible dedication and work of you and every Vincentian in the United States. Our impact on those we serve is important and life changing." [See the full list.](#)

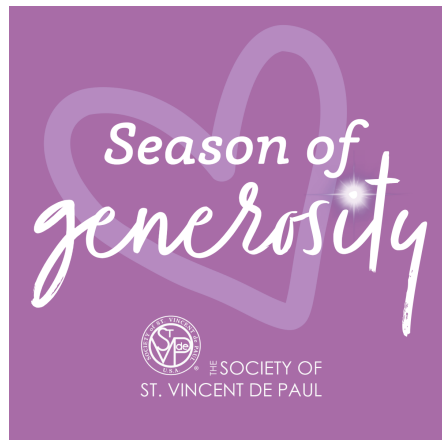
A Homelessness Agenda for the Incoming Administration

John Berry, National President

America is facing a homelessness crisis. In some respects, the issue is politicized (and thus vulnerable to partisan gridlock) — particularly regarding law and order, drug policies, and how best to address inequalities. But here's the good news: This is a crisis we can solve together.

Recent polling suggests Americans fundamentally agree on both the nature of the crisis and solutions to it. And homelessness prevention policies show great promise in helping those among us who are living on the edge. During the election, there was a great deal of focus on the economy and those who continue to struggle to pay their bills each month. [Keep Reading](#)





SVdP USA Breaks Giving Tuesday Record

The National Council has broken our Giving Tuesday fundraising record! With a generous matching gift opportunity, we have now raised over \$250,000 that will help us continue to fight homelessness and serve those living in poverty throughout the winter months. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts this year!

The National Council Welcomes Our New Senior Director of Finance!

Jeff Grainger joins us with over a decade of accounting experience in various roles at not for profit and for-profit companies. In that time, he has worked on various projects and looks forward to applying his knowledge at SVdP.

In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife and three kids, as well as exercising and reading.





Michael Acaldo Talks with Yes Catholic

Our CEO Michael Acaldo was recently featured on the weekly podcast *Yes Catholic*. He shares about his inspiring journey of faith and service with SVDP. “During my 34 years of being a Vincentian in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, I have met so many good people and had the opportunity to witness ordinary people doing extraordinary things...I have been surrounded by people that have put their faith into action by sharing Christ’s love to the most vulnerable. This has shaped me in a remarkable way...” [Listen to the full podcast episode.](#)

NFL Players Support SVdP With My Cause My Cleats

Three NFL players are supporting SVdP's mission to end homelessness in this year's My Cause My Cleats program!

Jon Runyan Jr. of the New York Giants, Abe Lucas of the Seattle Seahawks, and Zach Tom of the Green Bay Packers will each wear SVdP-decorated cleats in My Cause My Cleats games to raise awareness and funds for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Show your love for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and those we serve by bidding on Jon Runyan's cleats now! https://givebutter.com/c/svdpu_sa_runyan



The National Council Is Hiring

The National Council is seeking qualified candidates for the role of **Development Coordinator**.

MIDYEAR MEETING

The 2025 Midyear Business Meeting is just around the corner, March 5 – 8, 2025 at the Hilton at the Ballpark St. Louis.

This important gathering brings together our organization's key



leaders to discuss the progress we've made and the exciting plans we have for the year ahead.

Book your flights today! [Southwest Airlines](#) offers a special discounted rate for our Midyear Meeting, good for travel March 3 – 10, 2025. Please reference company id 99311682 for your reservation. [Hilton](#) has also provided us special discount pricing.

Registration and the full agenda will be available soon, but we wanted to give you plenty of advance notice to ensure you can join us.

Please save the dates and stay tuned for more details. We look forward to seeing everyone.

POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATE

Voice for the Poor

St. Vincent de Paul, along with Catholic Charities USA, Catholic Rural Life, and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops sent a letter to the House and Senate Chairmen and Ranking Members to pass President Biden's disaster supplemental appropriations. The copy of the letter can be found on our [website](#) under "Coalition Letters."

The new president and Congress will hit the ground running and begin their work in January. Will we be ready? Budget issues will be a top priority in 2025, and we will keep our eyes focused on important policies of critical importance to our neighbors, such as SNAP, health care, and housing. We need your help to ensure that every member of your Council and Conference is signed up to be an advocate for SVdP! You can build a stronger tomorrow for our neighbors in need by becoming an advocate today at <https://ssvpusa.org/take-action>.

Workforce Development Shared Interest Group: Kitchen of Champions

Kitchen of Champions, based in Alameda, California, recently presented details about their program and shared their successes and challenges with us. Check out the recording [here](#).

The program has provided opportunities for over 100 people to transform their lives, while also serving over 600 meals to disadvantaged men, women, and children daily. Watch their [Youtube video!](#)

VISION SVdP

Reporting Deadline Is December 31

All listening sessions should be completed, and feedback provided on or before this date. Thank you to those who have already provided their feedback.

The VisionSVdP Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, open our eyes, our hearts, and our imaginations to Your inspiration as we embark on our VisionSVdP journey and seek to discern the Father's holy will for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and how it will adapt to a changing world.

Come, Holy Spirit, transform our doubts, ignite our zeal. Help us discern new and innovative ways to bring more people into the joy of service in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Come, Holy Spirit, grant us the simplicity to share honestly with each other, the humility to serve a mission greater than ourselves, and the gentleness to listen to each other without judgment.

Amen

Oración de la VisiónSVdP

Ven, Espíritu Santo, abre nuestros ojos, nuestros corazones y nuestra imaginación a Tu inspiración Divina mientras nos embarcamos en nuestro viaje hacia la VisiónSVdP y lograr discernir en la santa voluntad del Padre, en cómo se adaptará la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl a un mundo cambiante.

