June 29, 2023

A LETTER FROM OUR SERVANT LEADERS

Dear Vincentian Friends,

Last week I was able to experience the reality of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam’s vision of a network of charity embracing the world. For six days I attended the International General Assembly of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Rome with about 100 other presidents of national councils. Our business meetings were translated into five languages, but at the meals and in the hallways, we were on our own to share our common Vincentian interests and concerns. Like all meetings of the Society, our network of charity was also a network of friendship and shared spirituality.

We were in Rome to attend to the business of the Society at the international level. The first and most important duty we had was to elect the next President General of the Council General. Three very qualified candidates had been nominated. After the Assembly affirmed the Election Board’s procedures, each national president came forward to submit their ballot. Juan Manuel Buergo Gómez was elected as the 17th President General, succeeding Renato Lima de Oliveira. Juan Manuel’s installation will take place in Paris this September – on the feast of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam.

Juan Manuel is the current national president of Spain and will be an excellent servant leader. I have known him for seven years and count him as a good Vincentian friend. We shared similar elected terms as national council presidents and have served on several international committees together. We both have a strong interest in the historical roots of our Society and the promotion of the canonization of Blessed Frédéric.

Serviens in spe,
Ralph Middlecamp
National President

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

Friday, June 30 – Saturday, July 1
- Midwest Region Meeting

Wednesday, July 5 – Sunday, July 9
- Invitation for Renewal

Monday, July 10 at 6:30 PM CENTRAL
- Webinar: Hoarding — What It Means

Monday, July 17 at 12:00 PM CENTRAL
- Getting Ahead Practitioner Call — Module 0: What, Why, and How

Wednesday, July 19 from 10:30 AM – 1:30PM
- Getting Ahead Facilitator Training

Thursday, July 20 at 2:00 PM CENTRAL
- Third Thursday Voice of the Poor Webinar: Can They Live on What They Make?

Wednesday, July 26 from 10:30 AM – 1:30PM
- Getting Ahead Facilitator Training

To view the complete calendar, click here.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL GENERAL UPDATES

Council General Launches International Literary Contest
Earlier this year, the International Council General launched a literary contest, "Vincentian Historical Characters — Jules Gossin." For more information about the contest, including submission requirements, click here. Submissions are due by Saturday, July 8.

2023 North American Vincentian Family Gathering
October 26 – 29 at DePaul University in Chicago, IL Register here

The gathering at DePaul University-Lincoln Park Campus, in Chicago will start on Thursday, October 26 at 5 PM (Registration starting at 2 PM) and will conclude with a final Mass on Sunday, October 29 at noon.

The program includes a concert with Gen Verde at the Athenaeum Center on Saturday evening. The principal morning sessions (gathering, prayer, and main talks) will be held in the main hall for all present, but participants can choose between two different tracks for
other parts of the program: the Performance Track and the Conference Track. For more information, click here.

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATES

Pre- and Post- Assembly Opportunities
Plan to arrive early or stay late for the 2023 St. Louis National Assembly! We have some fun activities planned before the National Assembly such as golf, the History Museum, the Saint Louis Zoo, the Botanical Gardens, and more. Wednesday, you have the opportunity to visit three St. Louis Religious Sites: St. Mary of Victories, St. Francis de Sales, and St. Joseph’s Shrine. Following the Assembly we have planned a day trip to the National Shrine of our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, click here for more details.

Early Registration Fee is $450 per person, and includes registration fees and all group meals. If you have any questions, please contact Michele Schurk at mschurk@svdpusa.org.

Register online at: https://meetingssvdpusa.regfox.com/2023-st-louis-national-assembly.

THRIFT STORES UPDATE

Promoting Clothing Drives
A good opportunity to increase clothing donations and promote awareness of the Society and our mission is to work collaboratively with our stores and Conferences to promote and execute clothing drives. Click here to learn how clothing drives can help your Thrift Store and find helpful information about the SVdP National Assembly.

Have a Suggested Topic for the Stores Corner or Questions Regarding Stores?
Contact Jeff Beamguard, Stores Support Director
(314) 576-3993 ext. 224
jbeamguard@svdpusa.org

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Are there any general guidelines on interviewing our friends in need? Is there a guide for interviewers on Do’s or questions not to ask?
A: Guidance for Home Visits and interviews can be found in two new books on the national website: Vincentian Life: Conference and Vincentian Life: Member. These files may be found on the website Extension Portal under the category of Training. Serving in Hope, Module VII, is also devoted to Home Visitation.

Q: Should we continue to support the neighbor who refuses to even look for employment outside his/her chosen profession?
A: The Conference makes the decision whether to help or not, including to help only once or on a continuing basis based on the perceived ability of the neighbor to help oneself. The Conference
decides if the need is real and if they have the resources to help. Listening and counseling, including employment options, can also be part of our Vincentian service.

