Dear Vincentian Friends,

I have a question for everyone who is a Conference President: Have you visited your pastor yet this year?

If not, this is a good time to make an appointment for a meeting. Summer can be a little slower around the parish, and if you have a new pastor, you'll certainly want to meet him before he gets busy with all the activities of the parish after Labor Day.

Some Conferences misunderstand the need to stay in touch with the parish because of the independence of the Society from the Church. From the earliest days of our Society, however, our founders kept in touch with the pastor of their parish. Frédéric Ozanam’s roommate, Armand Chaurand, would meet the pastor of St. Etienne du Mont after Mass every Tuesday morning to report the activity of the young Conference and take the pastor’s concerns to the meeting that evening. There are pastors who overstep the bounds of their relationship with the Society and try to take control, but if that is a problem, maybe regular communication will help them understand us better.

You might not think it is necessary to meet every year. You may assume your priest knows what you are doing, but I think most pastors would benefit not just from a report on what you did last year, but also by discussing your future plans, what you are doing to attract new members, and how your members strengthen their spiritual lives. Thank the pastor for his support and ask if he has any suggestions or concerns. I hope a pastor would want to know that the poor in his neighborhood were being cared for by his parishioners. Let me share a few best practices I have heard about for this visit.
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING WEBINARS AND EVENTS

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**

Wednesday, July 16 at 6:30 PM CENTRAL
- **Five Goals of a Conference President Webinar**

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 this Saturday, July 8.

![Gossin Banner](#)

**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

**Vincentians Gather for North Central Region Meeting in Mundelein, IL**
Recently, Vincentians from across the North Central Region came together in Mundelein, IL for the annual North Central Region Meeting. [Click here](#) to read about this special gathering.

**Keynote Speakers**
National Council Society of St. Vincent de Paul invites you to the 2023 National Assembly, September 6 – 9 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Attendees will enjoy keynote addresses from, John Foppe, Executive Director, Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis and Fr. John Rybolt, of DePaul University. Don’t miss their inspiring presentations! For more information, [click here](#).

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](mailto:mschurk@svdpusa.org).

**THRIFT STORES UPDATE**

"Bringing Home Hope" Program
In this month's Stores Corner, read about SVdP Phoenix's "Bringing Home Hope" program, helping provide furniture and household goods to those in need. [Click here](#) to read more.

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: Is there a policy or recommendation or guideline that "home" Conferences/Councils are supposed to pay costs of participation of their representatives in national-level meetings?

A: [The Rule](#), Part III, Statute 28 states: Vincentians entrusted to undertake previously and duly authorized offices, missions, or tasks for the Society are entitled to the refund of the expenses incurred. This is more than just an entitlement. Within the Spirit of Society, all the works of the Society are works of the group and not the individual. If a member does not get reimbursed for expenses, the work becomes an individual effort, and this often causes confusion when members then do what they want rather than what is agreed to by the Conference or Council. This does not directly address National and Regional meetings; however, in Part II of the RULE, International Statute 7.4: "Any matter that is not specifically governed by any Parts of the Rule and Statutes shall be governed by Tradition and, in the final instance, by the decision issued by the Board of the Council General." That said, page 136 of the 2002 version of the Manual states: "In accord with the long-established practice, the individual Councils and Isolated Conferences are expected to assume
financial responsibility for their delegates and committee members to attend meetings as
necessary."

Q: As far as I know, we have Active and Associate Members as the only two types. But on
the National Members Database, the choices are Active, Associate, Contributing, and
Volunteer. Are there really four categories of members?

A: Active and Associate Members are clearly defined and are included in Annual Report
statistics. Contributing Members do exist and should be recognized in the database if they are
significant donors. They are no longer listed in the Annual Report because many Conferences
decided to include all parishioners in the count, which overinflated the numbers. Volunteers are not
regularly associated with the Conference and help only on occasion. This category works well for
Conferences that operate special works or stores where you may have people helping out with
community service hours.

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

Five Goals of a Conference President Webinar
Wednesday, July 26 at 6:30 PM CENTRAL Register here

Presented by the Leadership Task Force, this session is designed for all Conference Presidents,
new or experienced, as well as Members who may be considering becoming Conference
Presidents. With references to guidelines and publications, such as the Conference President
Handbook, this presentation will help you prepare to be a more effective Servant Leader, focusing
on the Five Goals of a Conference President:

- Formation
- Work for your Conference as a servant leader
- Your Team
- Your Spiritual Advisor
- Your Members

You'll have opportunities to interact and ask questions during this live session!

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?
ADVANCEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATES

**National Partner Highlight: Penske**
A National Partner for over 20 years, Penske is proud to offer discounts on truck rental and full-service leases. Learn more about the services this industry leader can provide your Council or Conference by contacting David Weisser at david.weisser@penske.com or (610) 334-5478.

**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 Two
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 must 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. Part One presented last week treated Conference considerations. Click here to read Part Two, which deals with Council 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

Beware of New IRS Refund Scam!
A new scam involves a mailing from a delivery service coming in a cardboard envelope. The enclosed letter includes the #IRS masthead and wording that the notice is “in relation to your unclaimed refund.”

Like many scams, the letter includes contact information and a phone number that do not belong to the IRS. But it also seeks a variety of sensitive personal information from taxpayers — including detailed pictures of driver’s licenses — that can be used to by identity thieves to try obtaining a tax refund and other sensitive financial information. Don’t fall for it: https://ow.ly/t7Uv50P2K8k

Systemic Change Grant Webinar Now Available for Online Viewing
If you missed the System Change Task Force's webinar about 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. Online Facilitator Training Webinars will equip you with the knowledge and resources to start a Getting Ahead program in your area or get involved with an existing program. **Registration will end July 10** to allow time for purchasing materials and pre-reading.

**Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World is a licensed work of aha! Process, Inc. The National Council 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

**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 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.

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](http://bit.ly/1GKXYJ6)

**CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**