Ven, Espíritu Santo, transforma nuestras dudas, ilumina nuestro fervor. Ayúdanos a discernir con formas nuevas e innovadoras de llevar a más personas a la alegría del servicio en la Sociedad de San Vicente de Paúl.

Ven, Espíritu Santo, concédenos la sencillez de compartir honestamente los unos con los otros; la humildad para servir a una misión más grande que nosotros mismos; y la gracia de escucharnos unos a otros sin juzgarnos.

Amén



Vision SVdP Online Form Now Available

You can now enter Vision SVdP observations online. The [easy-to-use form is located here](#). This online submission form is not intended to replace discussions from shared sessions — it has been created for additional observations. We highly recommend participating in a group discussion before using the form. If you have questions, please contact techsupport@svdpusa.org

TWINNING



Supporting Education in Haiti Through the International Twinning Program

The International Twinning Program continues to make a meaningful impact, with numerous Conferences across the United States rallying to support the educational mission of the Daughters of Charity in Haiti. In recent years, Haiti has faced immense challenges, particularly regarding safety and stability, making this support more vital than ever.

We are delighted to share a heartfelt [letter](#) of gratitude from the Daughters of Charity, written to honor the generosity of their benefactors. Thank you for being part of this extraordinary effort.



Madison SVdP Youth Service Council members initiated a new project this year - their "Pet Project", to be exact! Patrons of the busy SVdP Madison Food Pantry often inquire about the availability of dog or cat food, and YSC members have learned that sometimes people will prioritize having food for their pets over having food for themselves. The group decided to organize a 10-day dog and cat food (and cat litter) collection. Members conducted the Pet Project at schools, parishes, and local community organizations with collected items to be distributed through the SVdP Madison Food Pantry.

FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY



New Copies of the Rule

Our newest reprint of the *Rule* and *Regla* includes all three parts in a small, pocket-sized format. It replaces both the old Pocket Rule, and the full Rule books, and is available now for purchase in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Are there any changes to the text?

English: There are no changes to Part I or Part III of the Rule. There are some updates to Part II (the International Statutes).

Spanish: There is no longer an insert with previous updates. All three parts are completely updated, with a new and better translation.



Do I need to replace any copies of the Rule that I have now?

English: You should have one copy of this newest reprint for reference to Part II. However, since members primarily use Part I and III, there is no urgent need to replace old copies. Be sure you have the 2019 or newer version.

Spanish: We recommend that you begin replacing all old copies of the Rule as soon as possible.

Happy Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe!

One of the most endearing images of the Blessed Virgin Mary is Our Lady of Guadalupe. To learn more, watch this [video](#), which gives us insight into the history, miracles, and symbols of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the importance of St. Juan Diego.



Questions Regarding Spirituality and Formation?

Contact Tim Williams, Senior Director, Formation & Leadership Development
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207
twilliams@svdpusa.org

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Some of our Conferences receive donations in the form of gift cards to supermarkets and places like Target, which they then distribute to friends in need during Christmas. These gift cards have cash value, and so I am thinking the Conference treats them as such. Should they be reported under 5E: Other-Misc. Receipts?

A: No. The gifts cards received as donations would be treated as in-kind. When they are distributed, they have a specific value for the purpose for which you give them (food, clothing, etc.). They are not cash, so they would not be treated as 5E. They cannot be deposited to your account and show up in the balancing of your accounts.

Q: Can a person be registered in one parish and belong to a SVdP Conference of another parish?

A: Yes, a person can be registered in one parish and belong to a SVdP Conference at another. The Rule does not require Vincentian members to belong to the parish in which they worship.

To view this week's Q&A, including the Spanish Translation, [click here](#). Find the full [Q&A Index](#) here, and visit the [SVdP Thrift Store website](#) for stores-related Q&As.

Submit your questions to Pam Hudson Johnson at phudson@svdpusa.org

GOVERNANCE

10 Reasons to Love High-Performing Nonprofit Boards

This week we offer an article by management consultant Alyce Lee Stansbury focused on the performance of effective nonprofit Boards. [Click here](#) to read her meaningful comments.

Questions Regarding Governance and Membership Services?

Contact Pam Hudson Johnson, National Director of Membership Services (314) 576-3993 ext. 214 or email phudson@svdpusa.org

STORES CORNER

Donation Acquisition

By Bryan Engel, Director of Operations – Mid-Atlantic Region, Diocesan Council of Pittsburgh

Do not tell anyone, but at one time, I worked for another thrift store organization. My title was Donations Acquisition Coordinator. I only worked there for two years before seeing the light and coming over to St. Vincent de Paul. But, during that time, I was able to raise their donations from 300,000 pounds of donations to 1.2 million pounds of donations in that timeframe. How did I do it? [Click here](#) to find out.

Have a topic you would like to see in the next Stores Corner?

If you have a topic that you would like addressed in a future Stores Corner article, please e-mail [Jeff Beamguard](#), Director of Stores Support.

VINCENTIAN PRAYER LIST

Are you or another Vincentian in need of prayers from fellow SVdP members? Send the prayer intention to Pam Hudson Johnson at phudson@svdpusa.org and we will add the name to the [Vincentian Prayer List](#). Thank you and God Bless.

SOME VINCENTIAN'S AREN'T GETTING THE E-GAZETTE!

To subscribe to the e-Gazette, [click here](#).

If you removed your email address from our system or designated "Do Not Mail," your email address cannot be re-added by National Council office. [Click here](#) to resume receiving the e-Gazette.



National Council of the US Society of St. Vincent de Paul | 66 Progress Parkway | Maryland Heights, MO 63043 US