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

FORMATION AND SPIRITUALITY UPDATES

**Formation Video Library**
- Fred Talks — Spirituality & Heritage in small doses
- Servant Leadership — Recorded Workshops
- Spirituality & Formation
- Vincentian Heritage & History

**Formation Resources Quick Reference**
- Reflections for Conference meetings
- Contemplations for individuals
- Resources for Formation Teams and for Members
- Materials Store to purchase books

Questions Regarding Spirituality and Formation?
Contact Tim Williams, National Formation Director
(314) 576-3993 ext. 207
twilliams@svdpusa.org

ADVANCEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

National Partner Highlight: SELECTION.COM®
SELECTION.COM is a leading provider of pre-employment screening services with an average turn-around time of less than two business days. SELECTION.COM has offered exclusive pricing for SVdP, including free Quarterly Watch Reports (once an applicant has been entered into their system). For more information, please contact Julie Burke at jfburke@selection.com.

Questions Regarding National Partners?
Contact Alyssa Bergman, Director of National Fundraising Programs
(314) 576-3993 ext. 218
abergman@svdpusa.org

GOVERNANCE, GROWTH, & REVITALIZATION UPDATES

Webinar: Hoarding — What It Means
Monday, July 10 at 6:30 PM CENTRAL Register here

The concern about hoarding is one that comes up on a regular basis. A newly approved Governance paper on hoarding will be presented and explained, and various concerns related to
types of funding received by Conferences and Councils will be addressed. Discussion and Q&A will be included. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Growth and Revitalization Gatherings**

Join us for our Summer Series at 6:00 PM CENTRAL on the fourth Tuesday of each month for Best Practices and Lessons Learned: A Gathering Series Focusing on Growth & Revitalization

**July 25:** How Do We Bring Diversity to a Conference? [Register here](#)

Gatherings are recorded and available [here](#). The Growth & Revitalization Committee hopes that this gathering series will be an opportunity to share ideas and best practices in a progressive and beneficial experience for all attendees.

**Questions Regarding Growth and Revitalization?**

Contact Julie Witzel, National Membership Services & Extension Manager  
(314) 576-3993 ext. 221  
jwitzel@svdpusa.org

**2023 Annual Report Hard Copy Forms Are NOW Available!**

[Click here](#) to access the hard copy form. The 2023 online annual report data entry program will be available after October 1, 2023.

**What Is Meant by “Hoarding” in a St. Vincent de Paul Context?**

**Part One**

Hoarding is prohibited in a number of instances within the documents of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Our Rule, for example, tells us that “Money mut not be hoarded.” However, since there is no specific place where hoarding is actually defined, the National Governance Committee deemed it appropriate to provide a formal definition.

Considerations related to hoarding within the Society are slightly different when looking at this from a Conference perspective and a Council perspective. These are addressed in a document developed by the Committee. [Click here](#) to read Part One, which deals with Conference considerations.

**Questions Regarding Governance and Membership Services?**

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

**POVERTY PROGRAMS UPDATES**

**Systemic Change Grant Webinar Now Available for Online Viewing**

If you missed the informational webinar hosted by the Systemic Change Task Force about the Systemic Change Grants, you can view it online by [clicking here](#).
The National Council will make one-year grants of up to $20,000 to support Systemic Change projects at Vincentian Councils or Conferences. The grant application form and the Systemic Change criteria can be found [here](#). Completed forms are due [Friday, July 21, 2023](#).

**Getting Ahead Practitioner Call — Module 0: What, Why, and How**
Monday, July 17 at 12:00 PM CENTRAL [Register here](#)

Develop ground rules and expectations with Getting Ahead Investigators for group cohesion and accountability. Join this Getting Ahead Practitioner Call to learn how to incorporate these principles into your sessions.

**Third Thursday Voice of the Poor Webinar: Can They Live on What They Make?**
Thursday, July 20 at 2:00 PM CENTRAL [Register here](#)

Join us as Clayton Sinyai of the Catholic Labor Network guides us through Catholic teaching on our obligation to pay living wages.

**Getting Ahead Facilitator Training — Summer 2023**
Wednesday, July 19 and 26 from 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM CENTRAL [Register here](#)

Conferences and Councils across the country are running Getting Ahead in a Just–Getting–By World, a comprehensive program that empowers individuals to build their own personal plans for economic security and create Systemic Change. The online Facilitator Training Webinars 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 will end on July 10](#) to allow time for purchasing materials and pre-reading.

**Getting Ahead in a Just–Getting’–By World is a licensed work of aha! Process, Inc. The National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul is a licensed provider of facilitator training for the Getting Ahead program.**

**Questions Regarding Poverty Programs?**
Contact Steve Uram, National Director of Poverty Programs
314-576-3993 ext. 215
[suram@svdpusa.org](mailto:suram@svdpusa.org)

**VINCENTIAN PRAYER LIST**

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

**SOME VINCENTIANS AREN’T GETTING THE E-GAZETTE!**

If you’d like to subscribe to the e-Gazette, email [mboyer@svdpusa.org](mailto:mboyer@svdpusa.org).
If you removed your email address from our system or designated "Do Not Mail," your email address cannot be re-added by the National Council office. Sign up to resume receiving the e-Gazette at http://bit.ly/1GKXYJ6